

The blurb logo consists of a blue speech bubble shape with the word "blurb" written in white lowercase letters inside.

Book Preview

Check out the first 15 pages of this book's low-resolution PDF. Remember, photos and text look sharper in the published book than they do in this low-res file.

Not to worry: This notice won't appear in the published version.

The displayed digital copy of the book that you have selected to view is protected by international copyright laws to the same extent as the printed version of the book and you should assume that **all rights are reserved by the author of the book**. You are not permitted to reproduce, prepare derivative works of, distribute, publicly perform and display, or otherwise use the digital copy of the book without a valid license granted by the author.



Copyright 2006 Michelle Kaufmann Designs

Prefab Green was written and designed by Michelle Kaufmann and Molly McGrath

Sustainable Approach chapter written by Kevin Cullen

Photography Credits:

Images by Michelle Kaufmann Designs unless otherwise noted

John Swain Photography - cover, pages 11, 17-19, 22-23, 40-41, 66-77, 69, 70-71, 78-79, 85-87, 95

JMC Photography - front inset, pages 36-37, 82, 84, 88

Tom Story / Sunset Magazine - pages 1, 20, 41, 52, 97, 99, 100, 106-111, 113

Nick Gunderson/the Oregonian - pages 41, 52, 70, 83, 89, 94

Kim Remick - page 85

Steven Meyer - page 94

BRITCO - page 114

Renderings by MBR Studios - pages 52, 118-119, 121, 122, 124-125, 127, 129

Renderings by MKD/Stephen Rice - pages 45, 53, 138-139, 144-146

Diagrams and Renderings by MKD/Levi Conover - pages 53, 77, 105, 138, 140-143, 147

Diagrams and Renderings by MKD/Molly McGrath - pages 43, 51, 126

Diagrams and Renderings by MKD/Mark Schirmer - pages 43, 141

Michelle Kaufmann Designs would like to thank the many wonderful individuals and groups that have made significant contributions to sustainable design and prefabricated technology. These include Christopher Hawthorne, Alana Stang, Reed Haslach, Donald Albrecht, Lisa Grossman, Hank Griffith, Cathy Frankel, everyone at the National Building Museum, Allison Arieff, Sam Grawe and everyone at Dwell, Michael Sylvester, Rick Bartolotti, Tom Vanderbilt and WIRED, William Booth and the Smithsonian magazine, Sue Powers and Marianne Leclaire, and my eternal gratitude to Dan Gregory, Peter Whiteley, Beth Whiteley and everyone at Sunset Magazine.

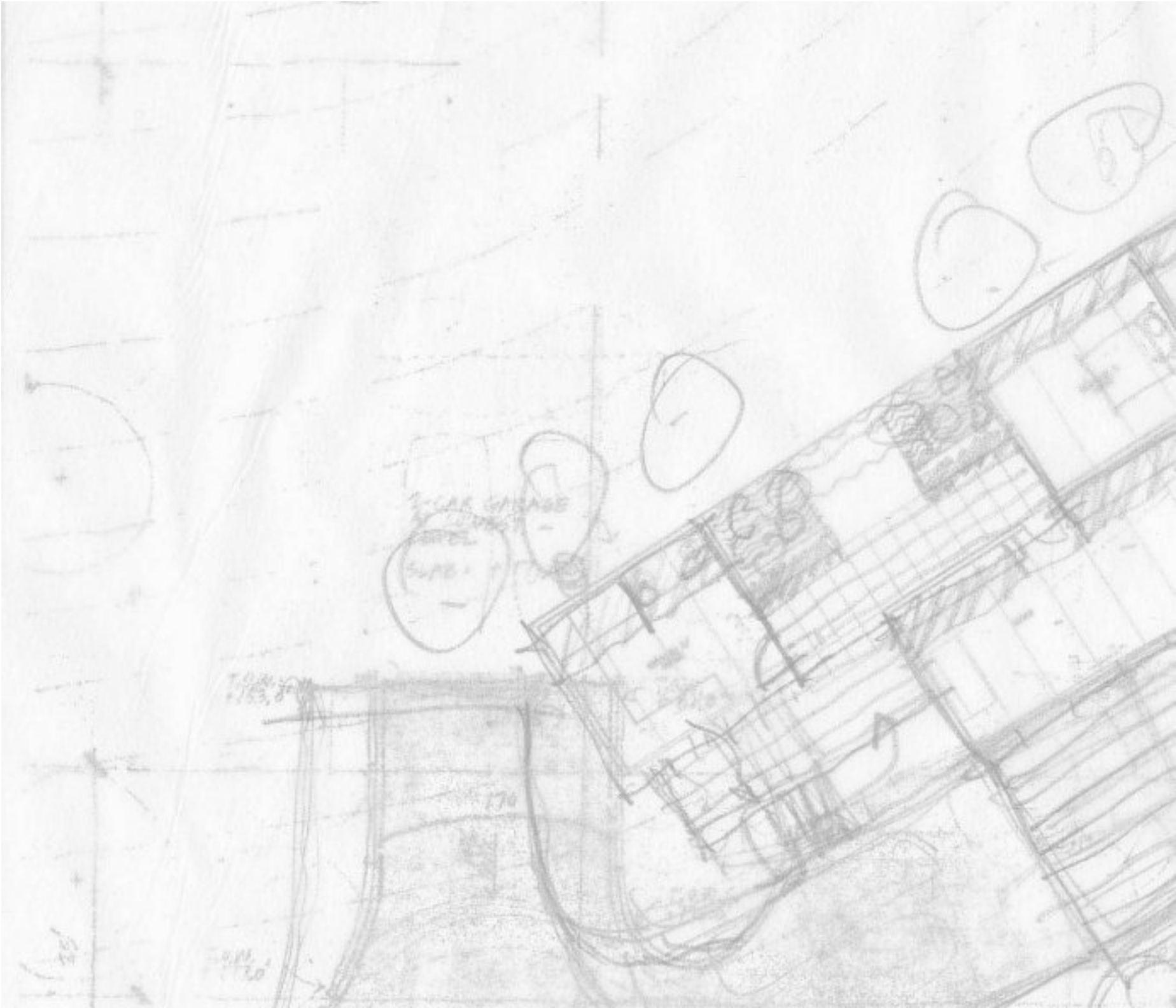
I am so fortunate to be working with a talented and dedicated group of people including: Rob Arge, Dave Ballard, Levi Conover, Steve Coons, Diane Coons, Malcolm Davies, Lynn Detienne, Sarah Doody, Andrew Faust, Don Fleming, Barbara Franzoia, Diana Garcia, Jim Glossner, Kirk Gang, Amy Harwin, Sean Haley, John Hercuik, James Kean, Darrel Krueger, Kathryn Leighton, Greg Lucy, Melody Mason, Molly McGrath, Paul Melish, Michele Mika, Amber Miller, Larry Miller, Marty + Becky Moore and the entire AddSpace family, Steven Moseley, Emanuele Naboni, Pete's Towing, Marv Shetler, Rock Shetler and the rest of the impressive gang at Blazer, Stephen Rice, Barry Reder, Andrew Reid, Cari Rosner, Mark Schirmer, Don Stith, Shane Stanbro, Martin Waibel, Virginia Sledjeski-Rae, and Rebecca Woelke; and a very special thanks to Dick Hawkinson, Scott Landry, Paul Warner, and Joseph Remick, whose dedication and ingenuity have made this work happen; and of course to my favorite builder of all time, my wonderful husband Kevin Cullen.

And my most heartfelt thanks to our amazing clients. You make it all worthwhile.

-Michelle Kaufmann

table of contents

mkd story	7
sustainable approach	13
modular approach	25
design approach	39
our practice	49
mk product line	65
glidehouse	66
sunset breezehouse	96
mk solaire	124
mk custom	137
single family	138
communities	142
retreats	144

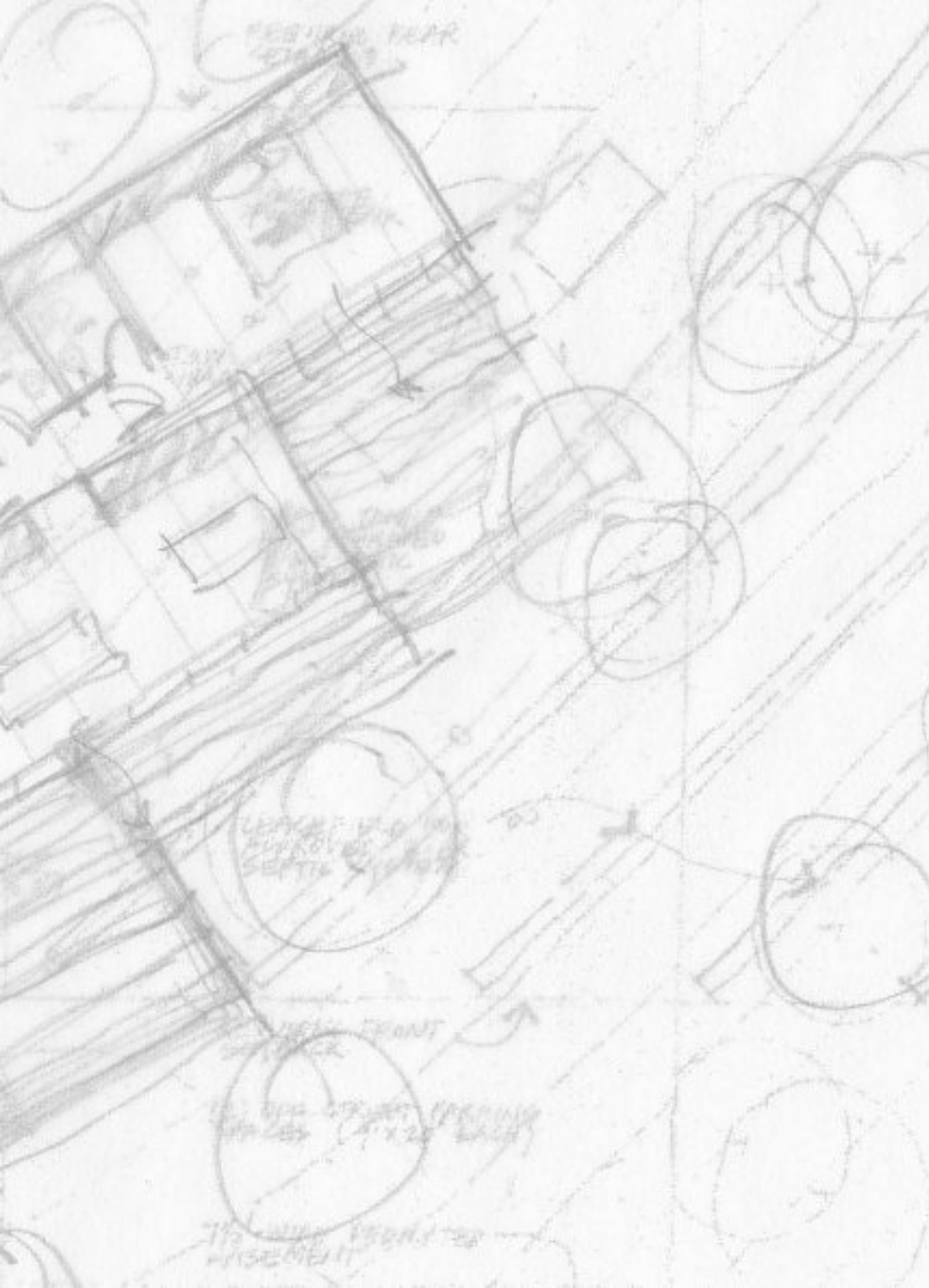


CAR GARAGE

175,8

170

170



mkd story



In 2001, my husband, Kevin Cullen, and I began looking for a place to live in the Bay Area. We couldn't find an affordable home that met our needs. Not even close. We spent hundreds of hours going to open houses in hopes of finding something. We then spent many additional hours in therapy, asking ourselves about the bad choices we made in our life which were now preventing us from affording a place to live. The options available to us were either \$600,000 tear-downs (which we could almost afford, but then couldn't afford to build anything after we tore the house down) or developer mini-mcmansion subdivisions. (which we just couldn't bring ourselves to do)



So, we decided to build something for ourselves. We found some land and started site building our simple, sustainable home. Kevin acted as the general contractor and the critic. With every design and material decision we made he was constantly asking, "can we make this more green?" And as we were building it, we had friends and colleagues asking, "Michelle, can you do something like this for us as well?" A good question. Could we mass-produce this house?



In searching for an answer, I discovered a whole world of modular factories. They offer so many benefits, yet to date, architects have not embraced the technology. We found experienced, quality factories with over 25 years of success at building residential and commercial buildings. We then found our first Glidehouse clients, who decided to build an identical house to ours. The case study - site built vs. factory built - was born. Kevin started building our site-built Glidehouse home, and at the same time I started working on the first modular Glidehouse. The 2 homes were identical 3 bedroom homes (with the exception of the siding material). The race was on.



Our Case Study of 2 Identical Glidehouse Homes: Modular vs. Site Built

Our case study proved the benefits of modular. The site built Glidehouse took 14 months for construction, whereas the identical modular Glidehouse took 4 months. The site costs (foundations, grading, driveway, utility lines, garages) for site built and modular are the same. The modular Glidehouse was also less expensive than our sitebuilt Glidehouse.

With modular there is significantly less waste and better quality control; benefits of mass-production that should be applied to the single-family homeowner, rather than just to the developer.

After going through this case study, I realized that modular construction is the key to helping us achieve our mission of making sustainable design accessible to more people.



the mission

The mission of Michelle Kaufmann Designs is to create thoughtful, sustainable, architecturally designed buildings that are accessible to more people, utilizing modular technology to achieve our goals.



inspiration

A recent shoe purchase from Nike allowed me to choose a basic shoe structure, then customize each color, even allowing me to put in my initials. 6 weeks later, a pair of custom Nike shoes arrived in my mailbox - a perfect blending of mass-production and customization. That is our goal in the built environment: a custom design, tailored to the specific site and client, with the benefits of mass-production.



sustainable approach

Sustainability is a way to approach the design, construction and operation of your home that reduces the negative impact on our environment while providing the healthiest living space possible. Sustainability is achieved in our buildings by: building only what is needed, maximizing resource efficiency, minimizing energy dependency, creating healthy environments, minimizing waste, and harmonizing with the site.

modular approach

Michelle Kaufmann Designs utilizes modular technology in all of our buildings, which maximizes the level of predictability in cost and construction schedule. Compared to site built construction, there is much less waste and much more quality control. The assembly line method of construction creates maximum efficiency via worker specialization.



design approach

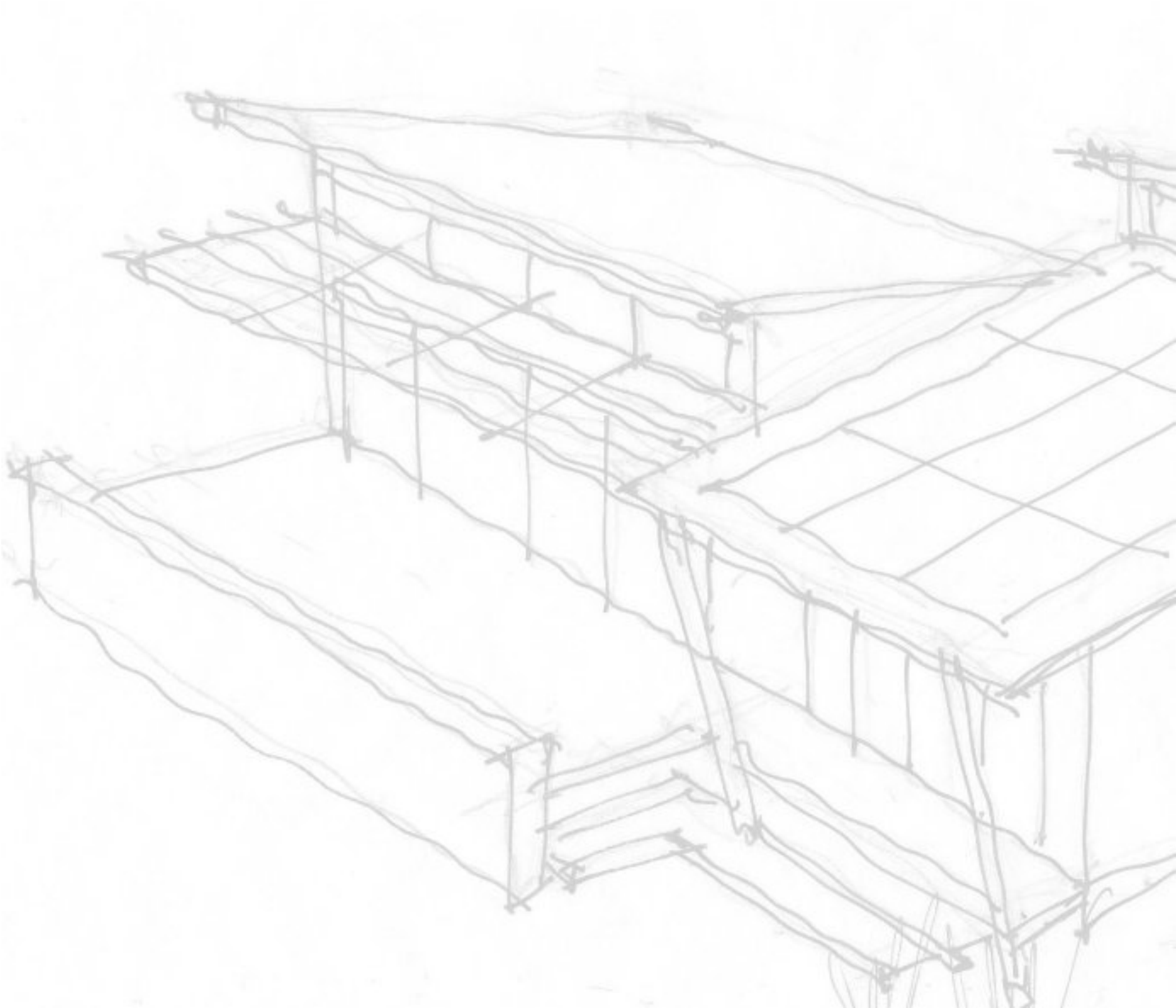
Clean - warm materials with clean lines create peaceful environments.
Green - be respectful of the land and its resources.
Quality - long-lasting, low-maintenance materials and well-crafted details.
Light - strategic location of glazing to take advantage of natural light.
Air + Breezes - cross-ventilation and healthy materials maximize indoor air quality.

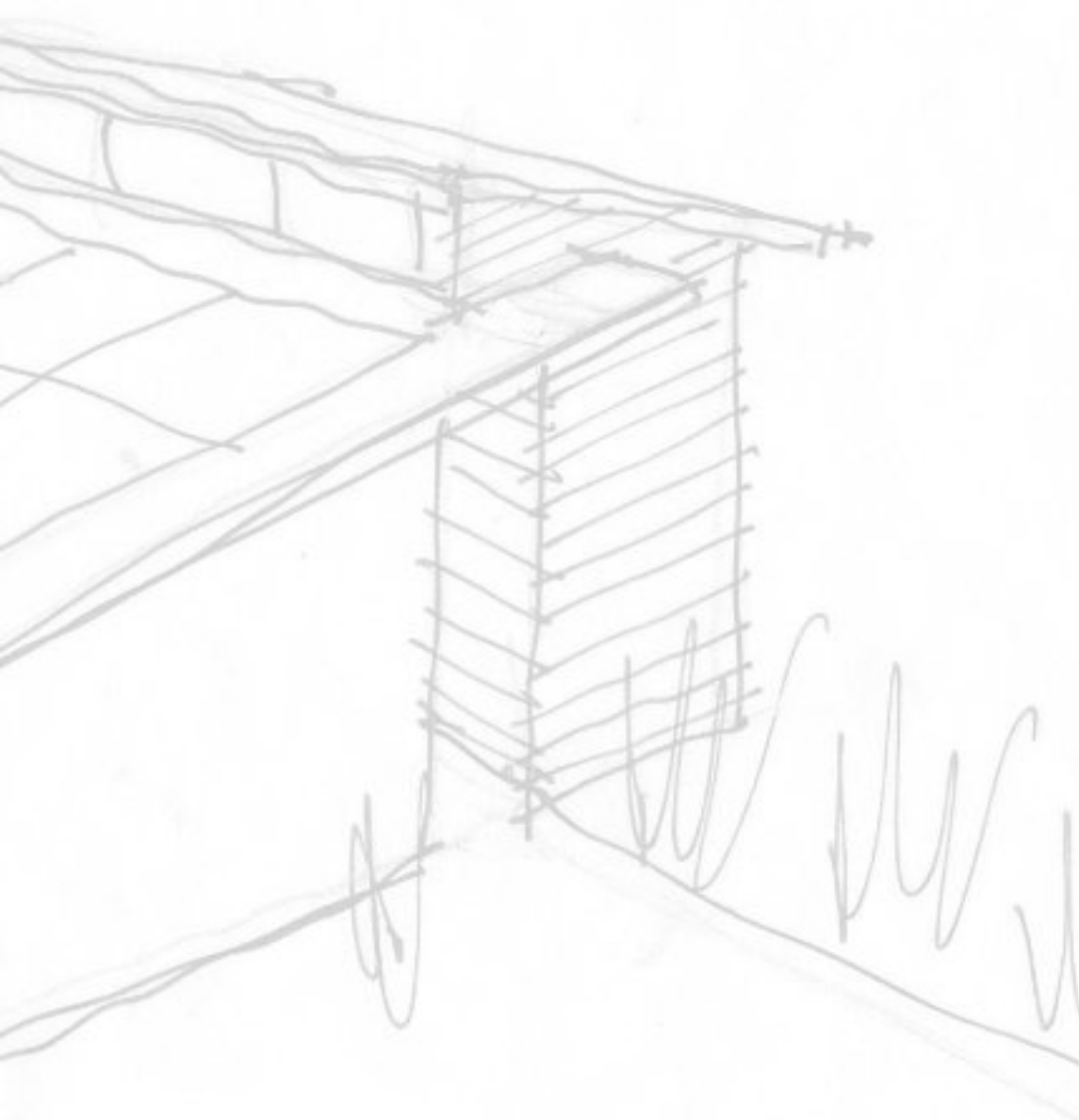


our practice

Our practice consists of a team of leaders in the field of operations, technology, production and distribution, making for thorough, thoughtful, and efficient project management. Our goal is to provide people with a modern sustainable alternative to thoughtless developer designed tract homes. We can hopefully make a difference, and increase the amount of architect designed homes (currently a depressing 5%) in our landscape.







sustainable approach



sustainable approach

what is green?

Green building is a way to approach the design, construction and operation of your home that reduces the negative impact on our environment while providing the healthiest living space possible. Examples of green building strategies include: incorporating more efficient energy and water technologies, implementing and expanding of the use of renewable energy, and utilizing sustainably grown and produced building materials.

why be green?

The responsibility for sustaining our world as a healthy environment for future generations rests with us all. Conservation and sustainability are now standard practices for many industries, and the architecture and building communities are making major strides in these areas. Since these industries have such a tremendous impact on our environment, they carry a greater responsibility to adopt sustainable building practices.

