



4 Hillside House – San Anselmo

Architect: Shands Studio

Address: [REDACTED] San Anselmo

Envisioned for direct access to the outdoors and visual connection to the surrounding landscape, this house was designed by Shands Studio as two perpendicular volumes stepping down the hill to integrate with the existing Oak trees and rock walls. The materials selected--board formed concrete walls, painted steel and stained western red cedar--were inspired by the natural setting and ruggedness of the site. Permeability between interior and exterior is achieved by directly aligning the entry with the outdoor patio and cantilevered deck to be an extension of the living spaces. Engaging with the landscape is further encouraged by the floor to ceiling windows framing views of Mt. Diablo and the surrounding hills.



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As part of the sustainable design approach, the Upper Level overhangs the Lower Level on the South side utilizing passive heating and cooling strategies. Additionally, the inverted hip roof on the Upper Level was designed to maximize exposure for solar panels while also visually concealing them from the street.