CASE STUDY HOUSE NO. 19

One of a continuing series sponsored by the magazine, ARTS & ARCHITECTURE. This house will be constructed in Atherton, California and will be opened to the public on its completion.

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The mat, or the man-made area of the project has been extended to define more clearly the architectural elements and to emphasize the continuation of the mat itself. Grass has been introduced around the adobe wing, which will act as a soft carpet off the living area. Paving to the west of the house will provide a suitable surface for the extension of the living, dining activities. Earth sculpture will be gentle mounds under ground cover and will be distinguishable through the translucent glass fence. The large earth sculpture will provide a hollow for lounging on the outdoor living side. Planting to the north of the pool will act as a wind break. The landscaping in general will be a continuation of volumes, planes, and surprises.

The asphalt drive slopes up gradually from the street, and the curved hedge opens to a view of forms and a sense of the mat continuing beyond and containing other forms. There will be a glimpse of earth sculpture through the translucent glass fence. A 2"-3" cedar walk, elevated 6", gives a delicate staccato rhythm against the larger rhythm of the fence frames. There is a step up to the walk, and movement along the walk gives a sense of receding and projecting earth sculpture. The space becomes more compressed and roofed by the trees. One steps off the boardwalk to the entry; here, the space becomes compressed between two walls and the overhanging roof, with a view of the cactus garden beyond. A small opening in the redwood wall gives a glimpse of the stair with space being exploded vertically, 8" in width and 16'6" to the ceiling, and also the first view of the sculptural fireplace in the living room where the space is contained by the high ceiling and extends to the composition in rock and gravel in court No. 1 to the east and the transitory planting to the west. A 'study' will afford a different perspective and a different space experience. The sleeping deck is roofed by a large tree, the deck off bathroom No. 2 offers another perspective of the earth sculpture and the outdoor living area which is separated from the house by a sunken garden and is reached by a gently curved wood bridge. Court No. 1 is also oriented for view to the child's bedroom. The architectural elements will range in color from gray to white, with bright colors being used as accents: adobe walls: white; gray glass; redwood walls: gray; steel frame: painted white; courts 1 and 2 and garden No. 1: off-white aggregate; the entire planted area is light gray gravel; plaster and walls: white; travertine floors: gray; interior wood partitions will be painted, the color is yet undetermined.