



KOVNER RESIDENCE

SEBASTOPOL, CA, USA, 2005-2008

Client

David Kovner and Becky Kelso

Architect

Behnisch Architekten, Los Angeles

Planning and Completion

2005-2008

Gross

232 m² / 2,497 sq.ft.

Address

3232 Frei Road
Sebastopol, CA
USA

The site is located in the Sonoma County vineyards in the outskirts of Sebastopol, north of San Francisco. The building branches out into the landscape so that the living rooms at ground floor level seem to intermingle with the beautiful surrounding nature. A second floor above the entrance area, referred to as the “nest”, provides charming views of the nearby vineyards.

In response to the client’s request, we developed a landscape concept which groups different types of gardens around the house: family garden, entertainment garden, entry garden, private garden. The house integrates itself into these gardens and thus becomes a unique organization principle. Three building wings address the various gardens and accommodate the three “zones”: living/dining, sleeping,

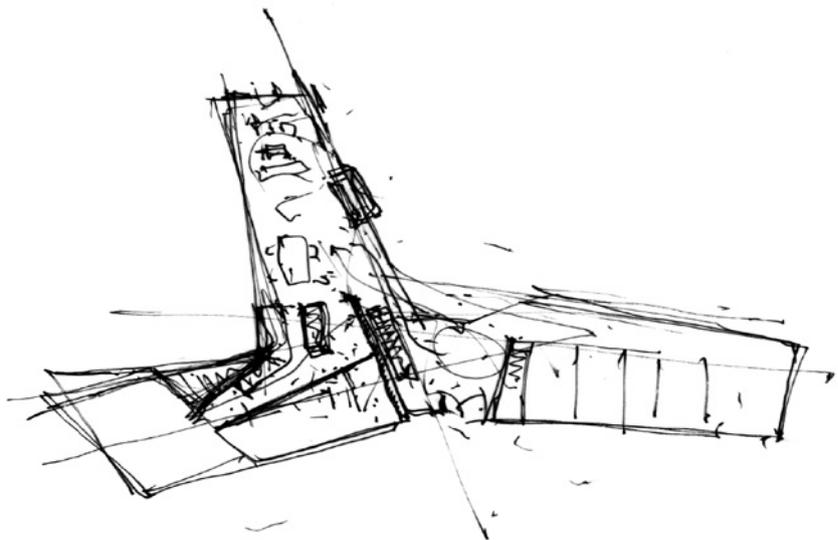
garage and extra space. Folded timber panels of different height create a spatial “continuum” in the interior. The design of the exterior walls follows the needs of the interior functions with closed wooden and metal panels and openly glazed façade elements. Generous sliding glass walls link to the terraces and the single garden areas on the outside.

The ascending roof structure positively influences natural ventilation. The roof overhangs oriented to the south, as well as the existing tree population in the west and east minimize the direct sunlight and the resulting undesired heating of the building during the summer periods.

It is common in the US to achieve a constant temperature through the use of air-conditioning.



Architectural strategies which regulate and minimize the energy budget, however, are not very well known. Further environmental strategies such as soil heat exchangers, component cooling, solar panels, as well as clever orientation of the building wings ensure low energy consumption.



Concept sketch





Ground floor