



Getting Back to Nature on the Hill

New Single Family Home

Size: 2,100 SF

Owner/Builders: Jakob Bogenberger and Susan Swift

Architect: Arketype Architects Inc.

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GREEN at a GLANCE

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Passive solar heating and cooling using clerestory windows and strategically located windows and doors
- Energy-efficient appliances such as an induction cooktop
- Exterior walls with ICF (rockwool insulated concrete forms) by Durisol
- Denim and Icynene spray in ceiling insulation
- Photovoltaic panels on roof supply close to 100% of electricity
- Long-lasting metal roofing material with light-color Galvalume
- Tankless water heater
- Radiant floor heating in concrete slab
- Low-E double-paned windows

RESOURCE CONSERVATION

- To eliminate dry rot and termites and increase fire safety, no wood used in structure
- To conserve wood, steel frame for interior walls
- Steel frame has 68% recycled content
- Concrete slab with recycled fly ash
- Energy-efficient lighting with LEDs and compact fluorescent bulbs
- FSC-certified wood for interior finish, such as bamboo
- Decomposed granite at driveway conserves water with permeable paving

INDOOR AIR QUALITY

- No VOC paints, finishes, or adhesives used
- To maximize air quality, no carpeting or wood framing used
- Natural lime and Venetian plaster for interior wall finish
- Entryway designed with stone floor to reduce tracked-in contaminants

When Susan and Jakob found and purchased this 40-acre property in a mountainous area of Ojai, they knew they wanted to keep the design and construction of their new home just as natural as possible. As scientists, they were knowledgeable about the potential effects on health of toxic living environments, so their focus was on using only nontoxic building materials as well as employing passive solar heating and cooling principles.

Additionally, Jakob Bogenberger had been raised in Germany with architectural knowledge, since his father was an architect. As such, Jakob had conceived of the house design early on, and had long intended to be involved in the construction of his eventual house from beginning to end. He personally did most of the house's interior finishes, as well as much of the exterior construction.

The two buildings of this residence were conceived of as separate wings: one private and consisting of bedrooms, and the other public and consisting of living and kitchen spaces. The wings are connected by a breezeway that serves as the entry point to the house. Because it's a mostly glass enclosure, the entry presents a good view of the home's landscaping.

Near the house, much of the landscaping vegetation is native, and Jakob and Susan intend to restore other areas by installing still more native plants—a practical experiment in plant ecology.

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