Some of the most successful gardens are not about man’s control over nature, but instead, how man responds respectfully to his surroundings. Perched on a hilltop that overlooks the Sonoma Valley, amid the forest of manzanitas and redwoods, this home’s open plan is designed to catch the commanding views, not impede them. Native and drought-tolerant grasses, mixed with olives and Arctostaphylos manzanita, are planted against the home and blend seamlessly into the fields, intentionally blurring the line between wild and planned. The pool—situated at the edge of the hill—reflects its border of tall grasses, which directs the viewer’s eye out to the valley and beyond. An atmosphere of tranquility prevails throughout the property—there appears nothing to prune or clip. Here, the wilderness has nearly returned to the front doorsteps, asking nothing more than to be viewed and left alone.
This home, designed by Bay Area architects Feldman Architecture, blurs the lines between inside and outside, using oversized glass panels that rise toward the ceiling, turning the building into an outdoor pavilion.
Logging in the 1800s degraded the 40-acre site, and invasive species moved in. Arterra’s mission was to restore and revitalize the property with native grasses, and allow the land to heal itself.