Located in a nature preserve in Carmel’s Santa Lucia Mountains, this home’s stunning site, with its oak forests and steep meadows, both constrained and inspired the design of this project. To reduce its impact, the architects designed a series of grass-roofed “pavilions” and sank them into the hillside below a large oak grove.

The house consists of a series of retaining walls, slab floors, and overhanging planted roofs. Divided into discrete buildings, the owners’ suite and the guest bedrooms are positioned at opposite ends of the house for maximum privacy. Between them are the public spaces including the kitchen, living room, dining room loft, and outdoor terraces. The clerestory windows in the double-height living room provide a view of the oaks in the grove above and bring late afternoon sun onto the living room ceiling.
Previous Pages and Left: The House is tucked into the hillside beneath a grove of oak trees.
Above: The terrace functions as an outdoor room.
Right: The roof is planted with native grasses and wildflowers.
Above and Right: Channel glass separates the living room and the corridor.
Top Right: A large pivot door opens onto the terrace. Sand-blasted from boards created concrete retaining walls with a soft, shimmery wood-like texture.
Above: A detail of the photovoltaic skylights that are a primary design element. They bring additional light into this hillside home.

Left: View of the kitchen and the living room with the photovoltaic skylights visible above.