

Studio — Saxe

Press Release
Villa Saxo
November 2017

— Villa Saxo



VillaSaxo_Big3

COSTA RICA 'EXOSKELETON' TROPICAL RETREAT COMBINES NATURAL MATERIALS AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNIQUES

Studio Saxe – known for creating tropical architecture that communes with its environment – has completed a family home in Junquillal, Costa Rica that **elegantly combines** modern methods of construction with **local materials and techniques**. Villa Saxo is defined by an exoskeleton pergola structure providing shade over large terraced areas, while also creating a frame for the local flora to grow around, which will eventually envelope the house in plant life and return it to the forest.

The Beaux family wanted a natural retreat that could become a **home-away-from-home**. After locating a site in their own personal paradise – surrounded by trees with views out to the ocean – they set about finding an architect that could provide them with a contemporary house that rejects the sterile atmosphere created by overly-manicured climate controls.

Location: Costa Rica, Guanacaste, Junquillal

Date of completion: 2017

Client: Beaux Family

Area: 506m²

Director: Benjamin G. Saxe

Construction Documentation: Christian Sanchez

Structural Engineer: Frame Projects

Electromechanical Engineer: Ciem Consultores

Builder: Frame Projects

Photography: Andrés García Lachner

— Villa Saxo



VillaSaxo_Big5

Studio Saxe was commissioned to design a house for rest, relaxation and meditation, bringing nature into the built environment.

The architects used a lightweight steel prefabrication system to create the main frames of the project and combined this with local and sustainable teak for interior and exterior cladding. The metal frames **allowed for a very fast and precise construction**, while the timber offers warm, natural tones that celebrate the material's imperfections.



VillaSaxo_Big7

— Villa Saxo



VillaSaxo_Big1



VillaSaxo_Big2

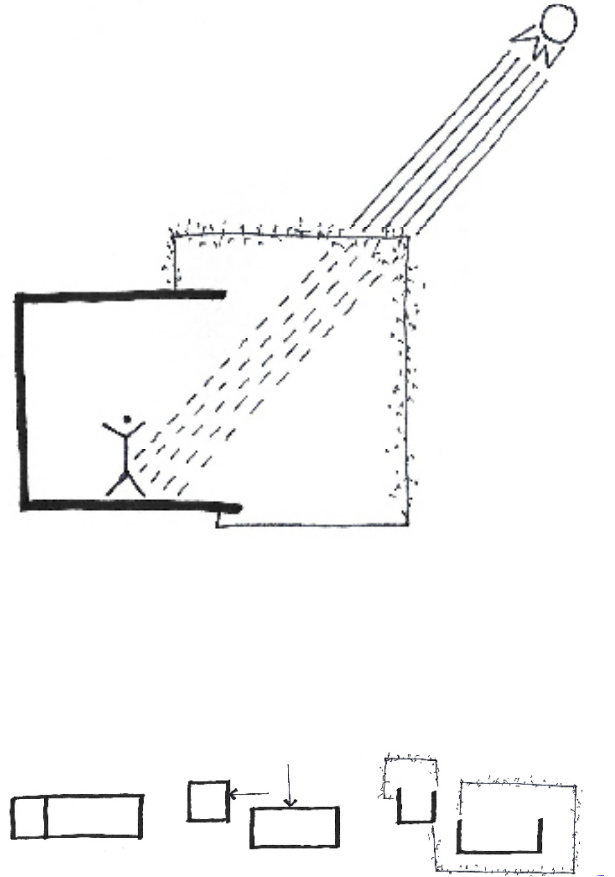
This mixture of building methods, one new and one ancient, created the perfect opportunity for a **contemporary tropical architecture** that is balanced in the present and yet has roots in nature and the past.

The form of the house frames views out to the forest and the ocean beyond, with large openings blurring the boundaries between inside and outside. The property is divided across two buildings, one large and the other small, that both follow a cohesive design language. The varying sizes of the houses are proof that the methods of construction can **work successfully at different scales**.

— Villa Saxo



VillaSaxo_Big10



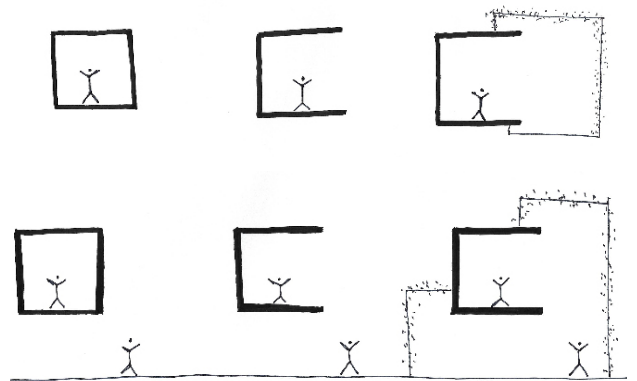
Architect Benjamin Garcia Saxe said: *"The architectural strategies **give way to a simple relationship between the inhabitants and the natural world that surrounds them.** Views are framed, shadows explored, and the movement of wind and colours create a soft palette of authentic experiences that shape and create an acute awareness of the natural in the inhabitants."*

- Benjamín García Saxe

— Villa Saxo



_VillaSaxo_Small1



_VillaSaxo_Small2



_VillaSaxo_Small4



VillaSaxo_Big11

— 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
www.studiosaxe.com