

CALIFORNIA MODERN

ARCHITECTS & DESIGNERS	2025
MAY SUNG CATHERINE KWONG SHANNON WOLLACK	

HISTORY

ORIGINS

California Modern architecture began to take shape in the 1930s and gained momentum through the 1940s to 1960s, especially in postwar Southern California. Influenced by European Bauhaus and International Style architects who had migrated to the U.S., designers like Richard Neutra, Rudolph Schindler, and Joseph Eichler helped define the movement. They embraced new materials, affordable construction techniques, and a philosophy centered on clean, functional design that responded to the mild California climate. These homes were designed with open layouts, extensive glass, and easy access to nature—perfect for a relaxed, modern lifestyle. Over time, California Modernism became a symbol of West Coast innovation and laid the groundwork for many contemporary architectural ideas we see today.

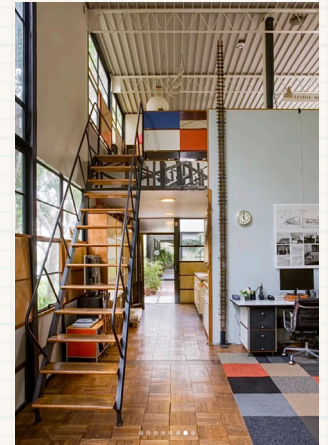
HISTORICAL EXAMPLES

Case Study House #8 by Charles and Ray Eames

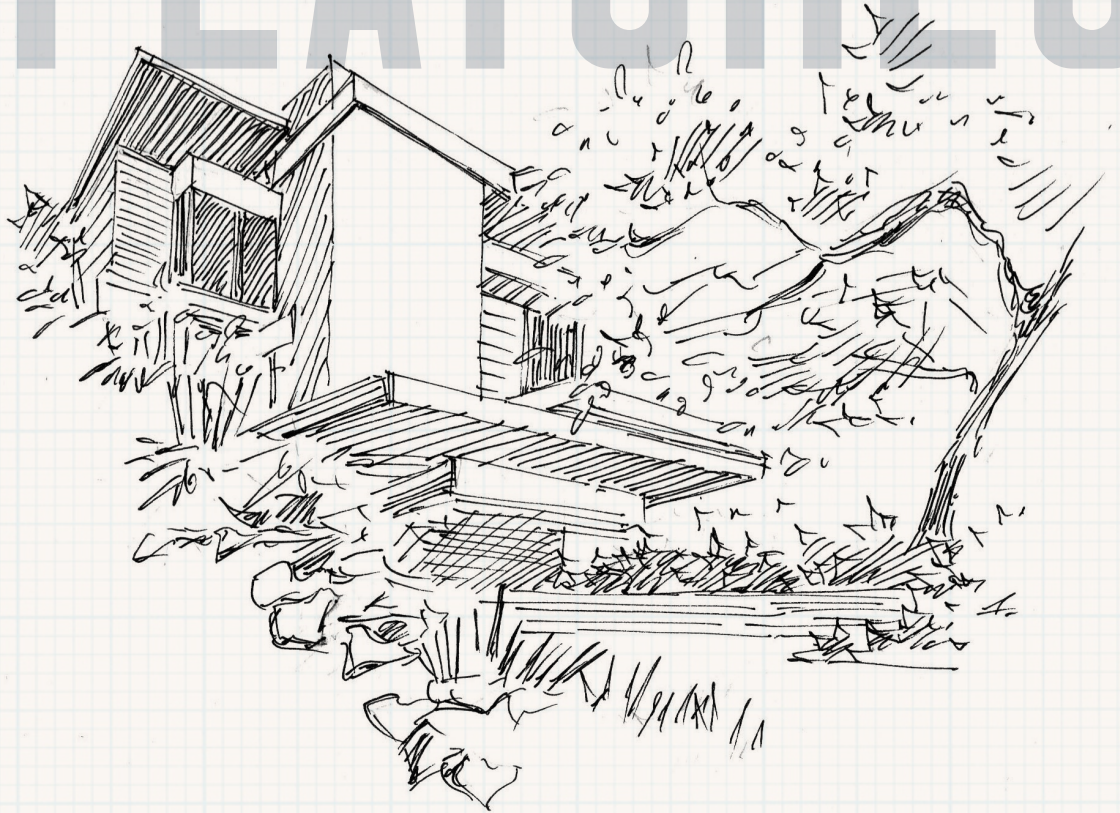
Bailey House by Richard Neutra

Strick House by Oscar Niemeyer

Schindler House by Rudolph M. Schindler



KEY FEATURES



ROOFLINES

Flat or low-pitched.

WINDOWS

Large, usually horizontally-oriented, sans muntins.

DOORS

Geometric, often glass or sliding.

WALLS

Concrete or glass, defined by material rather than paint or wallpaper.

GEOMETRIC SHAPES

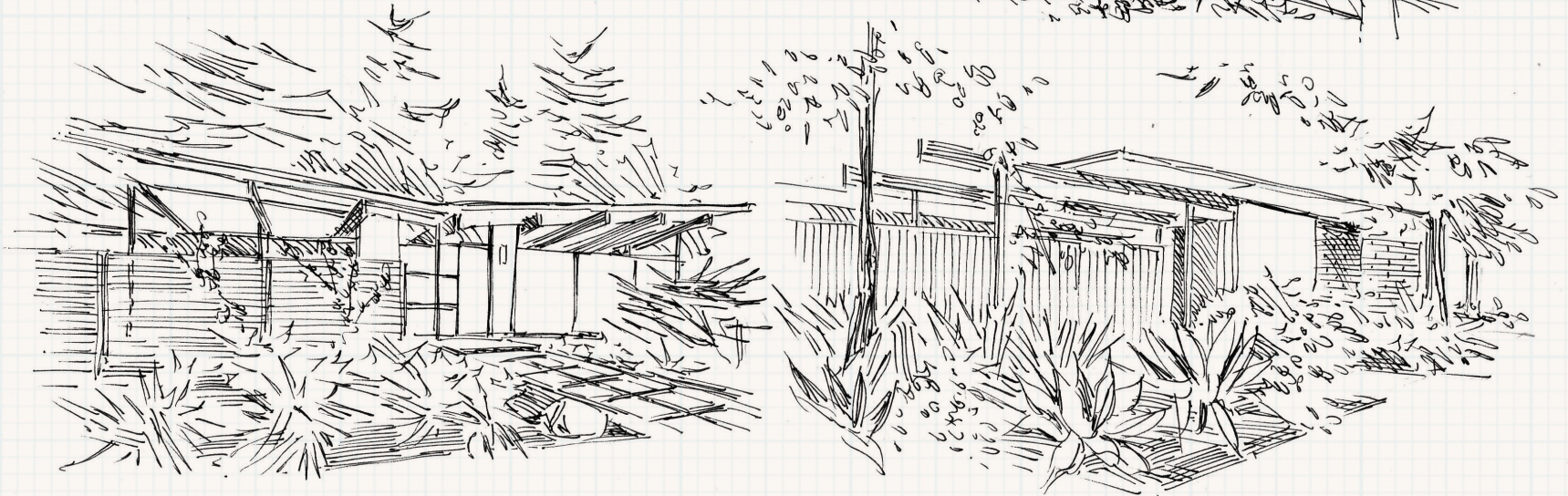
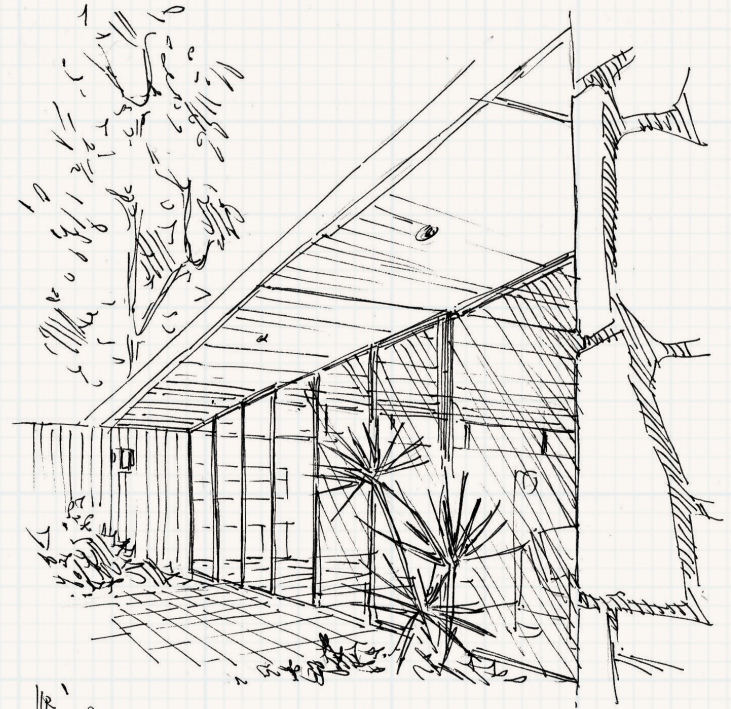
Including boxy volumes, cantilevered overhangs, and ribbon windows.

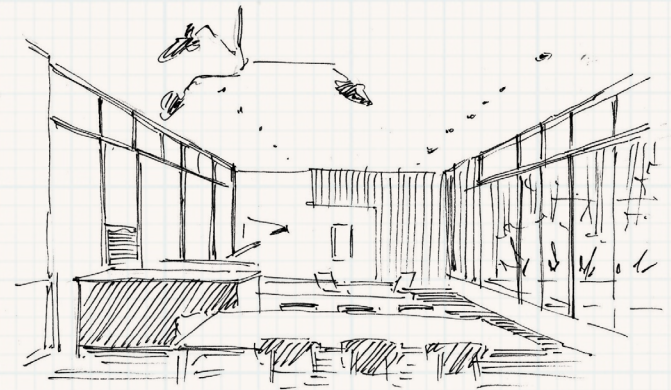
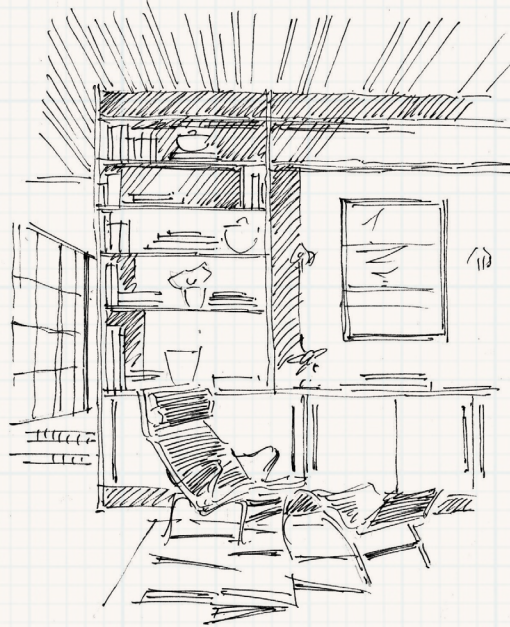
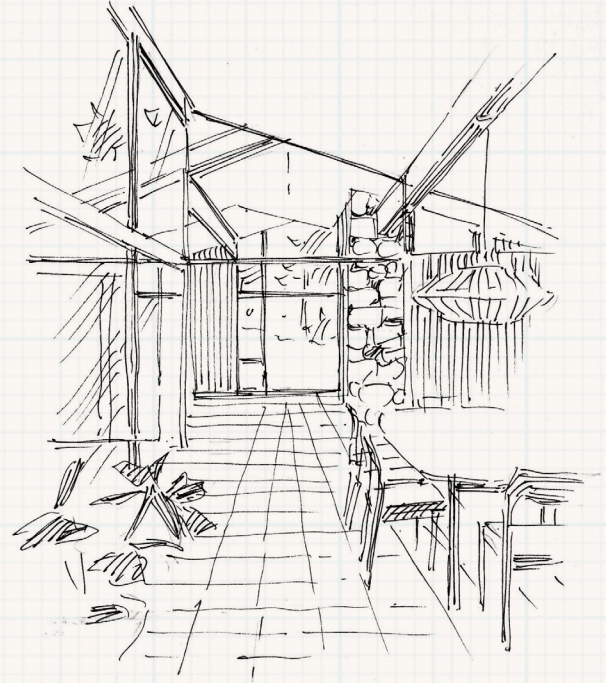
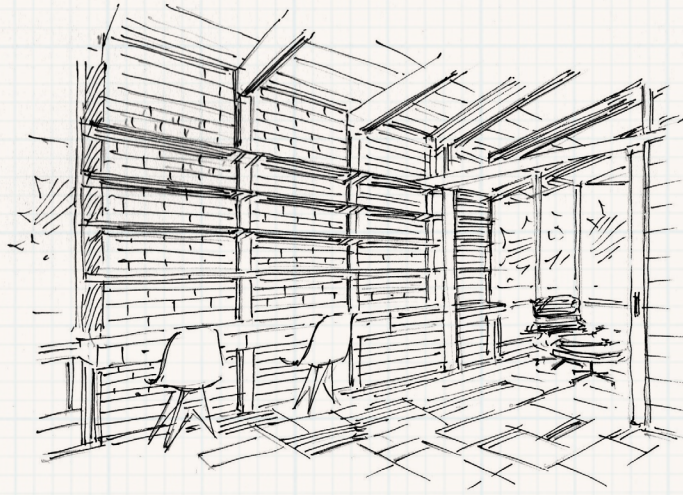
MINIMAL ORNAMENTATION

To keep focus on the site and architecture rather than decorative detail.

INDOOR-OUTDOOR CONNECTION

Seamless flow from indoors to out and an emphasis on connecting architecture to site and views.





OPEN LAYOUTS

Simplified architecture means eliminating walls to create open plan spaces comprising kitchens, living, and dining areas.

BUILT IN FURNITURE

Including bookshelves, millwork, and even seating.

INSPIRATION



& PRECEDENT



CONNECTION TO SITE



EXTERIOR FACADE



OPEN FLOORPLANS

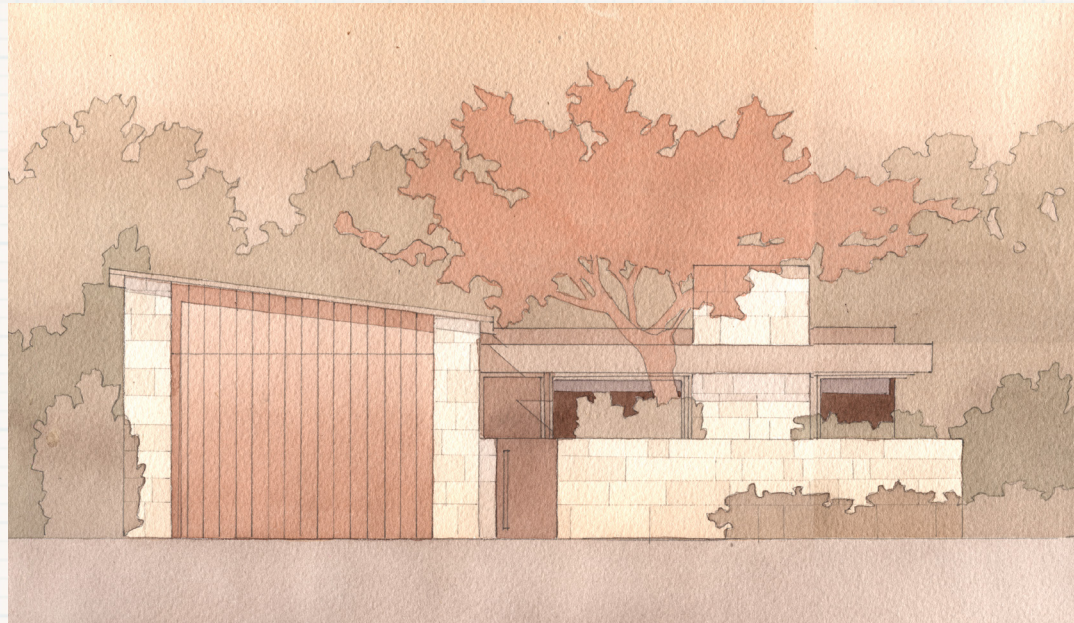




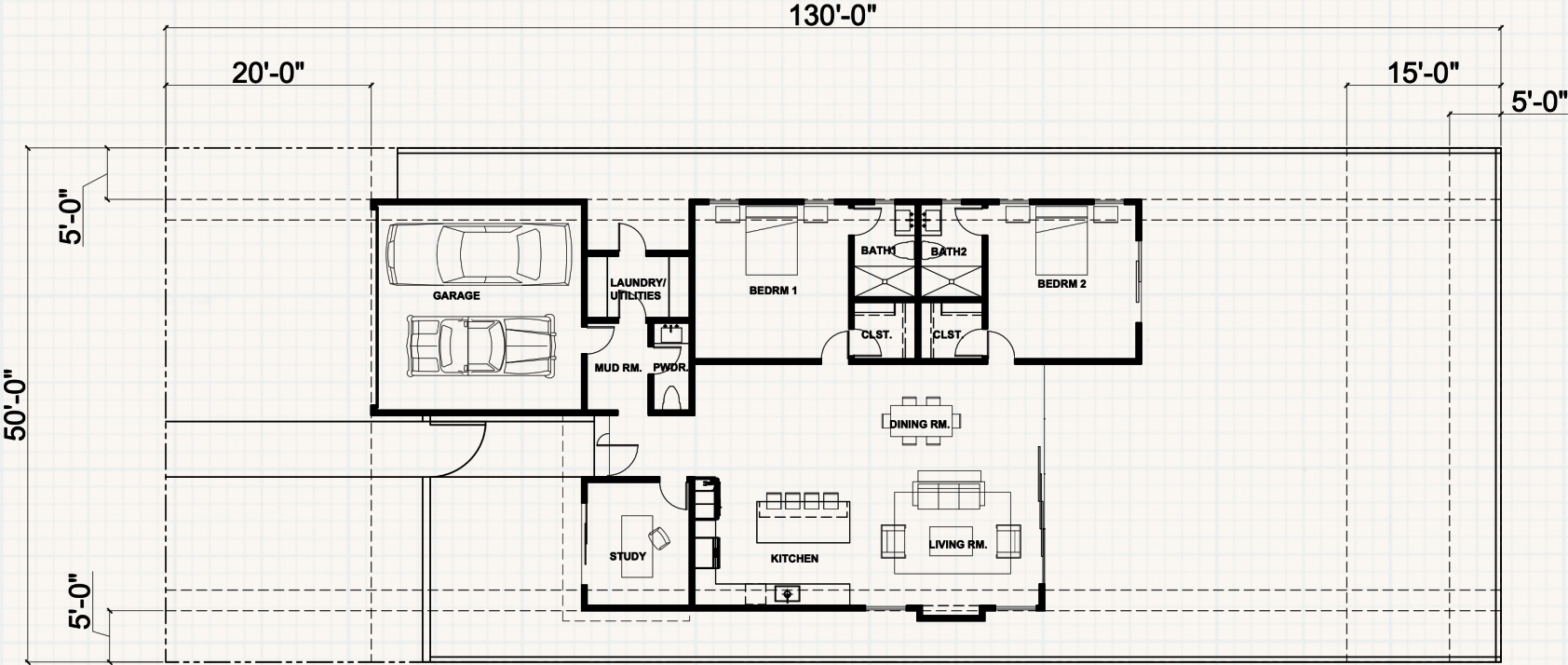
INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS,
CERAMIC TILES



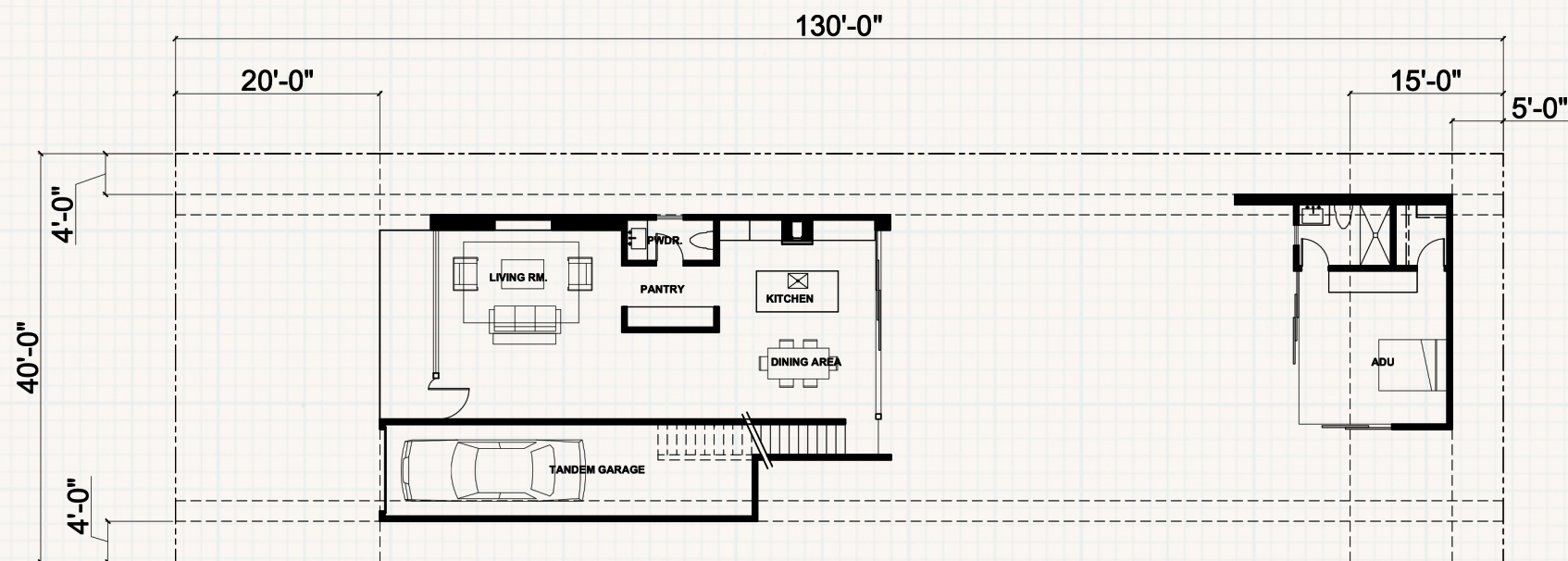
DESIGN



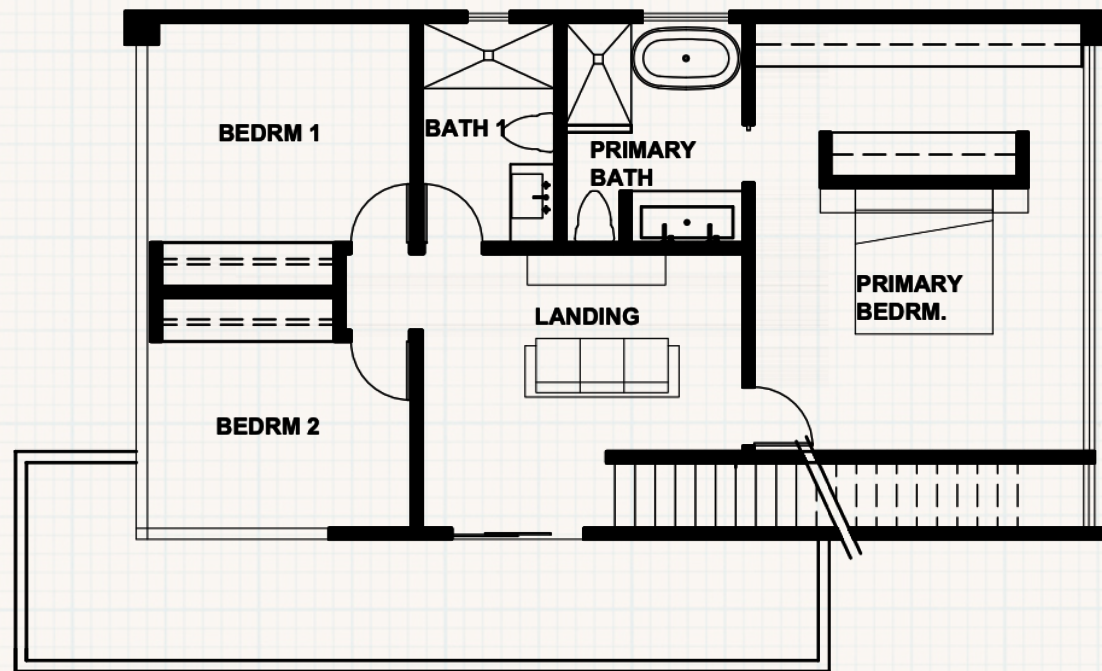
CONCEPTS



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

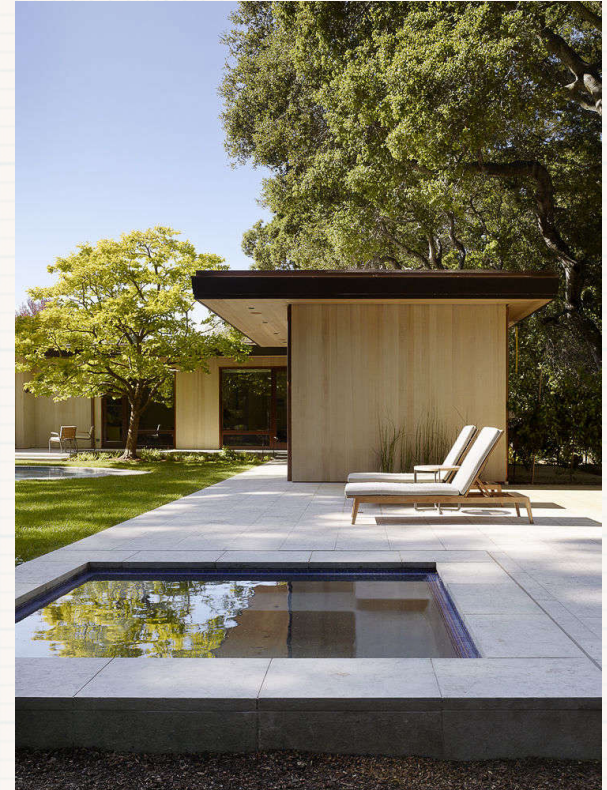


LANDSCAPE



CONCEPTS

HARDSCAPE &
GARDEN ELEMENTS



TREES & SHRUBS

Japanese Maple
Tristania Elegans
Ilex Nana





PLANTS

Agave Stricta
Tristania Elegans
Yarrow
Frog Fruit

