

Malibu Residence

Malibu, California



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This private residence is located on a three acre site defined by the Pacific Coast Highway to the north, the Pacific Ocean to the south and existing two story residences to the east and west. The intention of the design was to create the perception of an expansive site, as well as to maximize the size of the building to accommodate an extensive program.

The program requirements included a main house and garage, swimming pool, guest house and tennis court. The planning strategy was to integrate building, outdoor spaces and landscape through interlocking volumes resulting in an ordered sequence of layers in both the north-south and east-west axes.

The tree-lined entry drive along the western edge of the site screens the guest house and tennis court to the east. The drive ends in a landscaped autocourt, which acts as a transition between the guest house/lawn area and the main house and pool area, located at the southern edge of the site parallel to the bluff and ocean. To maximize views and introduce an architectural scale appropriate to the size of the site the living/dining/kitchen and master bedroom are elevated to the second floor. They are organized under a gull wing roof, forming a continuous inverted vault ceiling over these spaces.

At ground level the entry separates the garage and service areas from the children's bedrooms, and allows direct access to the pool terrace.

A circulation zone runs parallel to the two story exterior glazed wall, connecting both full and half levels of the house physically and visually. A ramp leads from the entry to the first half level where it is terminated by the master bedroom. There a spiral stair leads to a sleeping loft, oriented towards the ocean, and overlooking the sitting room below. The second floor provides a loft-like sequence of living/dining/kitchen spaces open to views of the ocean.

Located below the existing grade at "basement" level is the screening room, exercise room, service and mechanical areas. This below-grade level becomes a plinth for the remainder of the house.

The extensive program of this house was resolved into one coherent composition by interlocking building volumes with outdoor spaces within the framework of the site. This resulted in inventive sectional and circulation manipulations.

1 *Entry facade at dusk*

2 *View of living room/dining room with inverted barrel-vaulted ceiling*

3 *Circulation zone with glazed front facade*



Ocean view from sitting area

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Detail of south facade facing ocean

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South facade at dusk