

Location : Kitakaruizawa, Japan
Typology : Unrealized, Residential,
Interior Architecture

.. Kyokusen ..

The Curved House



Situated in the serene landscapes of Kitakaruizawa, a region known for its quiet beauty and natural richness, **Kyokusen** embodies a way of life deeply intertwined with nature. Here, amidst towering rock formations and dense forests, time seems to slow, allowing the rhythm of the environment to shape daily experiences. The villa itself **emerges** subtly from the landscape, **blending** effortlessly with its surroundings, as if it has always been a part of the terrain. Designed with careful attention to traditional Japanese aesthetics, the structure integrates natural materials such as wood and stone, which weather beautifully over time. As the seasons change and the sunlight shifts, the connection between the built and natural world becomes ever more apparent, fostering a sense of harmony and tranquility that defines the essence of living in this remarkable setting, where each passing moment deepens the bond between human and nature. **(Shot 01: Villa Main Entrance Refrence for Showing Surrounding Landscape)**

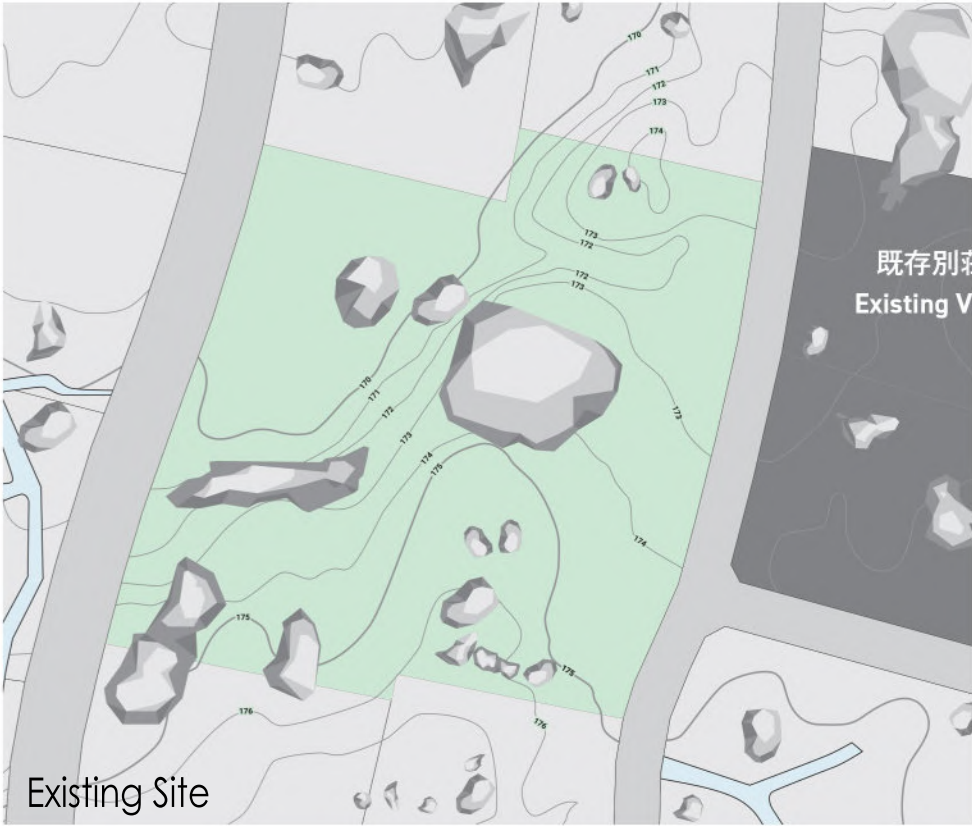
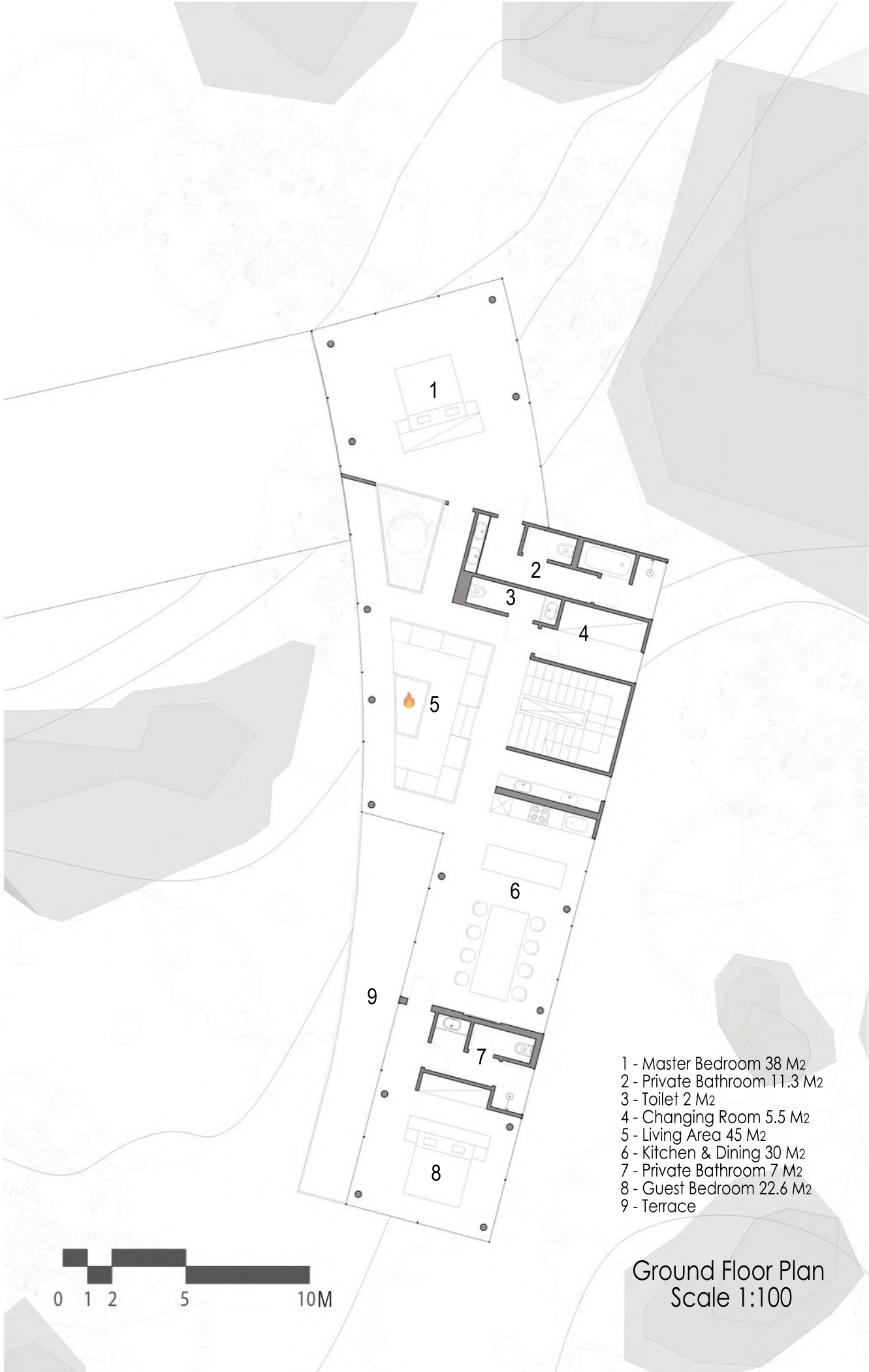
The design integrates seamlessly into the site's **natural terrain** and forested surroundings, aligning the layout along a site-specific axis. The architecture flows with the landscape, using a **7.2 x 16.2 box** based on the traditional tatami mat grid as its foundation. Over time, the merging of these blocks created a distinct **curve**, symbolizing harmony with nature.

The structure has two zones. The ground **"Home Floor"** is dedicated to living spaces connected to the natural surroundings, prioritizing functionality and daily life. Above, the **"Leisure Floor"** includes a sauna, pool, outdoor bath, and meditation room, offering views of the forest and spaces for relaxation.

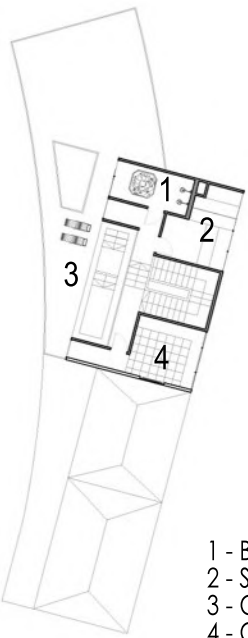
The structure is slightly elevated, accommodating a small entrance lobby, shear walls, parking, and snow accumulation needs. Terraces expand the living space, blurring the boundary between indoors and outdoors, enhancing the connection with the surrounding forest and emphasizing respect for the natural environment.



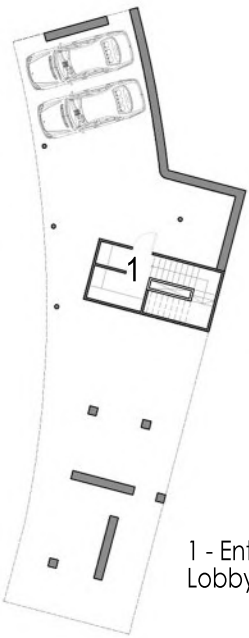
Aerial Site View



Required	Area
Gross floor area	249.5 m2
Constructed floor area	365 m2
Total height	10 m
Number of floors	2 floors



First Floor Plan
Scale 1:400



Basement Plan
Scale 1:400



Site Pictures



Site Pictures



Site Pictures

The interior of **Kyokusen** is designed to embody the seamless **connection** between inside and outside, a core aspect of the architectural concept. The use of natural materials like warm wood and stone creates a tactile, grounded environment that echoes the surrounding landscape. Expansive glass surfaces throughout the villa help blurring the boundary between the structure and its natural surroundings, allowing the flow of light, views, and fresh air to shape the experience of the space. This integration brings the outdoors in, making nature an essential part of daily life while still providing the warmth and comfort of a refined, high-end retreat. Thoughtful **transitions** between interior and exterior spaces reflect the design philosophy of creating a **continuous dialogue** between the villa and the environment, where architecture becomes an **organic extension** of the land itself.

(Shot 02 : Terrace Portrait)

Stepping onto the terrace feels like walking into the forest itself, where the villa opens fully to the landscape.



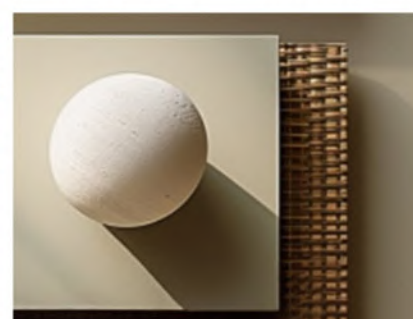
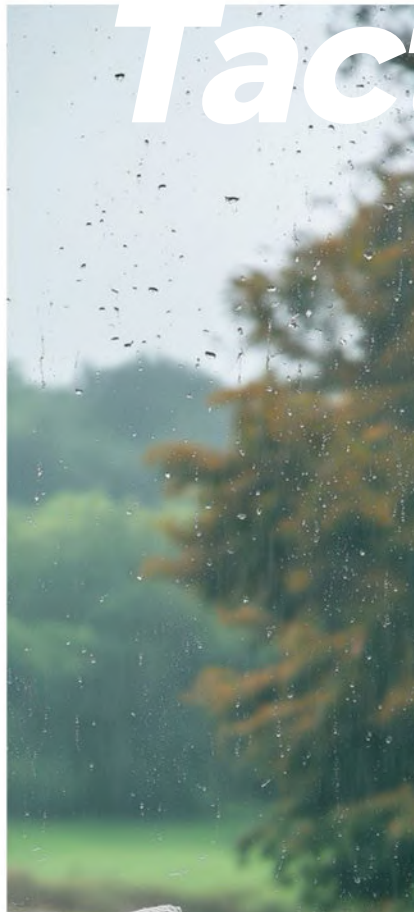
Villa Layout



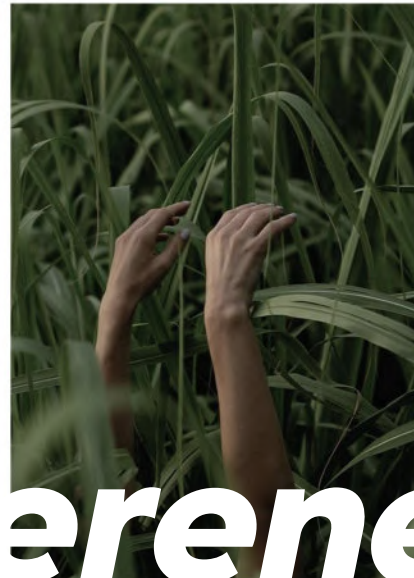
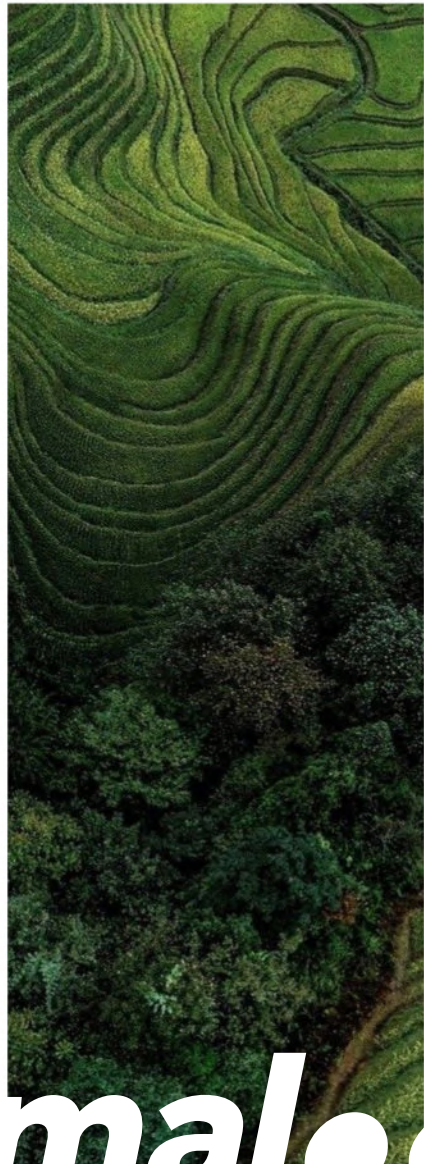
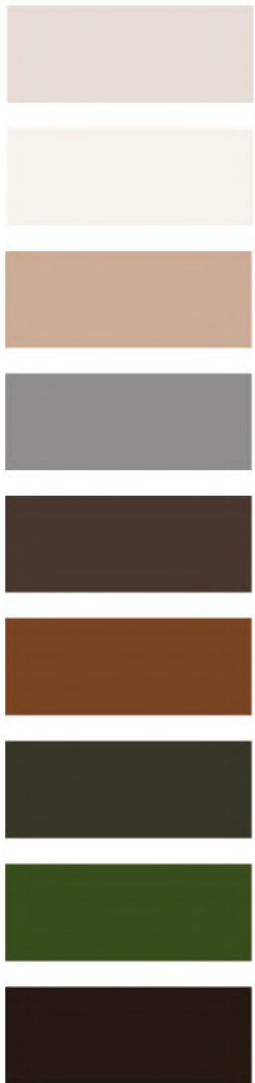
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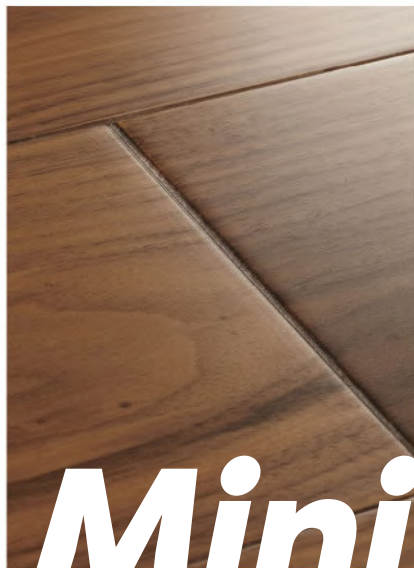
The intended mood of Kyokusen is one of quiet immersion in **nature**, where architecture becomes almost invisible against the surrounding landscape. The project seeks to create a serene retreat defined by **tactile materials**, muted light, and an openness that allows daily life to unfold in rhythm with the forest outside. **Concrete** and **wood** provide grounding solidity, while terraces and open-plan interiors extend the feeling of continuity between inside and out. The mood is **minimal** yet warm,



Nature●●

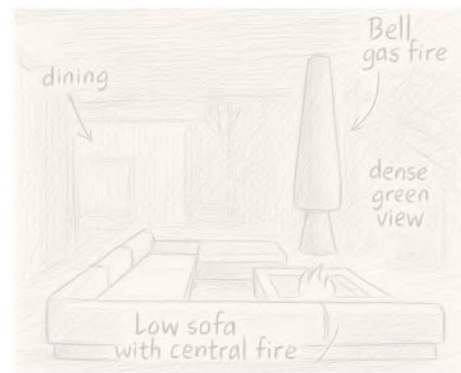


Serene●●●

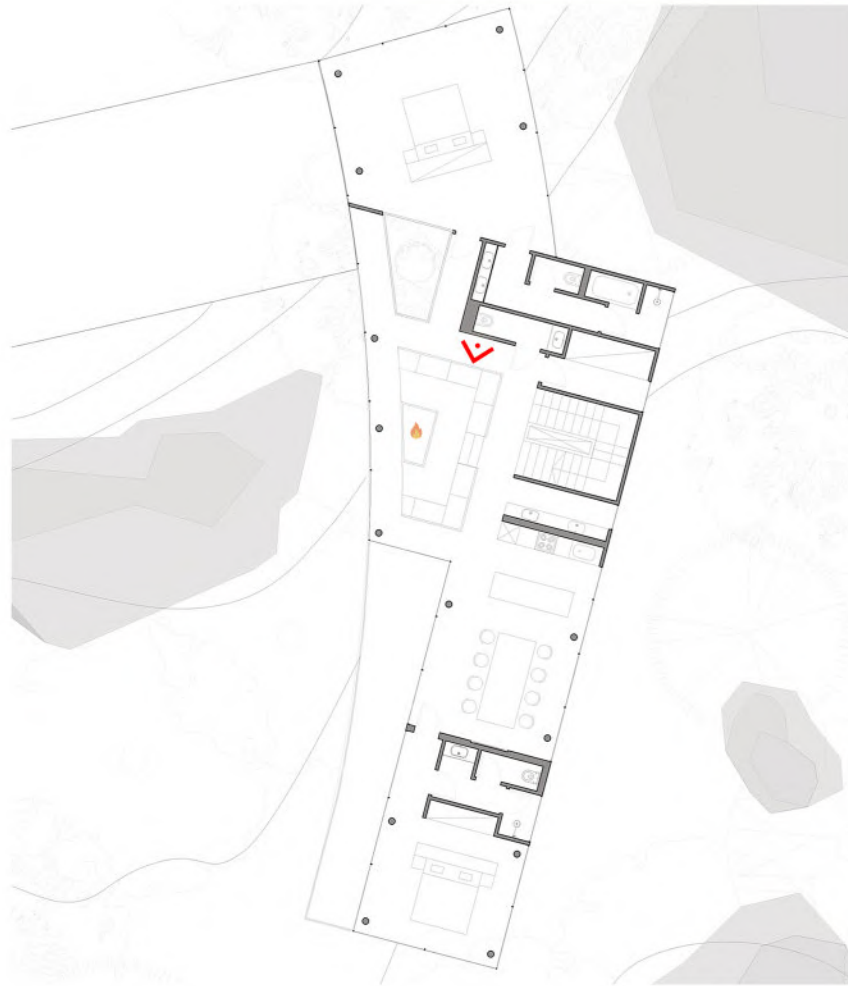


Minimal●●●

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MOOD BOARD



Sketch (1)



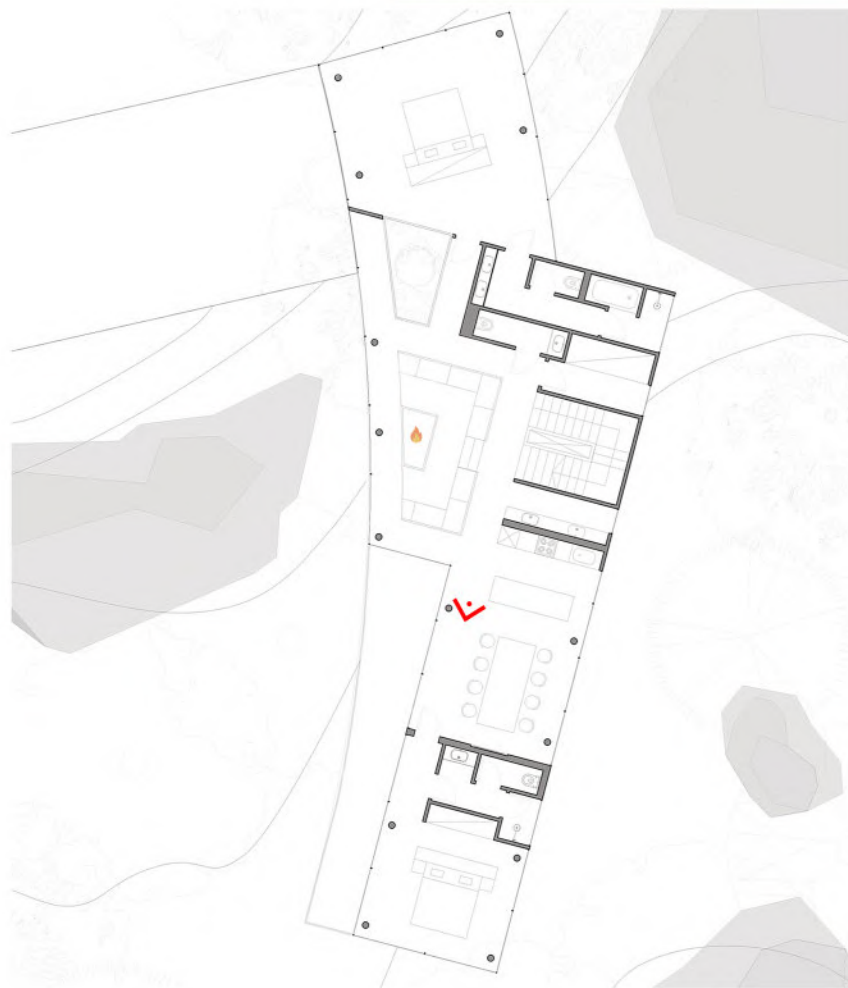
(Shot 03 : Living Space)

The living floor unfolds as a **continuous open plan**, where the kitchen and dining quietly anchor the back, leaving the center free for a striking sunken lounge. Here, a depressed couch embraces the hearth — a modern interpretation of **the irori** — where firelight becomes both **warmth and ritual**. Above, a suspended hood drops gracefully from the ceiling, a **sculptural centerpiece** that frames the flame while drawing the eye upward. Surrounded on all sides by glass, the forest becomes an extension of the room itself, so that every meal prepared, every conversation shared, and every moment by the fire resonates with the **rhythm of nature** outside.





Sketch (2)



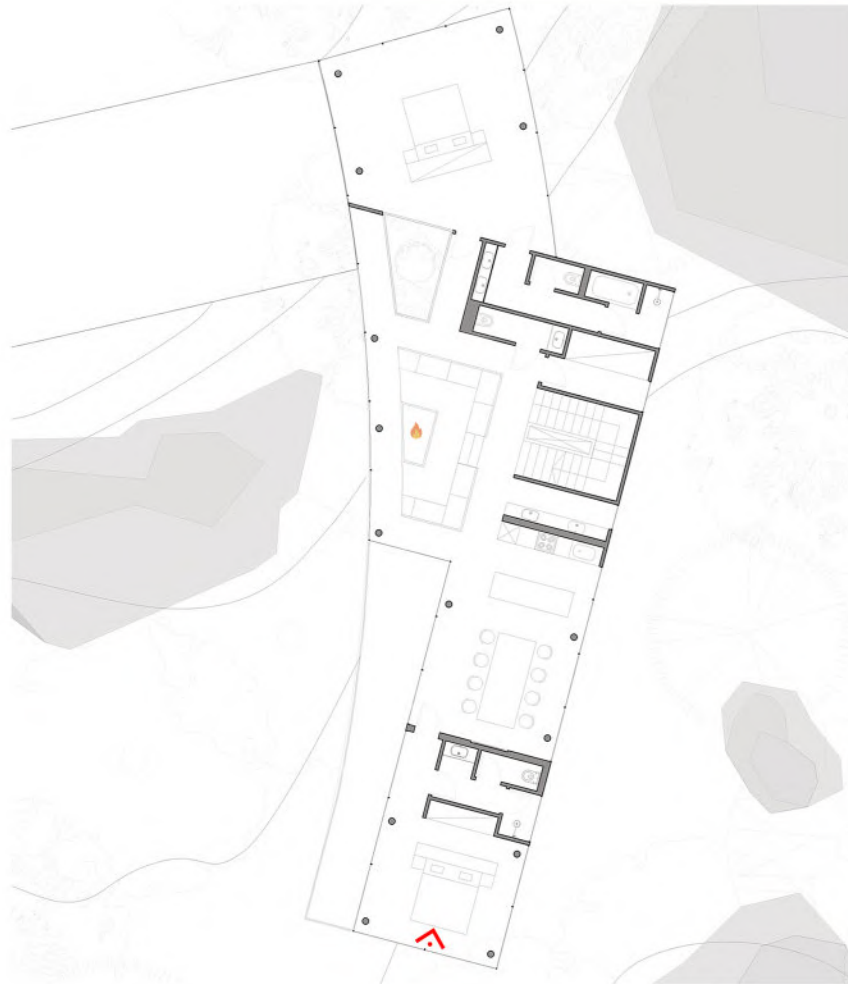
(Shot 04 : Dining Space)

Seen up close, the dining area becomes a study in **restrained detailing**. Every surface is wrapped in **warm timber** panels whose grain runs seamlessly from wall to ceiling, creating a **continuous envelope**. The ceiling itself is deliberately minimal — a thin plane without visible beams or fixtures — so the eye rests on the material rather than the structure. Flush doors are cut into the cladding with hidden hinges and recessed pulls, turning storage and circulation into invisible planes within the wall. A long, solid-wood table sits at the centre, its dark tone **contrasting** subtly with the lighter flooring, while low-backed chairs form a quiet rhythm around it. In this space, the architecture **frames** not only the view but also the **act of gathering**, so the **interior feels crafted, cohesive, and purposeful**.





Sketch (3)

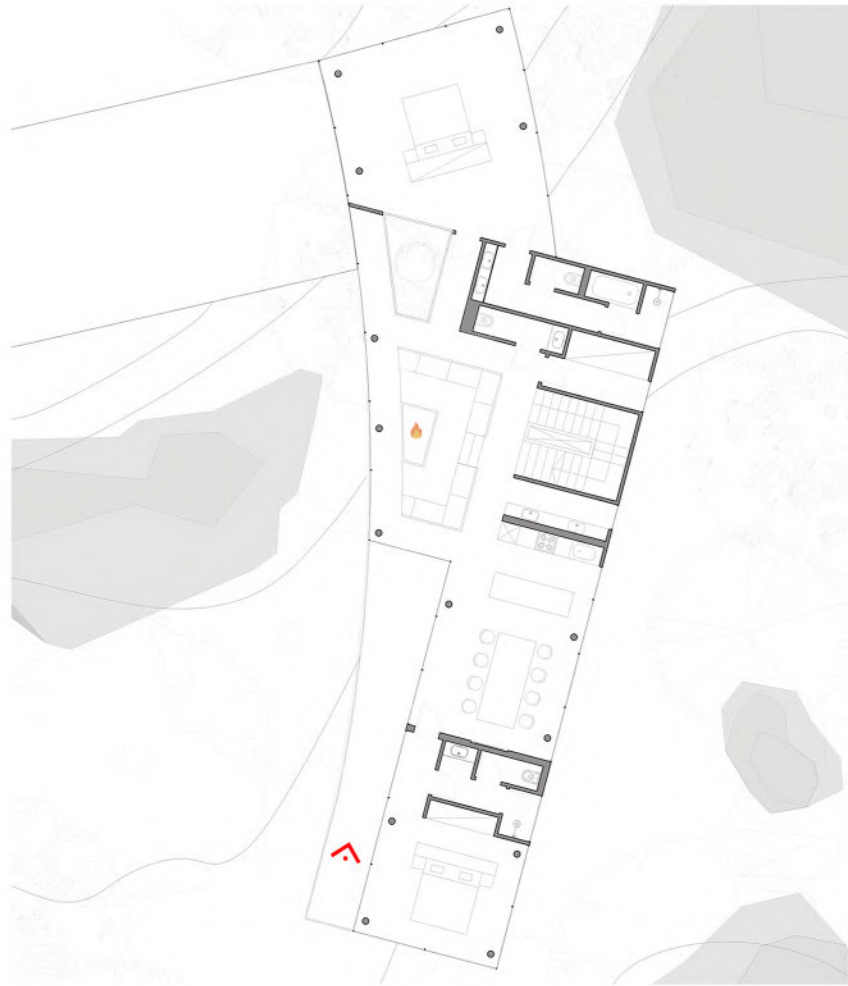


(Shot 05 : Master Bedroom)

The bedroom is crafted as a refined retreat, where every element is considered in its quiet elegance. Above, a finely detailed ceiling **integrates subtle ambient lighting**, casting a soft glow that shifts with the time of day. Along one wall, a seamless, **flush-built closet** disappears into the timber surfaces, preserving the room's **minimal character** while offering **discreet functionality**. Floor-to-ceiling glass opens the space to the forest and an overlooking terrace, **extending the calm** outward into nature. With its restrained material palette, **delicate detailing**, and **seamless transitions**, the bedroom becomes more than a place of rest — it is a space of intimate refinement, where architecture and interior design merge into **one continuous atmosphere**.



Sketch (4)

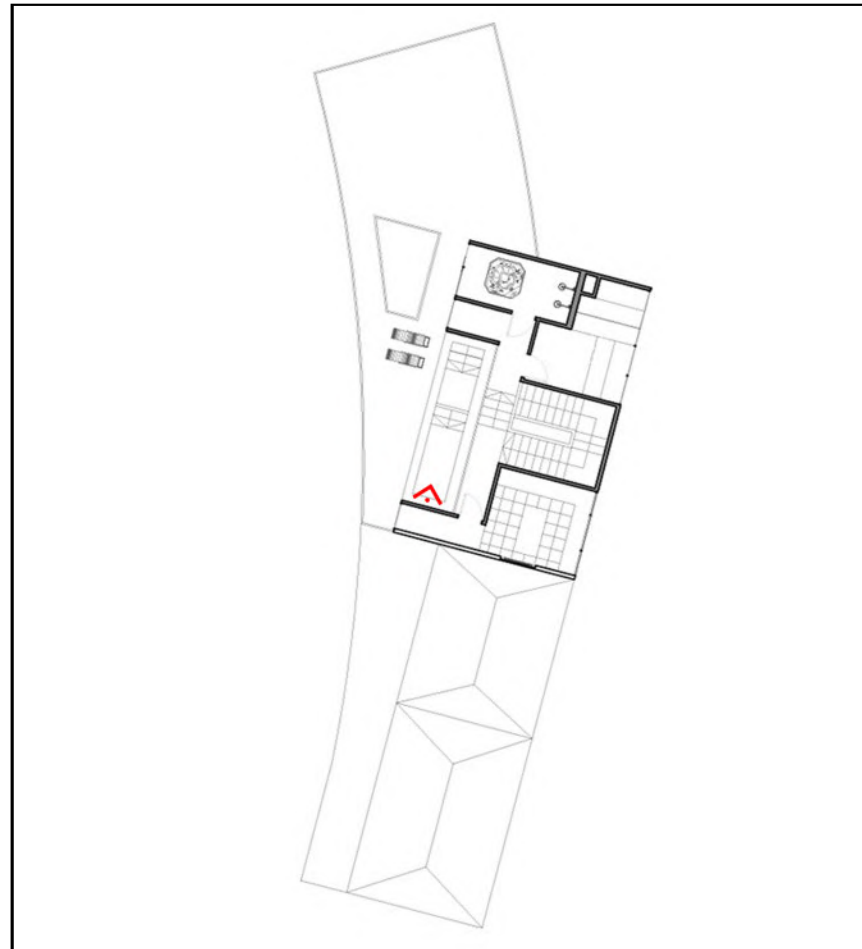
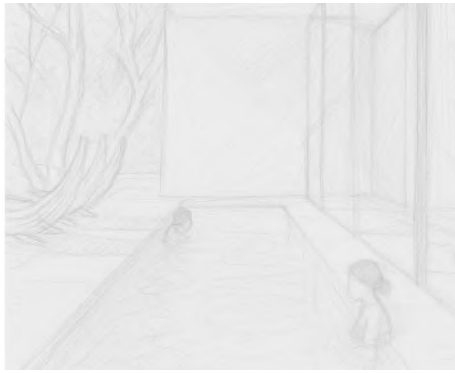


(Shot 06 : Terrace Cropped)

Wrapping the perimeter of the house, the terrace becomes **a continuous ribbon** of outdoor living, threading the dining, living, and master suite together on a single plane. Its timber decking echoes the interior floors, **blurring the threshold so movement between inside and out feels seamless**. Slim black steel posts rise lightly, reflecting light elegantly. Along this edge, spaces expand outward — a quiet coffee spot off the bedroom, a hearth lounge off the living room, a dining spillover under the forest canopy — each one distinct yet **connected by the same elevated boardwalk**. In this way the terrace acts as a **communal spine**, extending the architecture into the landscape while offering a **shared platform for pause, movement, and gathering**.



Sketch (5)



(Shot 07 : Outdoor Cold Bath/Pool)

At the villa's first-floor outdoor bath, the experience is imagined as a **secluded retreat** suspended within the forest canopy. **Exposed concrete walls** frame the space with a **raw**, architectural presence, while stone flooring grounds it in a **tactile finish** that connects directly to the outdoors. The bath itself is composed with quiet simplicity, its **clean geometry** offset by timber accents and dappled light from the trees beyond. Beside it sits a custom-made wooden chaise longue — a refined, villa-grade interpretation of a classic beach recliner — its gently inclined backrest inviting slow, unhurried repose. **Open to the landscape** yet deeply **private**, this elevated terrace transforms bathing into a moment of **calm immersion**, where architecture, material, and nature converge in harmony.

