

## **BLACK BIRD**

Project location: Sebastapol, Sonoma County, CA

Substantial completion date: October 2020

Gross floor area: 3,011 SF

Number of stories: 2

Building program: Single Family Residence

Project climate zone: CA2

Site area: 113,365 SF / Rural location

Cost of construction: \$2.2M

This house is designed for a couple anticipating retirement, facing health and potential mobility issues, and seeking a lifestyle both more sustainable and more connected to nature. Serious gardeners and cooks, they decided to move from their house in San Francisco to a rural community in Northern California. Although they wanted a smaller home, they needed to be able to accommodate periodically members of their large extended family. In addition they foresaw the need to provide accommodations for live-in health care to allow for aging in place. Finally they dreamed of expanding their hobby of hosting “pop-up” culinary events in their house to include a garden setting.

To address short and long-term goals, we designed a courtyard house, divided into two parts, connected by the kitchen and enclosing a kitchen garden opening onto a vegetable garden and orchard. The primary wing of the house has one bedroom on the main floor, a home office/bedroom on the second floor, and a living/dining space into which the kitchen projects. The secondary wing alternatively serves as a “wellness center” (yoga room, sauna and hot-tub), with accommodations for family. Ultimately this wing will provide living quarters for caregivers.

The house addresses with particular emphasis health, well-being, and design for change. The goal was a house adaptable to multiple scenarios, ultimately allowing for aging-in-place while being as connected to nature as possible. Beyond the fundamentals of sustainability, the house emphasizes natural ventilation and carefully frames views of the site. Oversized openings not only take advantage of breezes, but they facilitate indoor-outdoor living; the couple’s bed and the dining table roll easily between indoors and outdoors; a screened porch allows all-weather dining. Salvaged redwood used for cribwall “bumpouts”, dining table, and special doors are reminders of the unique qualities of the redwood ecosystem they inhabit.







*"Hillside architecture is landscape gardening around a few rooms in case of rain."*

- Charles Keeler, The Simple Home



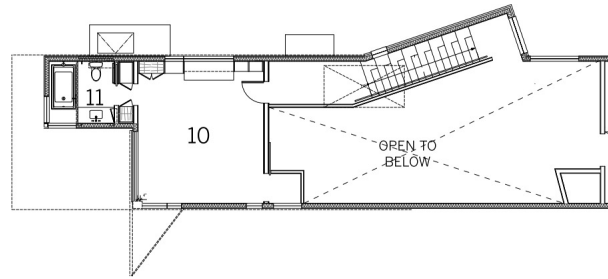
SITE PLAN



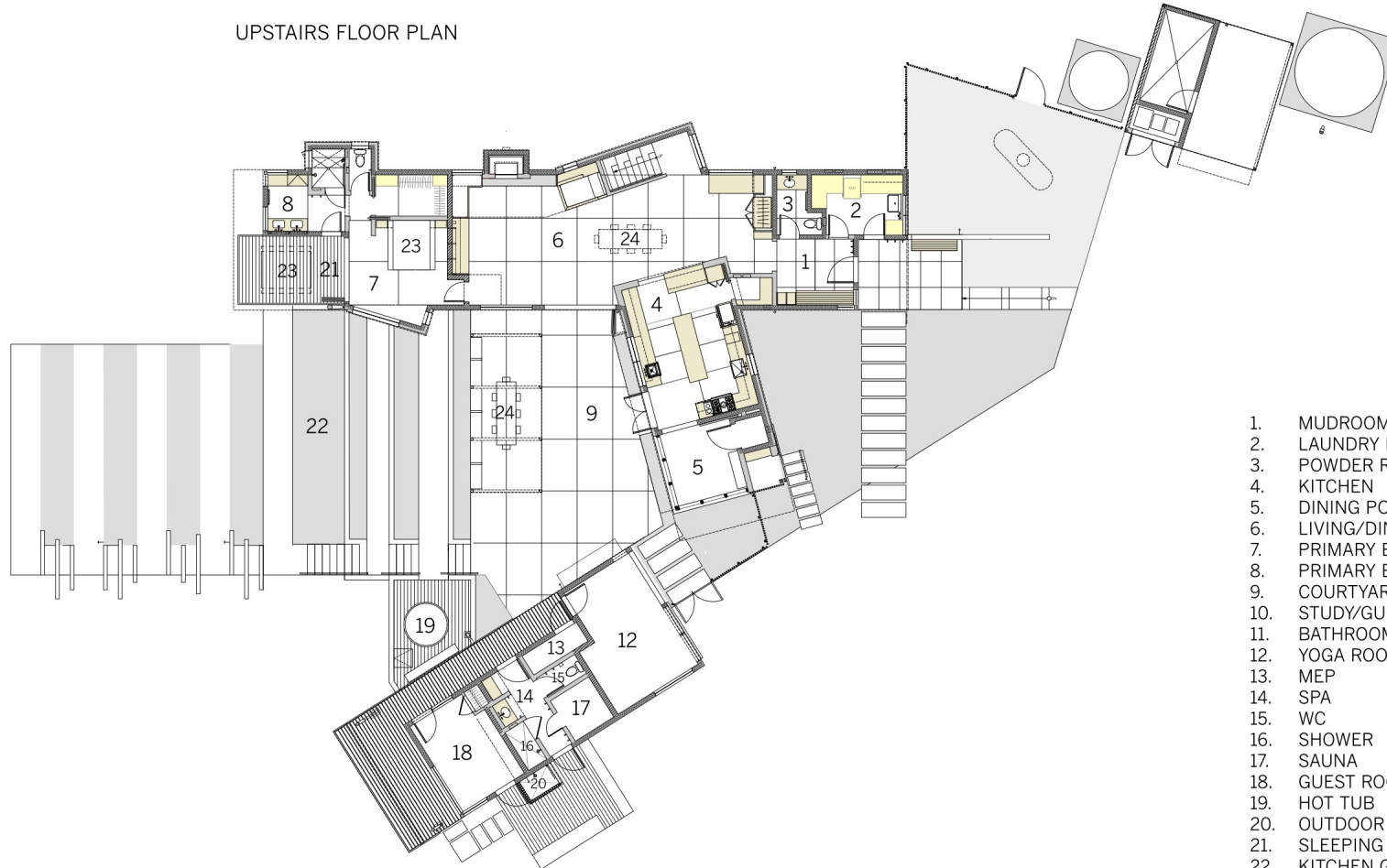








UPSTAIRS FLOOR PLAN



MAIN FLOOR PLAN

1. MUDROOM
2. LAUNDRY ROOM
3. POWDER ROOM
4. KITCHEN
5. DINING PORCH
6. LIVING/DINING ROOM
7. PRIMARY BEDROOM
8. PRIMARY BATHROOM
9. COURTYARD
10. STUDY/GUEST ROOM
11. BATHROOM
12. YOGA ROOM
13. MEP
14. SPA
15. WC
16. SHOWER
17. SAUNA
18. GUEST ROOM
19. HOT TUB
20. OUTDOOR SHOWER
21. SLEEPING PORCH
22. KITCHEN GARDEN
23. ROLLING BED
24. ROLLING TABLE





Kitchen Garden, Sleeping Porch, Trellis

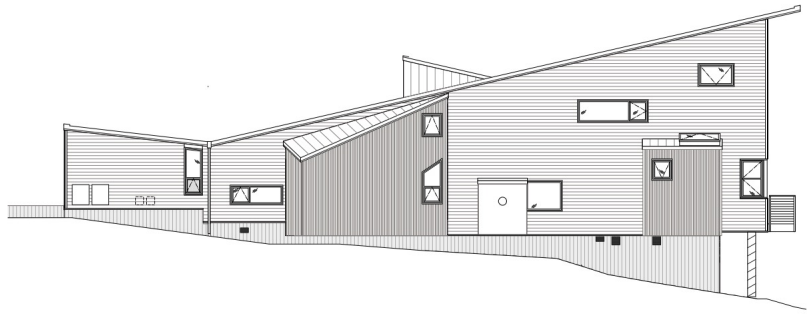


Bedroom Bay Window

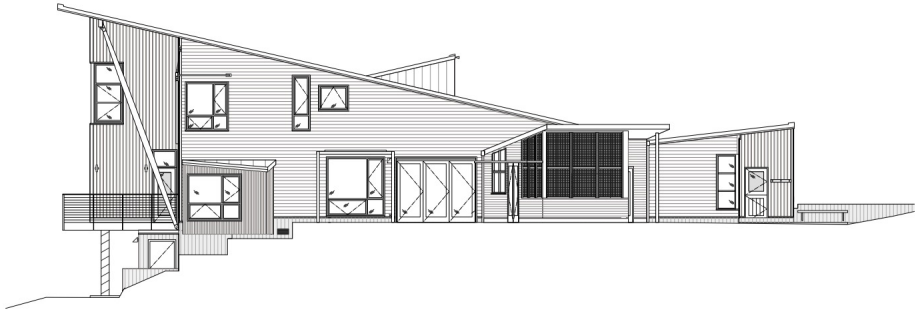


Courtyard with Covered Dining

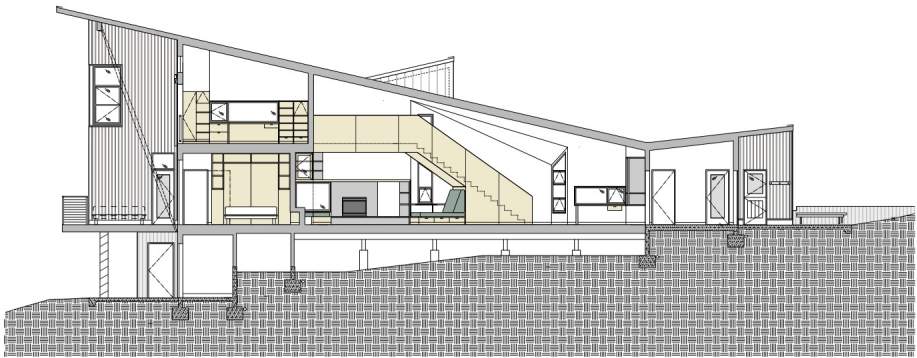




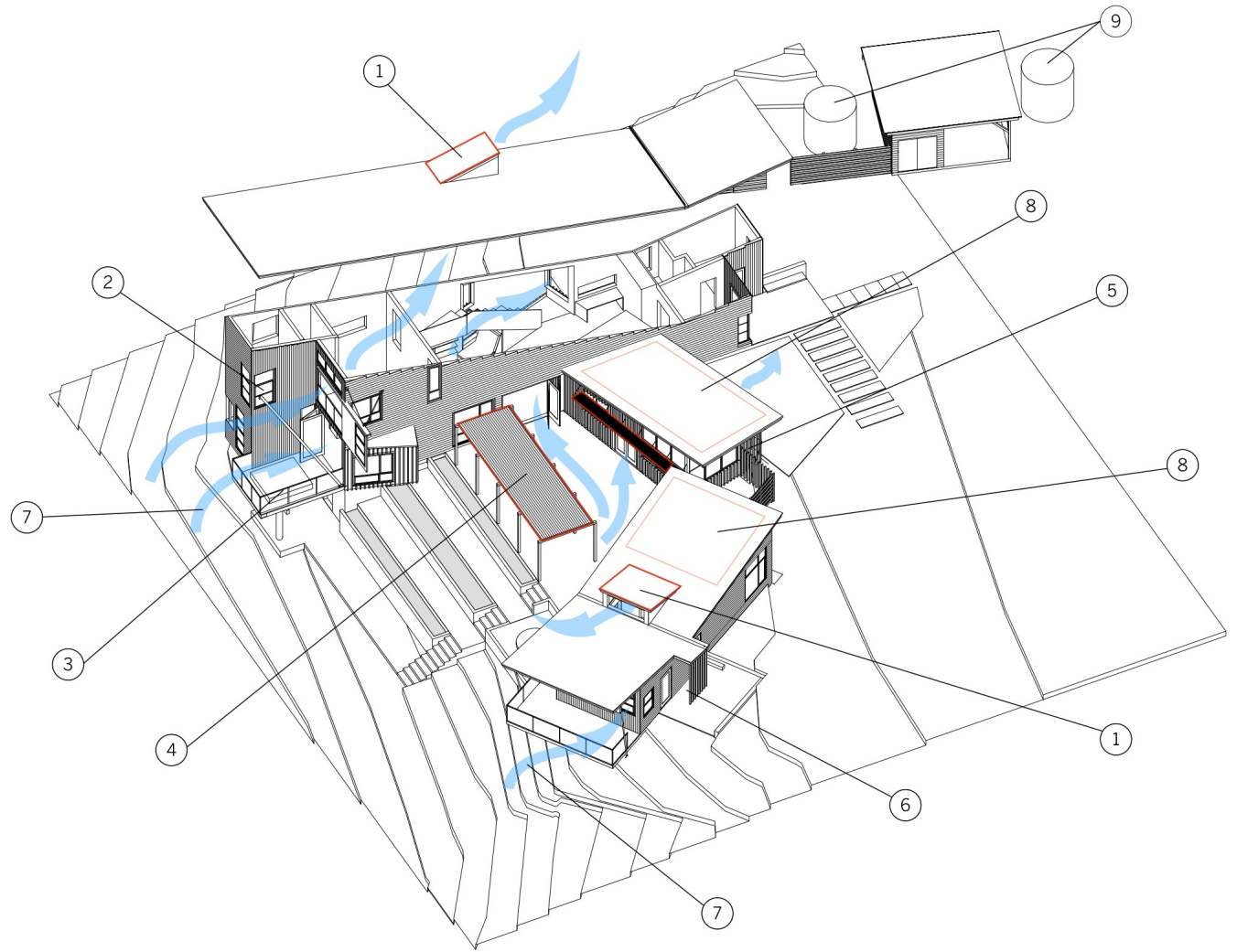
NORTH ELEVATION



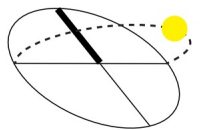
SOUTH ELEVATION



LONG SECTION



1. Ventilating dormer
2. Natural ventilation through operable windows and doors
3. Sleeping porch with rolling bed
4. Shade structure for outdoor dining
5. Redwood siding recycled from the site
6. Outdoor shower
7. Up valley, cooling breezes (from the West)
8. PV ready
9. Water storage tanks

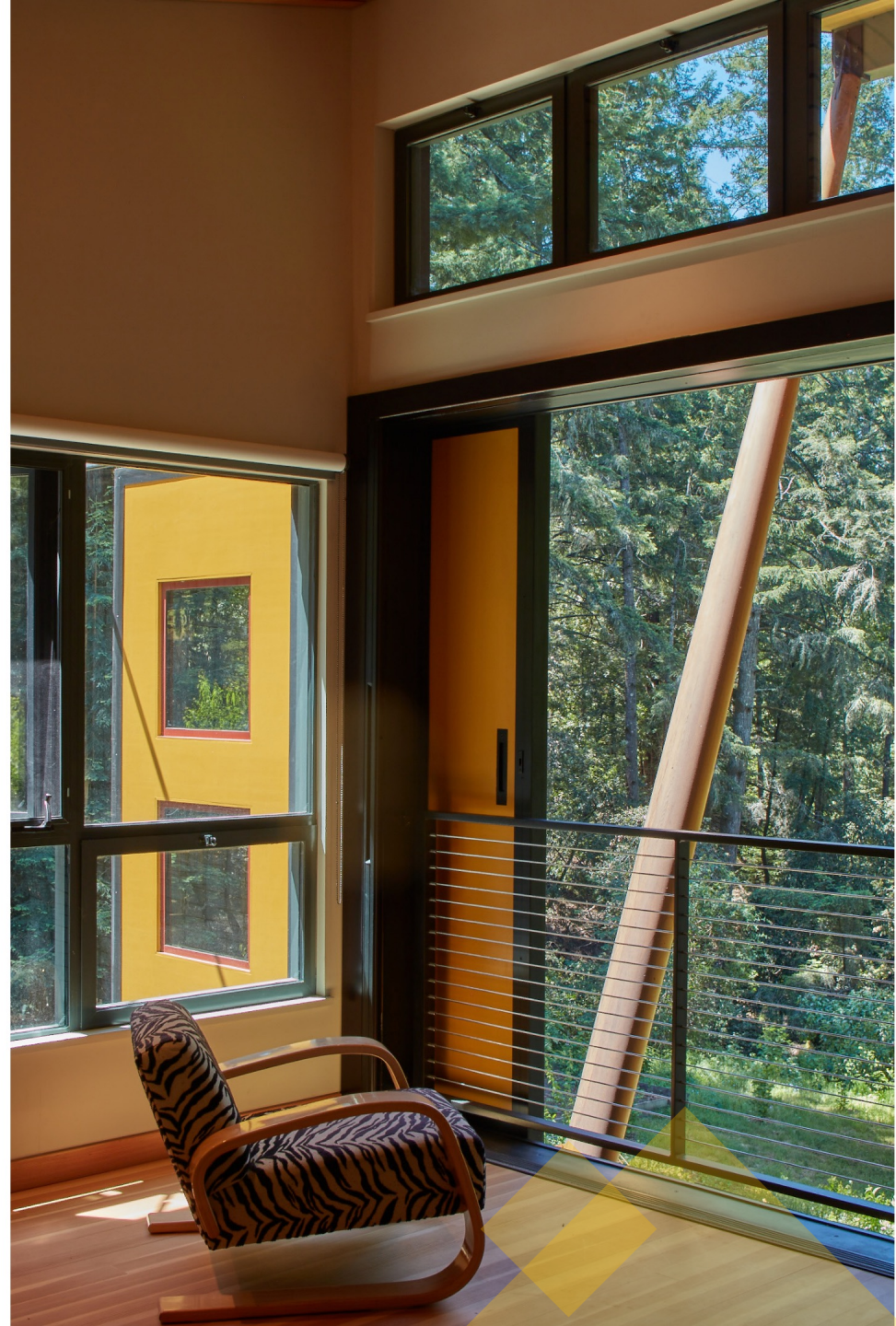


Sun Path Diagram





Sleeping Porch off  
Primary Bedroom



Home Office/  
Guest Room





Living/Dining Looking West



Stair Detail (Ventilation Path)



Day Bed (Under Stair)





Main Living Space looking back toward Dining & Kitchen



Kitchen looking South toward Screened Porch





Secondary Wing/Wellness (looking South)



Secondary Wing/Wellness with Outdoor Shower (Looking North)



Bath