

# Studio — Saxe

Press Realease

**Ocean Eye**

August 2016

# — Ocean Eye



BGS\_OceanEye\_Outside\_01

## A TERRACE HOUSE

---

Ocean Eye is a Terrace House where walls fold away to reveal breath-taking views out to the sea on one side and the jungle on the other. Studio Saxe is dedicated to sustainable architecture and so the design, materials selected and construction methods are all part of a larger strategy to work with the environment. Ocean Eye harnesses modern technology, local knowledge and handcrafted techniques to create a bespoke property that is entirely a product of its place.

Resting against the back of a steep hillside, Ocean Eye transitions from solid private rooms at the rear of the lightweight and ephemeral structure that gives way to stunning views.

**Location:** Santa Teresa Costa Rica

**Date of completion:** 2016

**Client:** Holdener Family

**Area:** Aprox. 350m<sup>2</sup>

**Director:** Benjamin G. Saxe

**Structural Engineer:** Sotela Alfaro Ltda.

**Electromechanical Engineer:** Electrotec S.A

**Builder:** Dante Medri and Adrian Alvarado

**Photography:** Andrés García Lachner

# — Ocean Eye



BGS\_OceanEye\_Interior\_01

A series of terraces break down barriers between the different spaces contained within, both vertically and horizontally, while simultaneously connecting the family to the surrounding landscape. These openings in Ocean Eye have been carefully arranged to allow for the flow of air to move through the house, cooling it naturally in the humid environment.

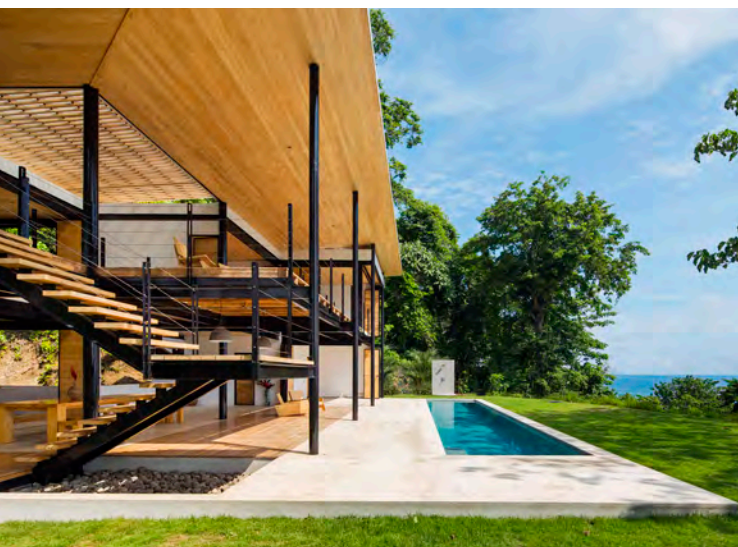


BGS\_OceanEye\_Outside\_05

# — Ocean Eye



BGS\_OceanEye\_Outside\_02



BGS\_OceanEye\_Outside\_03

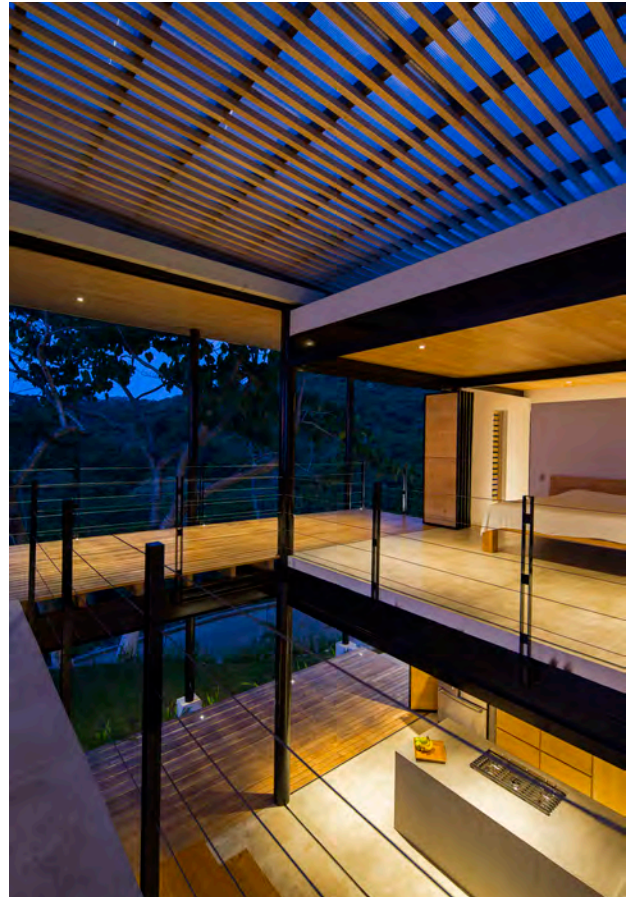
The terraces project out over the property, protecting the occupants from the sun as it moves across the sky. The Terrace House then transitions from a more solid and intimate construction at the back that holds bedrooms and bathrooms, towards a light-weight structure that points to the visual collapse of the ocean and jungle views.

The result is a series of interwoven terraces that relate to each other in all dimensions creating not only an internal dynamic interaction between levels but also varied and sometimes unexpected relationships between the inhabitants and the natural landscape.

# —Ocean Eye



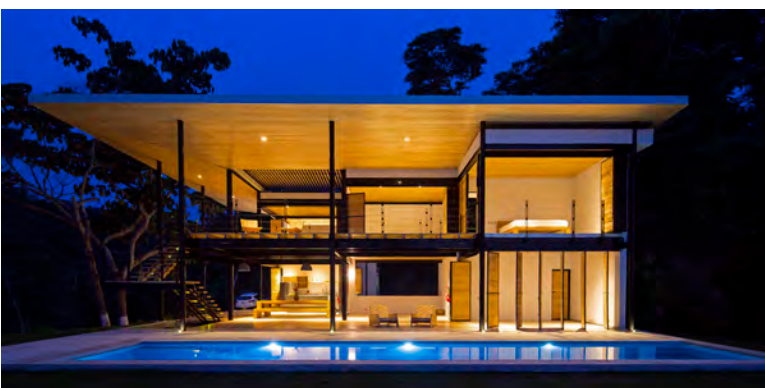
BGS\_OceanEye\_Outside\_07



BGS\_OceanEye\_Interior\_09

In these interstitial terrace spaces, which are never truly inside or out, architecture comes to foster the relationship, enjoyment, and appreciation of the natural world by the inhabitants.

Architect Benjamin Garcia Saxe said: "We feel that sometimes contemporary tropical design is either too clinical, too rustic, or simply unoriginal and bucolic. We are trying to find ways of interfering within the natural landscape responsibly and looking forward, whilst learning from the past on how to use common sense to reduce energy consumption through natural ventilation."



BGS\_OceanEye\_Outside\_06

# — Ocean Eye



BGS\_OceanEye\_Interior\_03



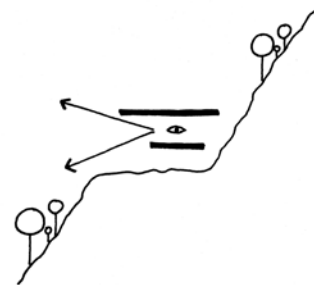
BGS\_OceanEye\_Interior\_05



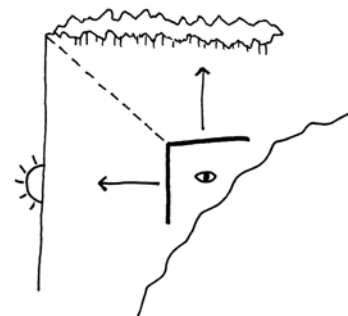
BGS\_OceanEye\_Interior\_02



BGS\_OceanEye\_Interior\_07



Diagram\_2



Diagram\_1

# — About us

Benjamin Garcia Saxe set up his own practice in San Jose, Costa Rica in 2004, with the aim of exploring our relationship with the natural environment through architecture. Since then, Studio Saxe has grown into an award-winning international practice made up of a multidisciplinary team, creating buildings and spaces by blending **technological innovation** with handcrafted techniques to form truly sustainable designs. Founded on the belief that buildings must connect to their landscape – whether a tropical paradise or a concrete jungle – **Studio Saxe brings a global attitude to solve local problems.** Ideas and techniques from around the world can be harnessed to benefit communities, both at home and abroad. Local traditions and identities are explored and developed, ensuring a process whereby we learn from the past and build for the future.

The dedicated architects and designers at Studio Saxe uncover **new design solutions for every project**, treating each building as an opportunity to improve methods and approaches, responding to specific places. Working alongside clients and collaborators, the studio continually seeks new forms and functions that blur the boundaries between natural habitats and inhabited space.

**Latin America**

Costa Rica  
PO Box 206-1225  
San Jose  
T: +506 4030 6053

**Europe**

United Kingdom  
Oce 9910  
PO Box 6945  
London W1A 6US  
T: +44 203 807 6408

**USA**

Los Angeles  
T: +1 323 283 8233

**General Enquiries**

[info@studiosaxe.com](mailto:info@studiosaxe.com)  
[www.studiosaxe.com](http://www.studiosaxe.com)