

## ROCKY TOP

Location: Central California

Size: 4,460 s.f.

We were hired for this project after the owners happened to visit a 'Tuscany-in-California' home that one of us had designed some years ago. Despite this unprepossessing beginning the owners were open to distilling some fundamental ideas about form, surface, and fenestration from that style, but then moving on. Our objective was to draw a tradition-bound Mediterranean ethos - elemental, extruded, yet responsive to wind, light, and view - into a decidedly 21st Century construct. This was not simply a matter of incorporating more contemporary material with a conventional skeleton, but, with a nod to the artist Gordon Matta Clark, to excise and distort many of the expected internal relationships while leaving the fundamental rhythms intact.

Monterey County supports a surprisingly conservative design tradition. We believe this is in part because residents and visitors find a comfort and durability in the iconic forms and materials of the past. The Peninsula in particular caters to this idea of historic nostalgia - a rose-hued lens into the past. If this remains the viable and contemporary impetus for current local design, then the question becomes: How do we express the era in which our buildings are made? This is one response.

In addition to careful siting and design of the project to maximize passive cooling, heating and daylighting, the house incorporates the following sustainable precepts:

- Integral-color high fly-ash content concrete slabs
- FSC certified lumber
- Blown-in recycled denim insulation
- Metal roofing
- Low VOC paint
- Low-e double glazed windows and French doors
- Energy Star appliances and programmable thermostats
- Fluorescent fixtures
- Low-flow water fixtures
- Recycled glass kitchen and bath countertops
- Drought tolerant and fire-safe landscaping