RUN AWAY TO THE PAVILION

An innovative operable window system allows this contemporary build to welcome the striking landscape inside.
determined to secure an escape from the ceaseless noise of San Francisco and the unceasing pressure of working in a tech company, a modern architecture admirer purchased a rural plot north of the city in Healdsburg. It was a quiet haven of tranquillity, offering solitude which was exactly what the city worker had been searching for. Following this acquisition, Feldman Architecture were brought on board and, with nothing but a mobile home left on site, their scope for innovation was without bounds. The outcome is an innovative, confident, starkly outlined, stained cedar-clad creation. At the heart of the home is the Great Room. With soaring ceilings granted by a slanting roof and generous glass walls, it is a refined, light-filled space which is ideal for entertaining. Perforated panels line its lofty ceilings which discreetly absorb sound during larger social events. However, the defining feature of this home is undoubtedly the glass walls. In an instant they can dramatically sweep upwards in what the architects describe as a “garage door fashion.” They go on to explain that “this creates the illusion of having no walls in the home.” With that in mind, it’s tenable that this mechanism has an enchanting transformative functionality whereby opening up the Great Room to the elements converts it into a pavilion. Its open state enables the client and his guests to flow freely between the indoors and out and relish in never-ending views over the valley. Extending north from this social hub is the second wing that leads to the more private section of the house, ending with the master bedroom and glittering swimming pool. It is here that the operable glass windows make a second appearance as they open the bedroom up to the lush meadow beyond, further bonding the client with the rich landscape. A large part of this retreat focuses on creating a setting for entertaining and socialising with family and friends, and so the architects have included two kitchens in the design: a small, efficient kitchen for the client’s own personal use and a more spacious workspace for caterers that has been carefully concealed in the floor plan.
Dark-stained cedar planks clad the exterior of this nature retreat. The rich colouring blends in with the tree trunks of the surrounding woodland.
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION
A cedar-clad holiday home that is centred around the Great Room. The open area boasts operable glass windows that can be lifted to create a breeze-way and connect inhabitants to the pool and terrace. A second wing flows from the garage to the media room and ends in the master bedroom. Just a short walk away is a private guest house.

LOCATION
Healdsburg, California, USA

PROJECT SIZE
268 sq. m

ARCHITECTURAL BRIEF
A city worker fell head over heels for a luscious plot with stunning views and much-welcomed privacy. Here he wanted to build a nature escape where he could remove himself from the city hubbub and truly get away. Structurally, he envisioned a modestly elegant contemporary home that sat naturally on the verdant plot.

THE SITE’S EVER-CHANGING BEAUTY REMAINED THE FOCUS”
The client can luxuriate in the first few moments of the day in peace and quiet from the intimately placed master bedroom. On warmer days he can open up the windows and breathe in the fresh morning air.

“SHADE PAVILIONS FURTHER BLUR THE LINES BETWEEN INDOORS AND OUT”
"I love how we mixed natural and rough elements with more crisp and refined ones."
MEET THE ARCHITECT

Jonathan Feldman
Founder and CEO of Feldman Architecture discusses the subtleties in the design of this peaceful getaway.

How did the client’s desire for entertaining inform the organisation of the structure? The client enjoys visits from family and friends and loves taking advantage of warm weather by opening the large glass doors. The perforated panels in the room’s ceiling, that absorb sound during parties, and the discreet stone strips across the floor that delineate zones within the space without visual barriers, act as subtle details that add both refinement and functionality.

What role did landscaping play? The landscape was looking to maximise indoor and outdoor connection as well as exude a sense of being untouched, immersed within nature and the organic. The pool creates a natural, built-in oasis.

What was your favourite part of this project? I love the material palette and how we mixed natural and rough elements with more crisp and refined ones. The smooth white plaster walls, the bleached walnut wood elements, the woven willow sun shades, the ground concrete floors, the heavy metal garage doors and crisp aluminium awnings – all combine to create a subtle but complex palette that is at once soulful and refined.

OUTDOOR LIVING AREAS CAN BE USED THROUGHTOUT THE YEAR. IN SCORCHING SUMMERS THE CLIENT CAN COOL OFF IN THE POOL, BUT IN THE CHILLER MONTHS THEY CAN WARM UP BY THE SHELTERED FIRE PIT.

THE POOL CREATES A NATURAL, BUILT-IN OASIS"