

An aerial photograph of a city grid. The left side of the image shows a large, dark, wooded area with some open fields and a few buildings. The right side shows a dense urban grid with many small buildings and streets. The text "The Summit 2014 Framing Landscapes" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, bold font with a blue outline.

The Summit 2014 Framing Landscapes



Inleiding



This year from September 25th to October 5th we've attended the study tour 'The Summit' to the San Francisco Bay area. It was a very special trip with an overwhelming program which left us inspired.

Down town San Francisco presents an intriguing, in our view, non-European urban phenomenon in which a rigid grid is laid over the rolling topography. This produces a lot of problems in the outdoor space like steep streets and stairs, that may lead to all kinds of problems like flooding and inaccessibility etc. At the same time this phenomenon presents unexpected confrontations of city and landscape and thrilling buildingsites with fantastic views. The contrast between the grid and the natural relief, between habitation and landscape makes San Francisco what it is. A fascinating town, however, the question arises whether is this what we have been taught at school?

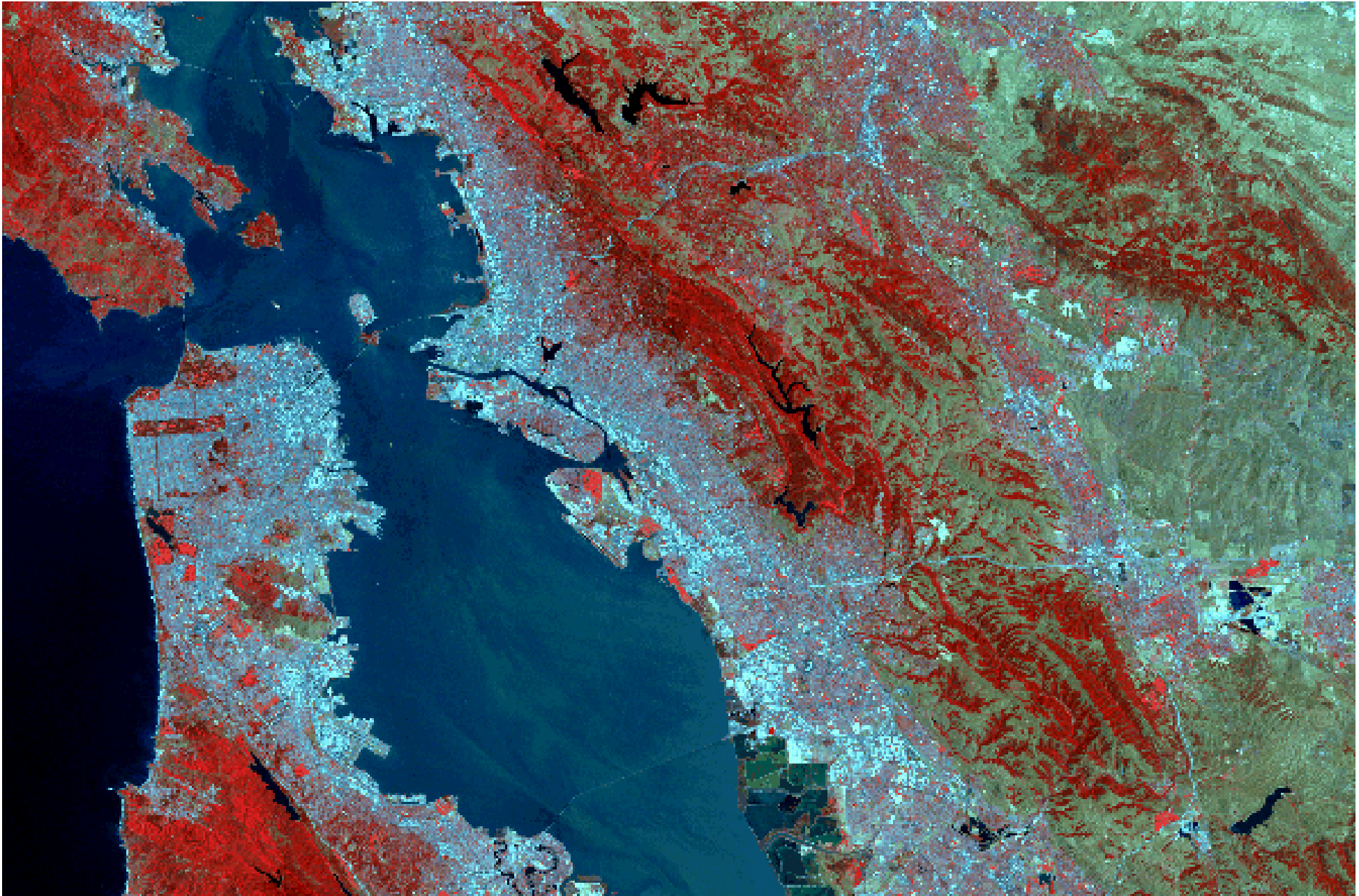
At the observation deck of the 'Young Museum' in the Golden Gate Park we suddenly realized the origins of modernistic design language we have seen in for example the Donell Garden of Thomas Church. On the immense aerial view of San Francisco the topography of sandy and rocky dunes literally collides with the grid of the city.

The contrasting lines seem to function as an inspiration for the modernists. The contrast between inside and outside, nature and culture, and between smoothly curved and straight lines is reflected on every scale.

During our trip we experienced the inspiration of our teachers; black and white images we knew from college became reality and exceeded our memories and expectations. It brought alive the thoughts and designs of our tutors, Mien Ruys, Ank Bleeker, Meto Vroom and Nico de Jonge.

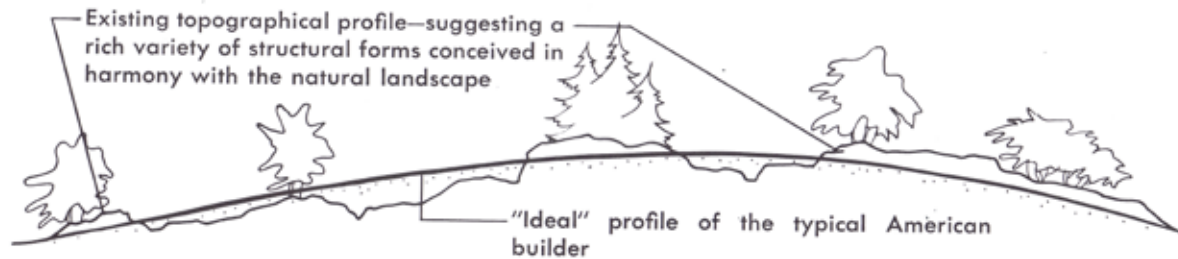
In this booklet we collected and illustrated our findings and our landscape architectural perspective on the trip. We organized our memories around the themes 'In-Between Spaces', 'Houses and Gardens', 'Stairs and Steps', 'Parks', 'Landscapes' and 'Framed Landscapes'.





Satellite image Bay Area, NASA 2011

Environmental planning



To explain some of the designs we saw during the trip we copied original sketches and plans of houses, gardens and landscapes as well as some drawings and diagrams from our textbook “Landscape Architecture, an ecological approach to environmental planning” from John Ormsbeek Simonds, written in 1961.



Man-made topography is man-made paradise?

A crucial element of travel is meeting people. In this sense our trip to San Francisco turned out to be a celebration of special encounters and meetings. Apart from intense and lively discussions with fellow travellers we relished on the joyful receptions and personal stories of the home owners we met. Encounters that are very dear to us. We’d like to thank our tour guide Edwin Oostmeijer for the beautiful trip and for bringing all these special people together.

The Netherlands, Eindhoven,
November 18th, 2014

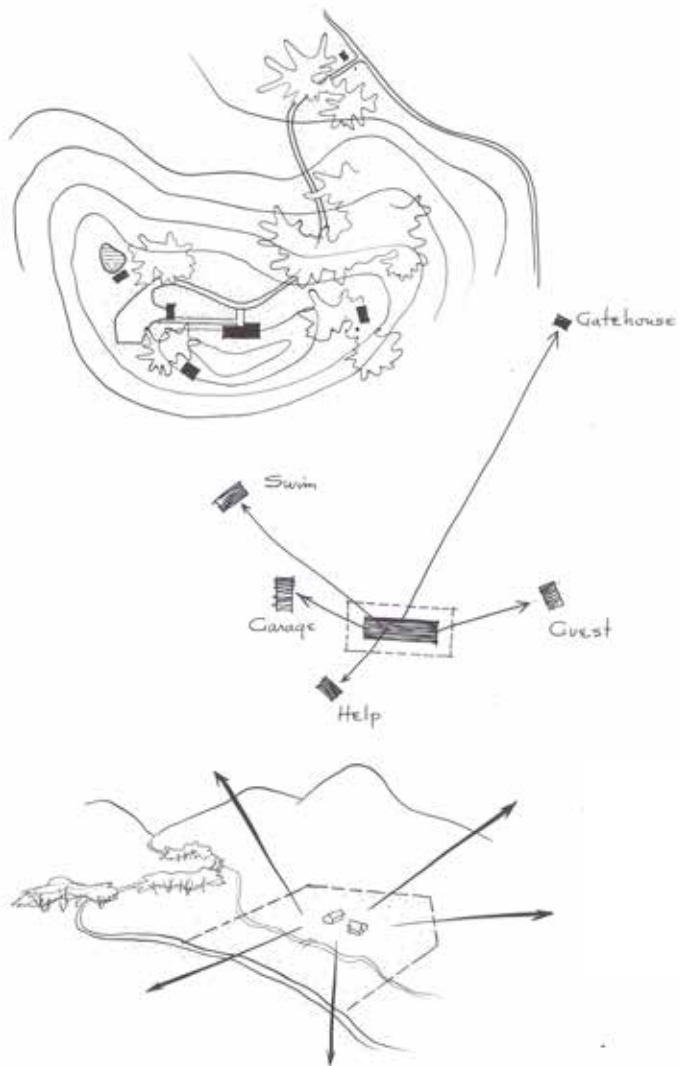
Esther Kruit
Mariëlle Kok



A better way is building with nature and in compression, which provides the human scale and charm.



Visiting the Sea Ranch is walking in a college tour



Space is dictated a close relationship between topography and landscape forms.

The Summit explored



The Havens House, 1939, architect Harwell Hamilton Harris



The natural site profile



Site negated



Site dramatized

The essence of land planning for any project:

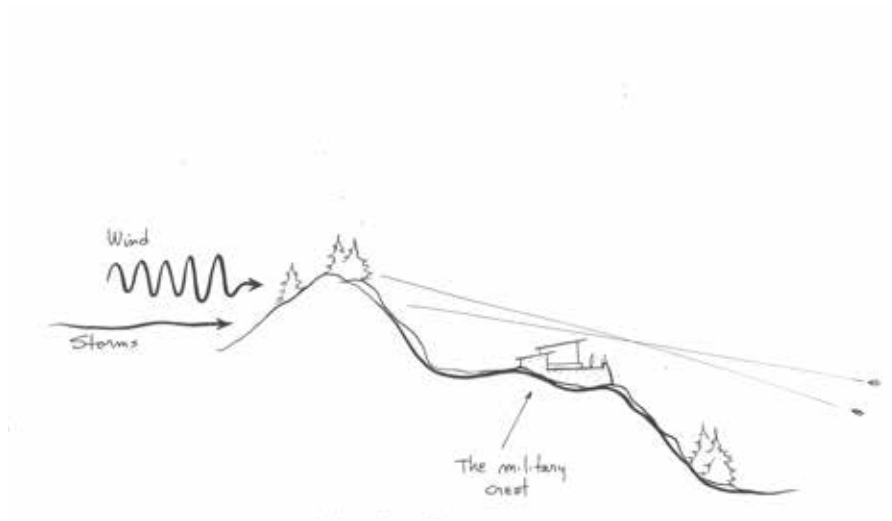
1. Seek the most suitable site
2. Let the site suggest plan forms
3. Extract the full site potential.



Dramatized site of The Havens House



The Flower House, 1958, architect Warren Callister



Use the slope for protection and vista's



Build to, around and among landscape features

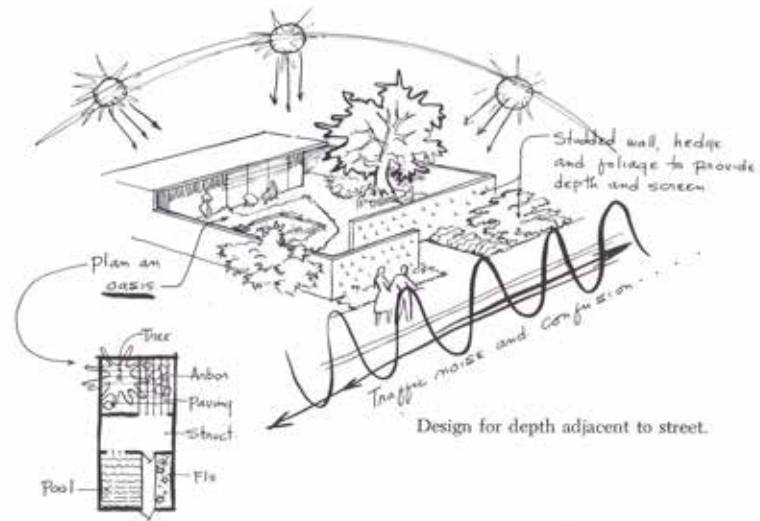


The Summit explored



The California way of living

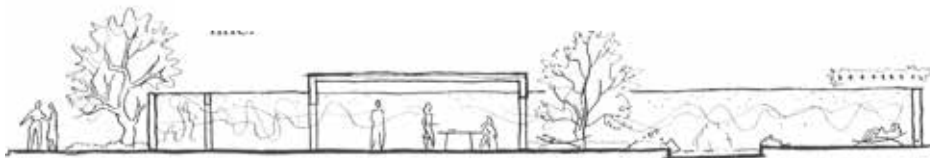
Gardens and houses: plan an oasis



Plan a garden as an oasis



The Sea Ranch



An urban garden may extend from property line to property line



Eichler house Lucas Valley



Garden The Hilmer House, 1954, architect Don R. Knorr, landscape architect unknown

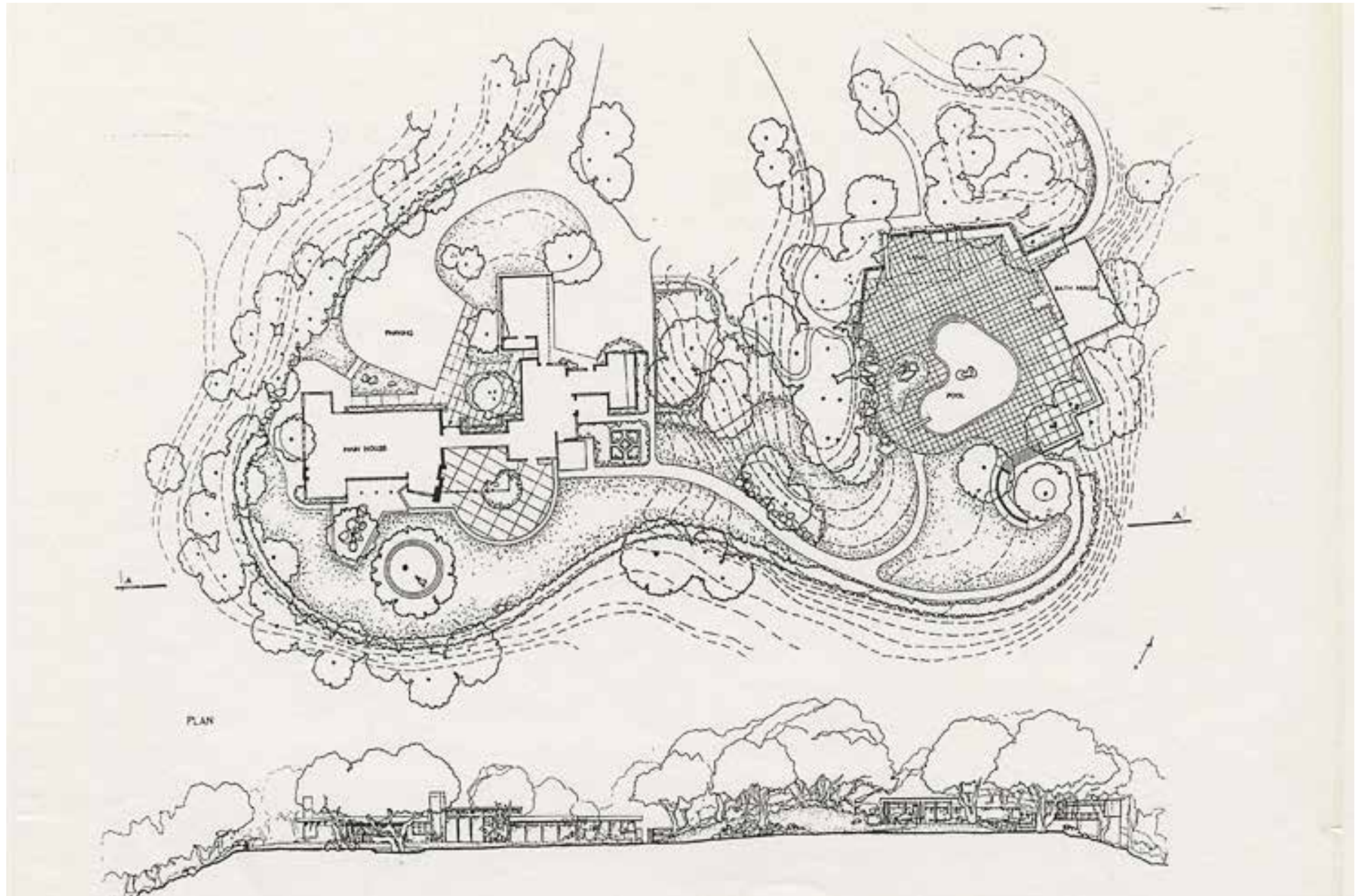








The Donnell Garden, 1948, architect George Rockrise, landscape architect Thomas Church with Lawrence Halprin





Church designed a garden to stand for a modern style of California living that took place both indoors and outdoors



Fluid transitions between these equally important places are inspired by the landscape forms of the Schell Creek delta



Most of the existing California live oak trees were spared, by creating a wooden deck as extra space around the pool



An oasis on the hilltop, overlooking the northern extensions of San Francisco Bay (Google maps)



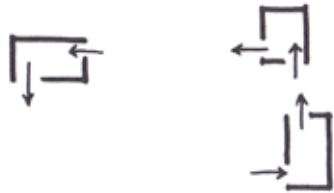
The contrast between concrete tiles in a grid and the curved plantbeds



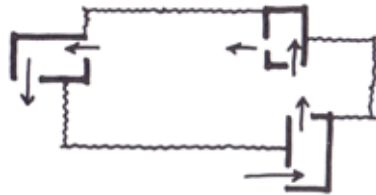
The Cary House, 1960, architect Joseph Esherick (<http://www.designlaboratory.com>)

In-Between Spaces

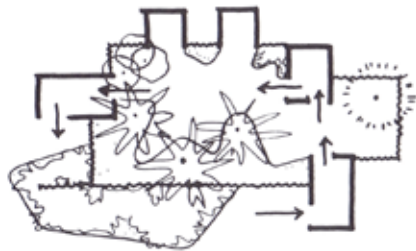
Integration of structures



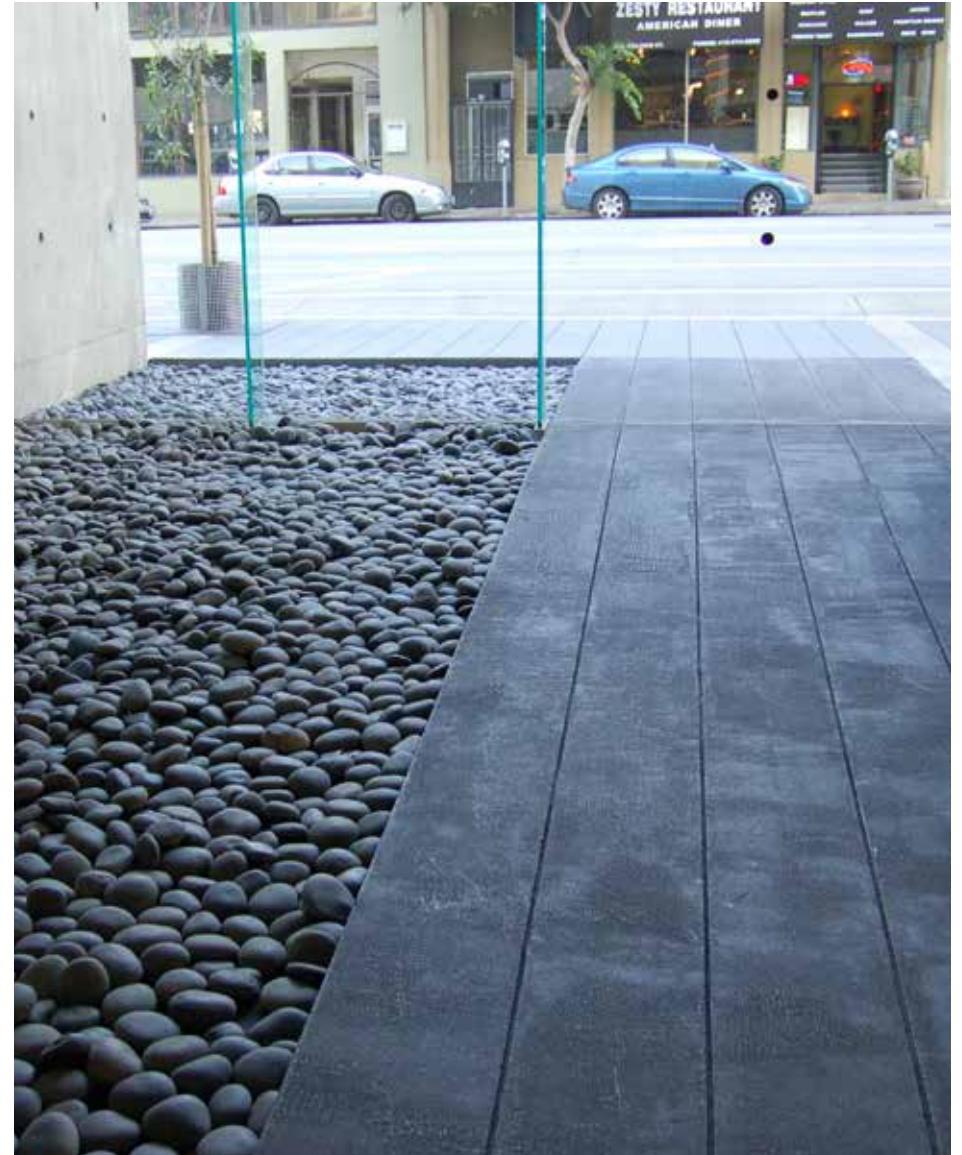
Three disconnected plan elements

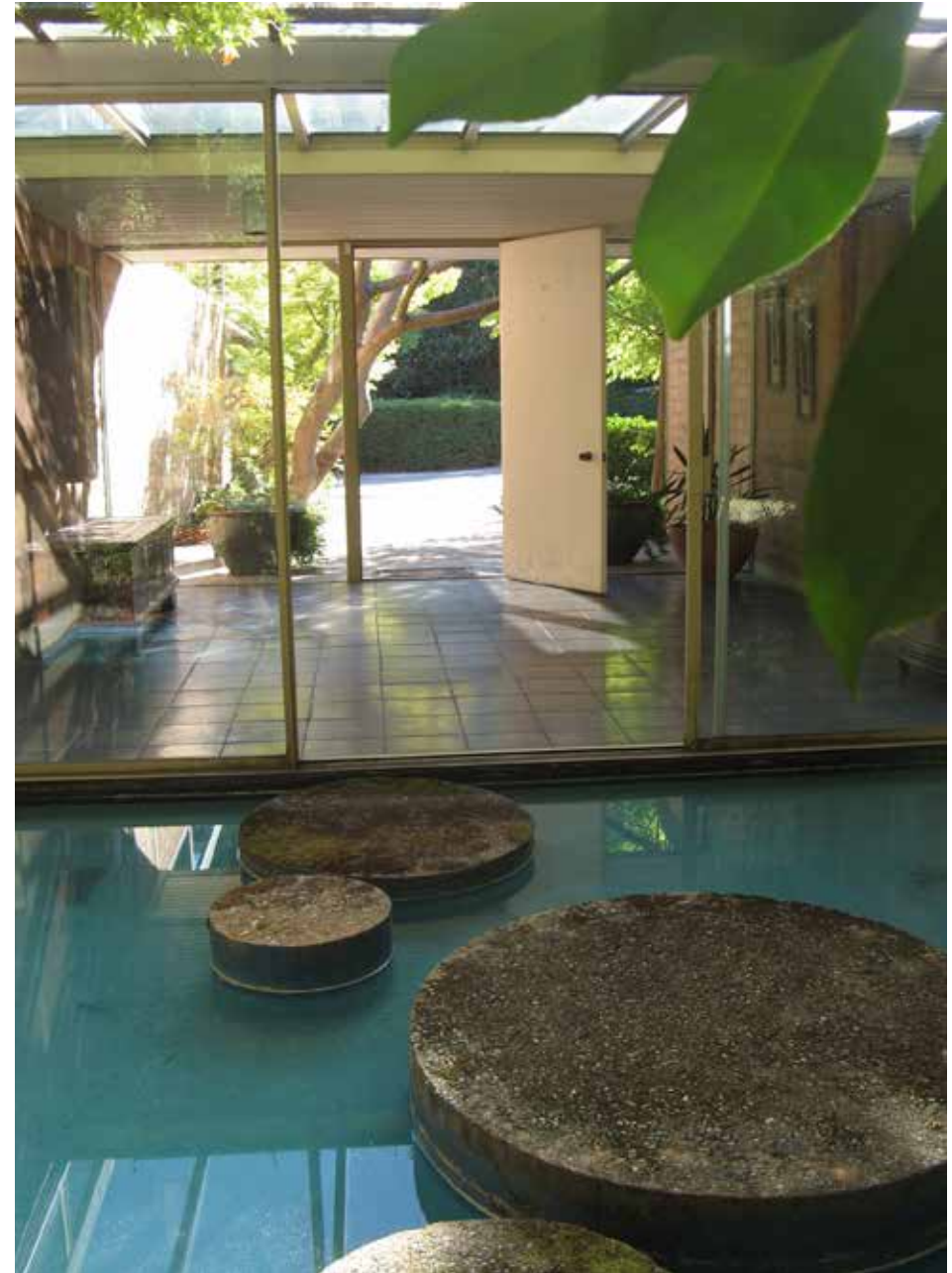


Addition of connective linkage

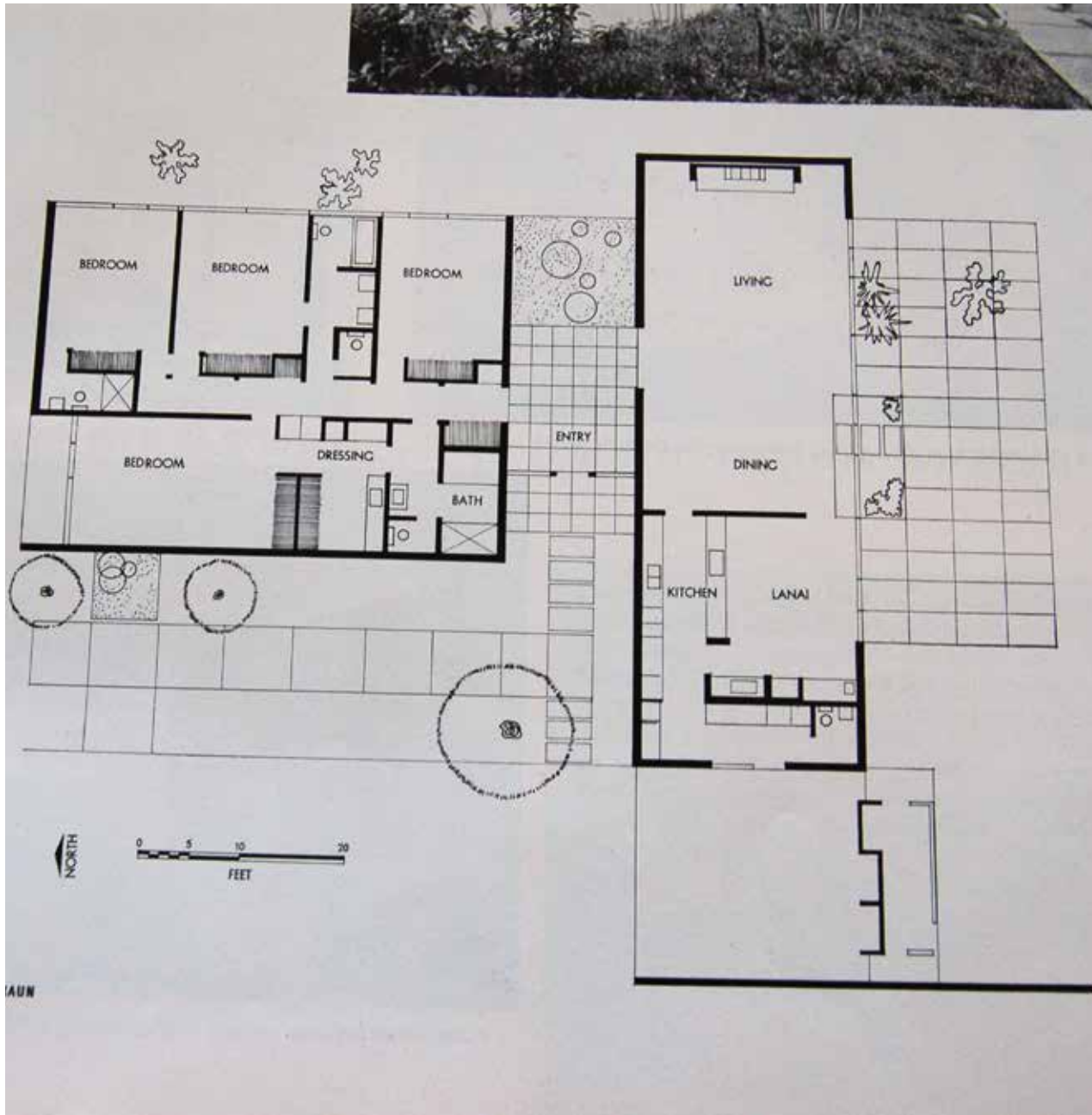


Further articulation
of plan circulation



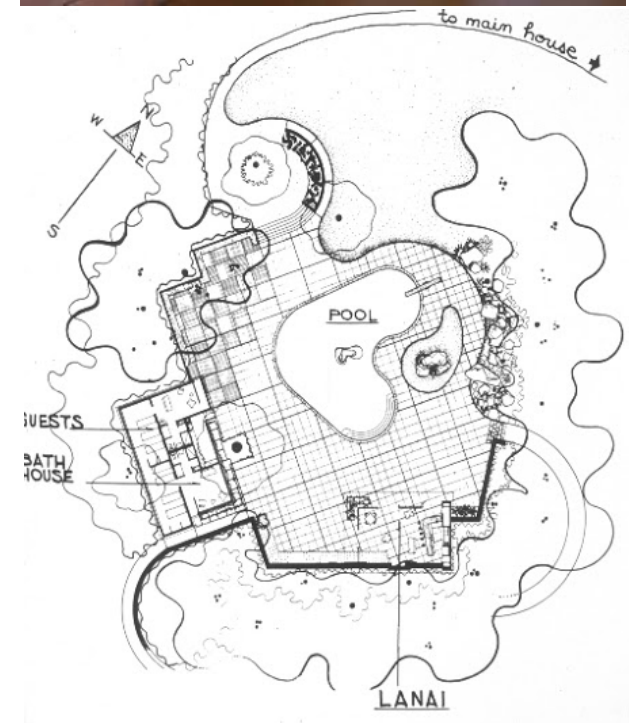


The Hilmer House, 1954, Don R. Knorr





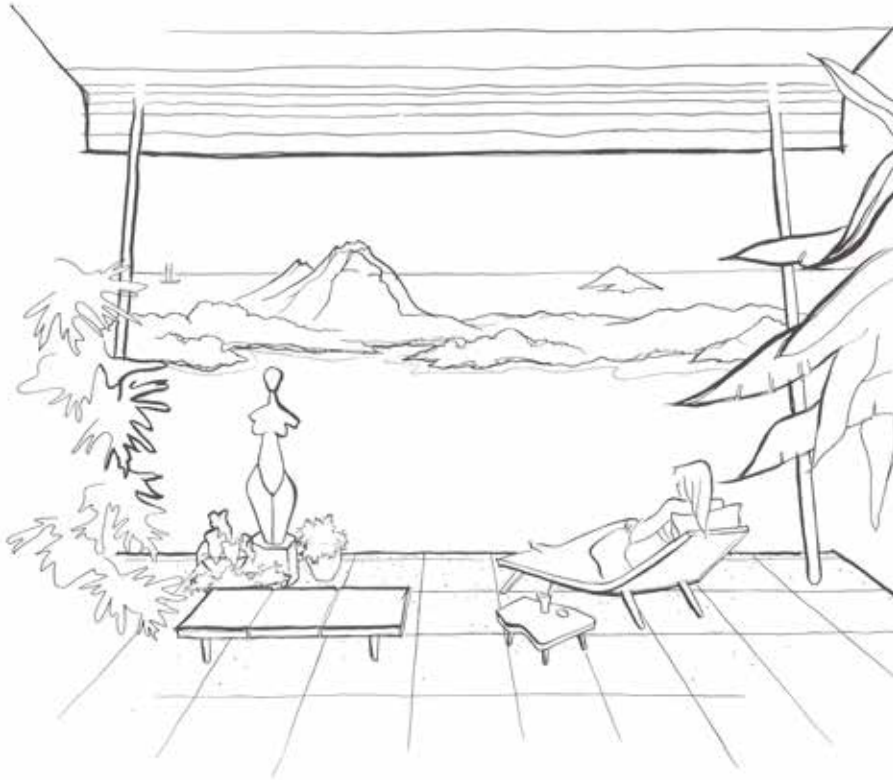
The Donnell Garden, 1948, architect George Rockrise, landscape architect Thomas Church with Lawrence Halprin





The Cowell House, 1933, architect F. Morrow

Framed landscapes



Enframement and vista must be compatible

The Summit explored



The Condominium, The Sea Ranch, 1965, architects Moore, Lyndon, Turnbull, Whitaker

Framed landscapes



The Olsen house, 1954, Donald Olsen

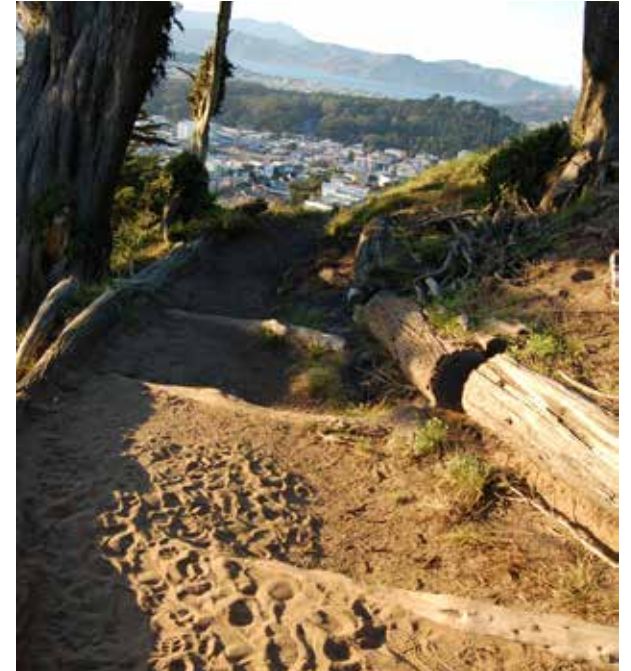


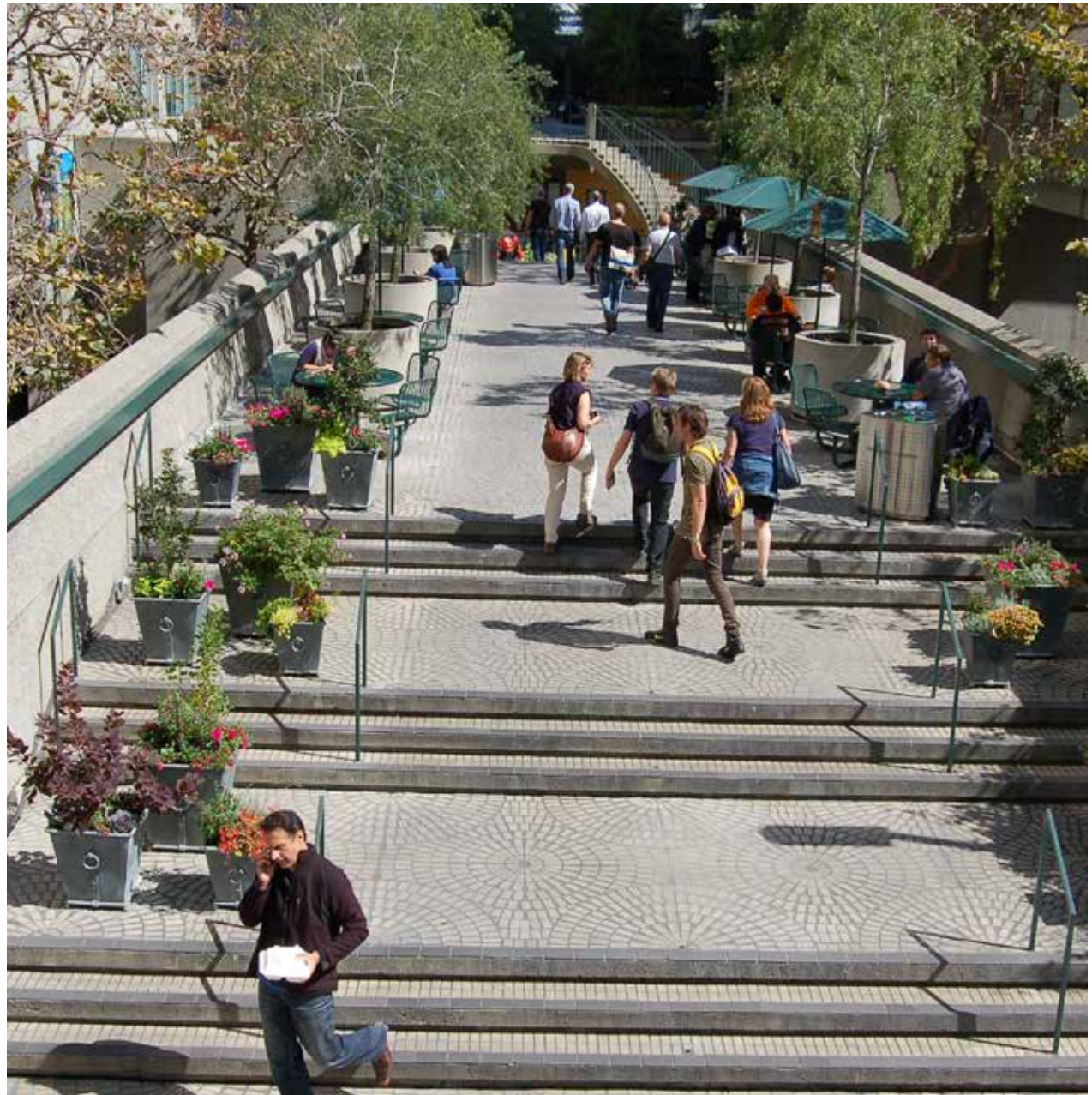
The Sea Ranch



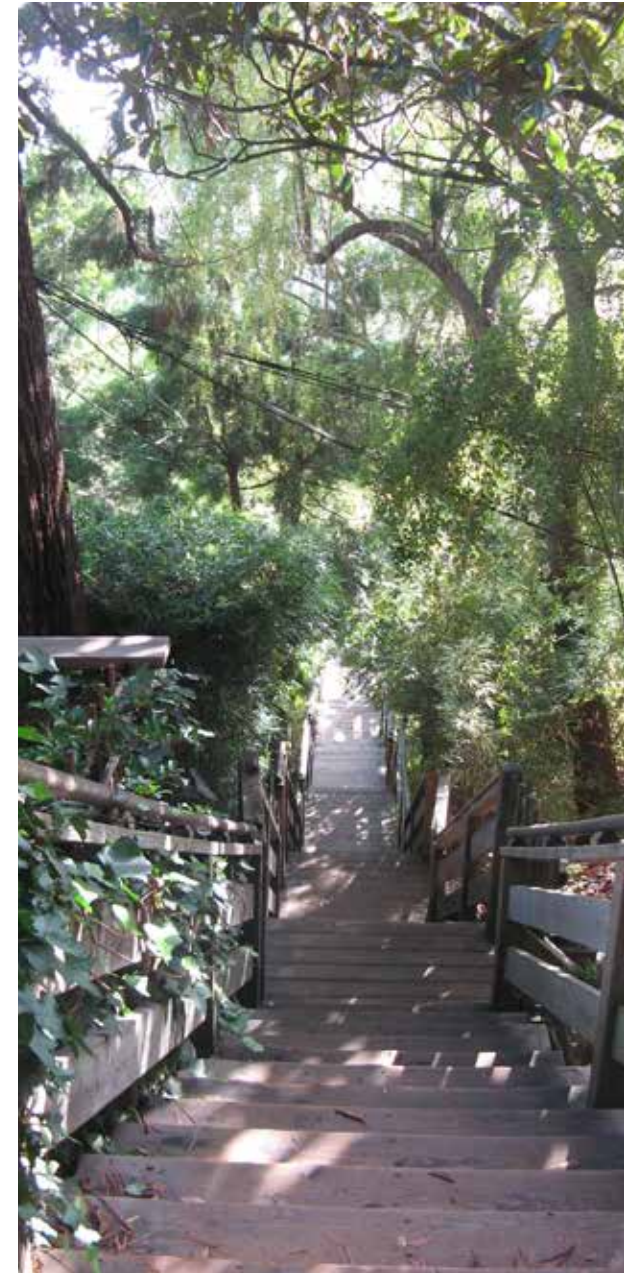
Stairs and Steps, Golden Gate area, San Francisco, artists Colette Crutcher and Aileen Barr, 2005

Stairs and Steps





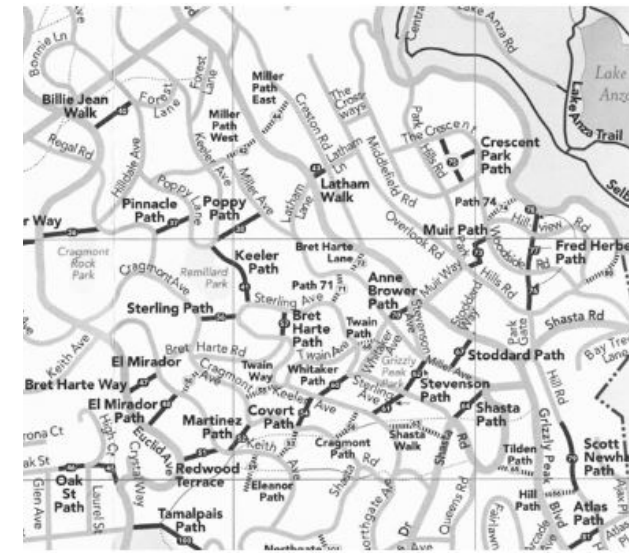
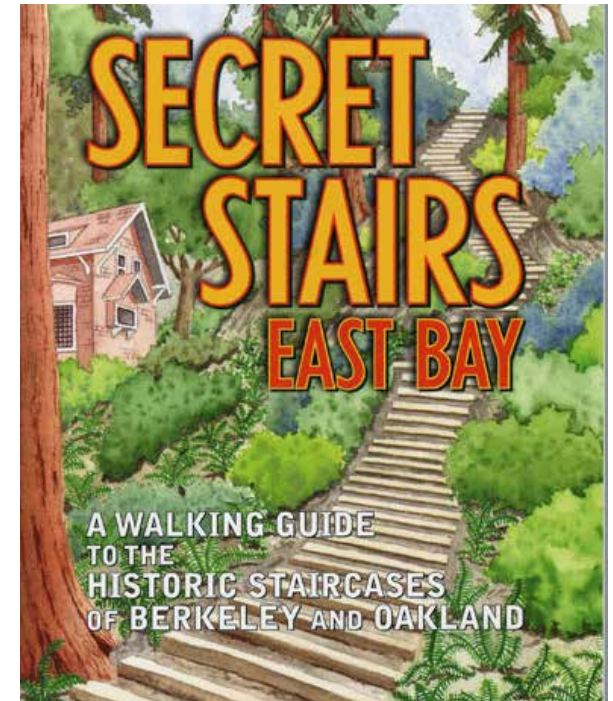
Stairs and Steps, Financial District, San Francisco



Stairs and Steps, The Telegraph Hill, San Francisco



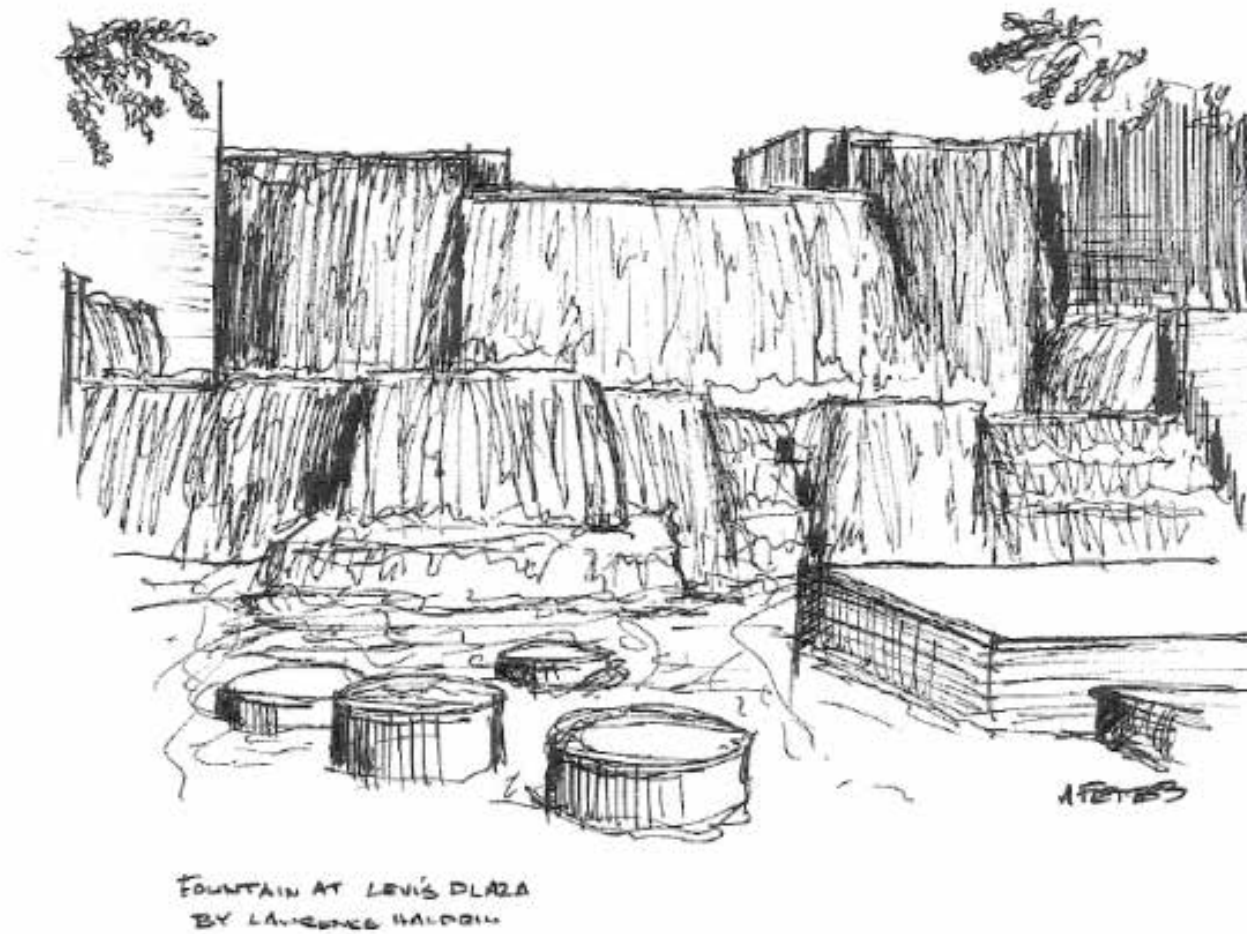
Stairs and Steps, Berkely





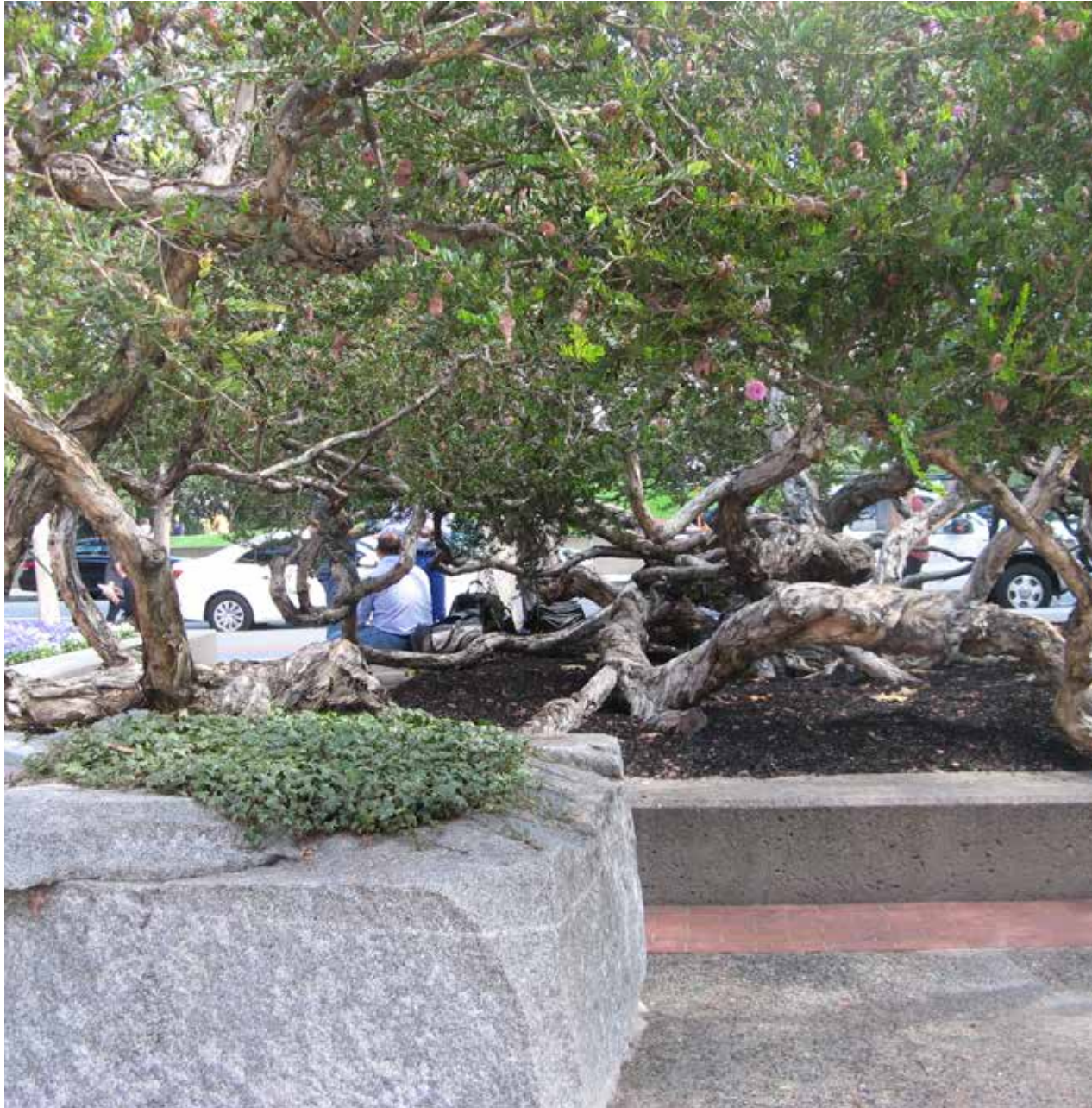
Levi Strauss Plaza 1971, landscape architect Lawrence Halprin

Park-plaza's



Levi Strauss Plaza: pocketpark and plaza.





In the city, a rock, a waterline or a tree may represent all of nature



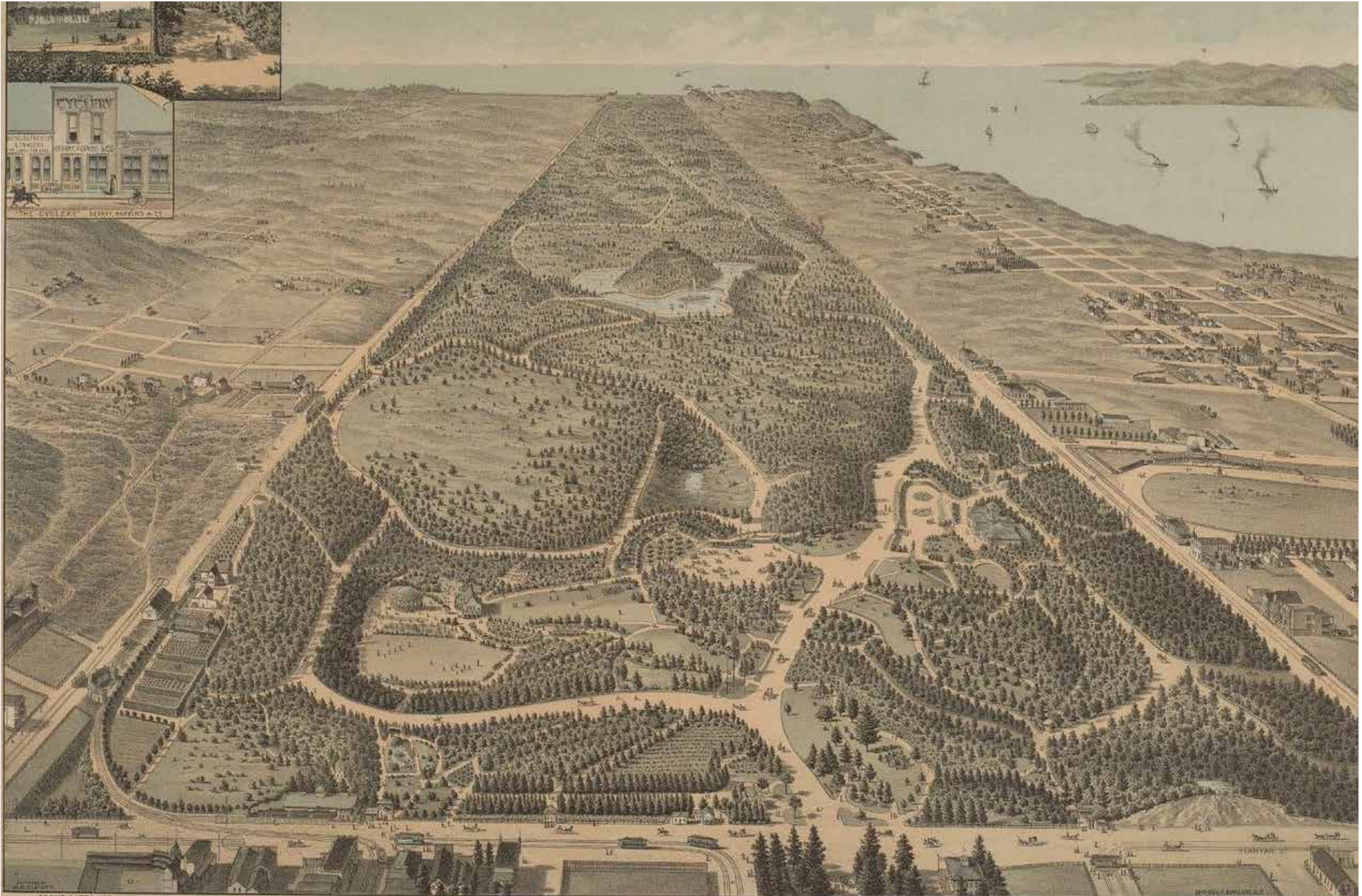
The green side of San Francisco

Parks: landscape meets city

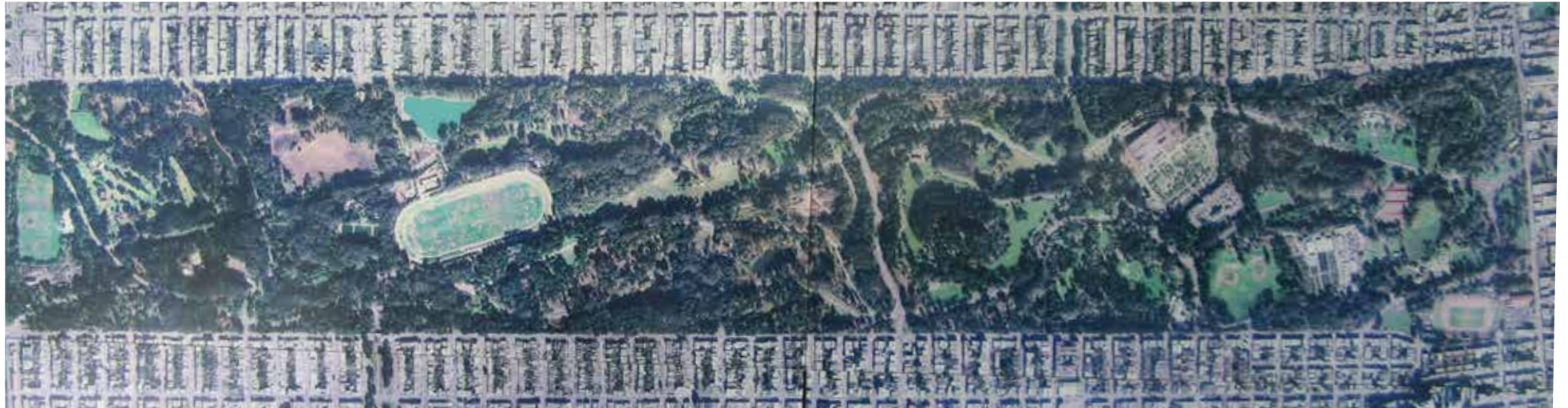


The pleasant side of city life

The Summit explored



Inspired by Olmsted's Central Park in New York, landscape architect William Hammond Hall created the Golden Gate Park in 1892
(<http://www.sfhistoryencyclopedia.com>)



Golden Gate Park (Google maps)

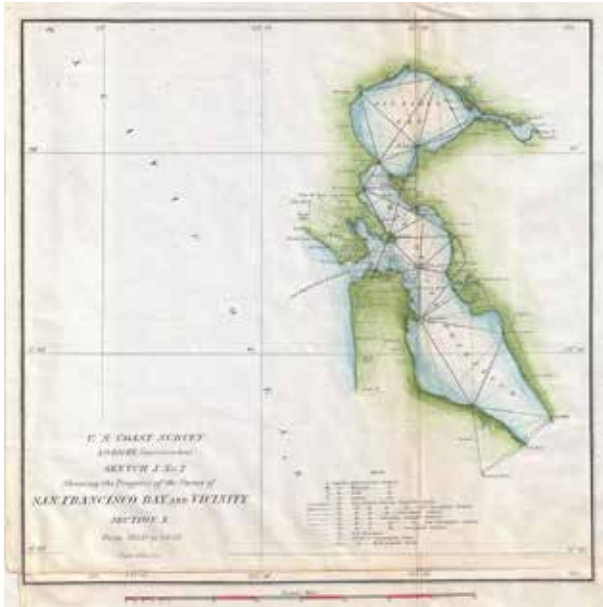


Hammond Hall and master gardener John McLaren carved out from a vast, windswept expanse of sand dunes, a picturesque public space where city dwellers can relax and reconnect with the natural world. In 2013 13 million people were visiting the park



Crissy Fields, the first air coast defense station on the west coast is nowadays a park, designed and maintained by the National Park Service and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy





Crissy Fields, 1921, strategically located in the bay



Crissy Fields, 2001, the National Park Service and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy



Boulevard



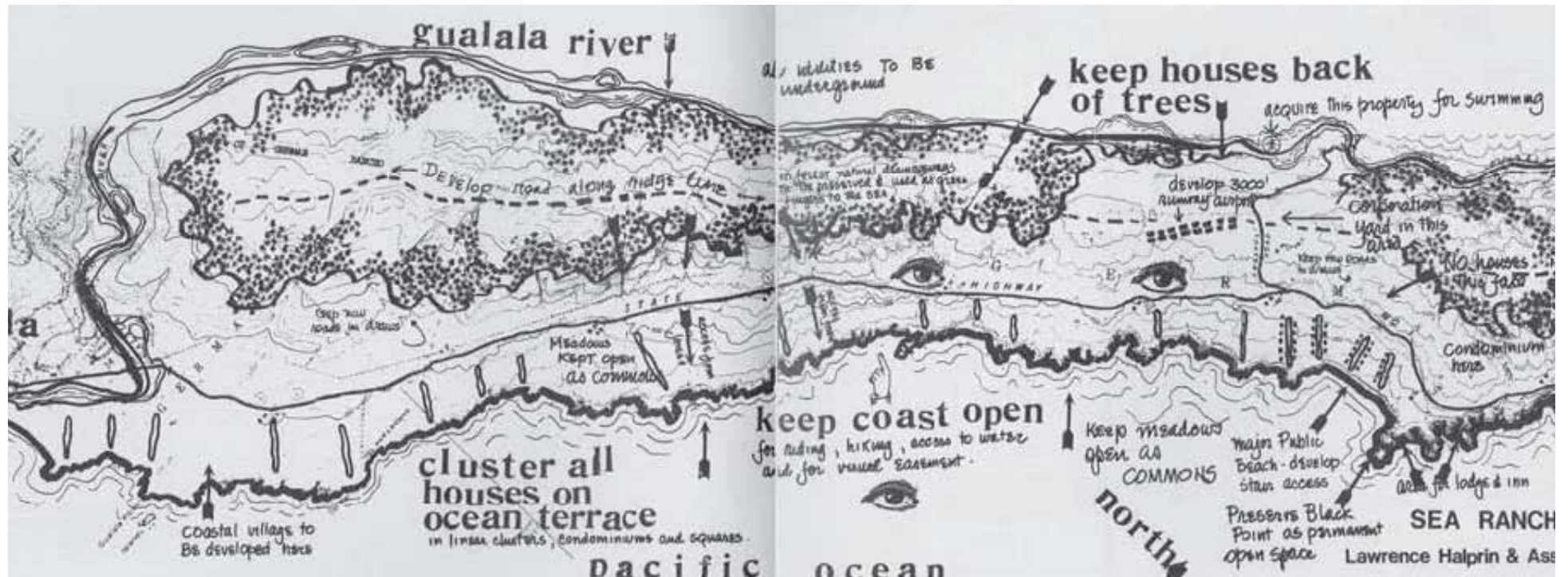
Tidal inlet, it contains a creek system with associated salt marsh vegetation



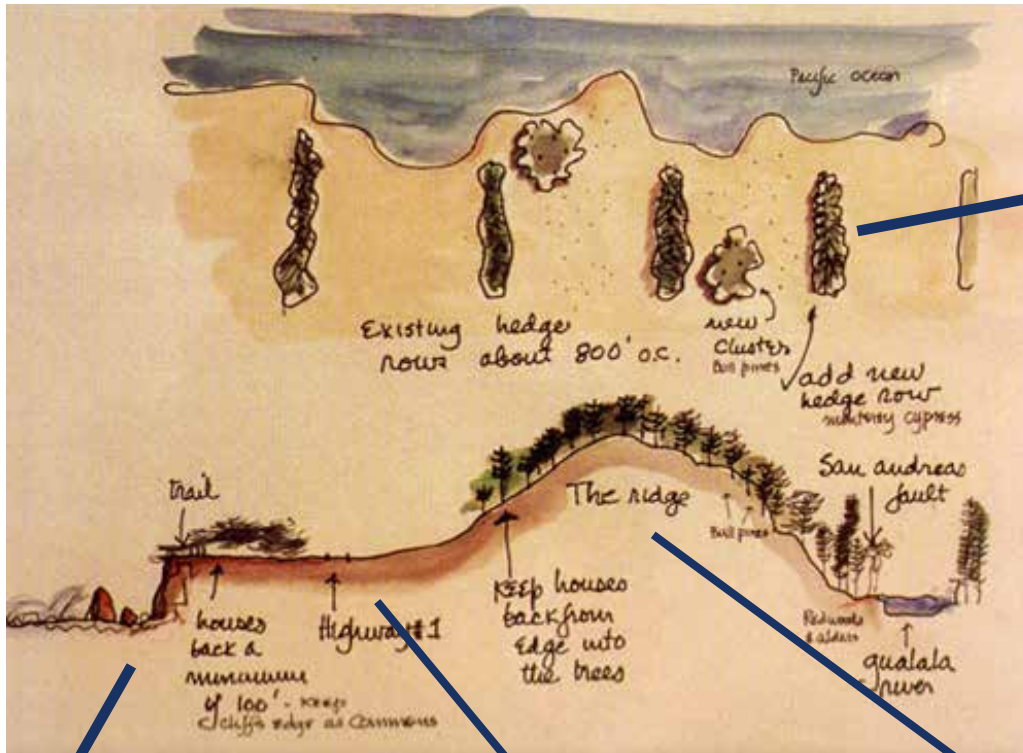


The Sea Ranch, since 1962, architecten Charles Moore, Joseph Esherick, William Turnbull, Donlyn Lyndon, Richard Whitaker, landscape architect Lawrence Halprin

Sea Ranch: designing landscapes



The Masterplan of the Sea Ranch 1962, made by landscape architect Lawrence Halprin



Designing with landscapes and nature, landscape architect Lawrence Halprin

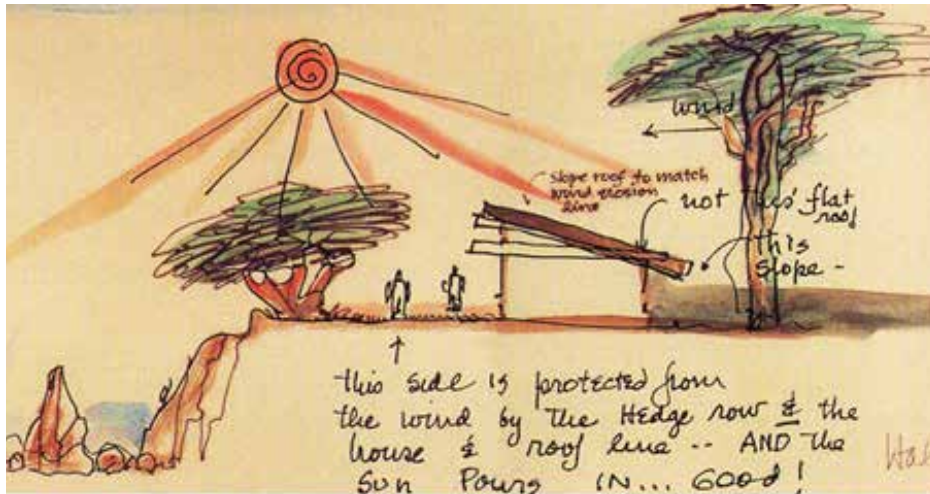


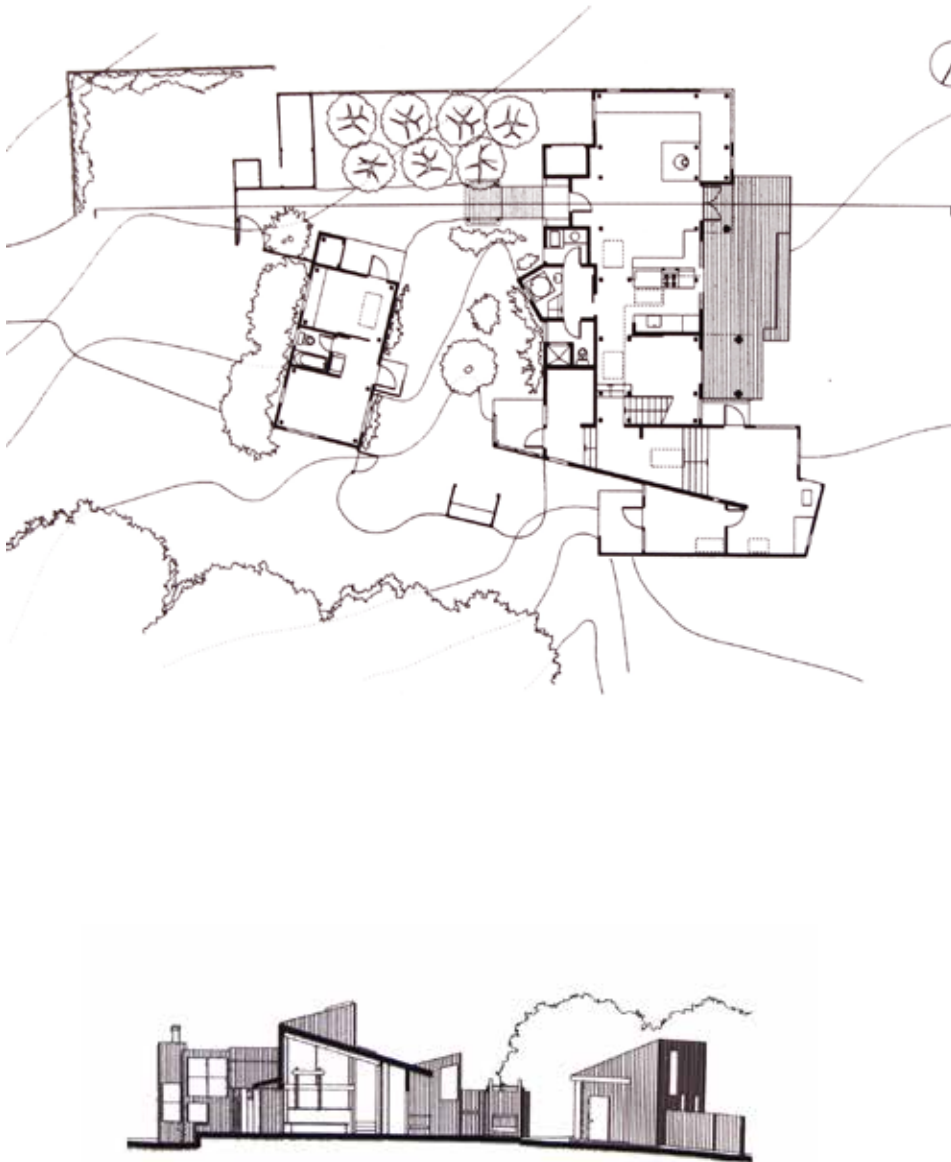
Designing with emotion and movement, watercolour of Halprin and environmental workshops, organised by the Halprins, 1968





Houses are part of the environment





Donlyn Lyndon and Lawrence Halprin created an ensemble with differences in inside-outside, in enclosed and open, with vista's and axis.



The garden is private and the garden is part of the landscape



The Summit explored



Special Encounters









We had a great time

Colophon

Title:	The Summit 2014, Framing Landscapes
Uitgevoerd door:	KruitKok Landschapsarchitecten
Team:	Mariëlle Kok, Esther Kruit
Grafical design:	Mariëlle Kok
Photos:	Mariëlle Kok, Esther Kruit
Illustrations:	John Ormsbeek Simonds, 1961, "Landscape Architecture, an ecological approach to environmental planning" Lawrence Halprin, internet
Documentnumber:	Q1424 R001
Date location:	18 11 2014 Eindhoven
Website:	www.kruitkok.nl
Email:	info@kruitkok.nl

