

# Studio — Saxe

Press Release

**Sirena House**

January 2021

# — Sirena House



StudioSaxe\_SirenaHouse\_1

## OVERLAPPING ROOFLINES BLEND INDOOR-OUTDOOR SPACES IN COSTA RICA BEACH HOUSE

### Overview

Studio Saxe was commissioned to design a beach-front house in the beautiful town of Santa Teresa in Costa Rica. We decided to integrate the jungle experience into the house and also frame the views of the ocean whilst blending with nature.

**Location:** Santa Teresa, Puntarenas, Costa Rica

**Date of completion:** November 2020

**Client:** The Gorski Family

**Area:** Approx. 1000m<sup>2</sup>

**Studio Saxe Design Director:** Benjamin G. Saxe



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## Concept

Studio Saxe decomposed the mass of the building into a series of pavilions with overlapping roofs that create interesting circulation spaces between the volumes. By dematerializing the volumes, we integrated the home to its lush surroundings.



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## Design

Studio Saxe used the decomposition of volumes to house the different programs of the project. Pavilions are divided into bedrooms, living spaces, service areas, and together they create a harmony that is weaved together through circulation of indoor/outdoor spaces. This in turn allows the inhabitant to experience the intense natural surrounding every time they have to move from one place to the other.



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## Construction

Studio Saxe was interested in creating the sensation of floating rooflines, thus a series of thin columns support the roof planes in a way that they seem as they are floating. A combination of steel and wood construction with concrete foundations allowed for lightness of space and this bleeding of boundaries between the structure and the outside.

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## Sustainability

The project was conceived as a decomposition of the volumes and this allowed for cross ventilation due to the exposure of every space to at least 2 or 3 walls to the outside. The extended rooflines are carefully placed to protect from the sun and the rain through a process of bioclimatic design which analyzes the sun patterns, winds, and precipitation to create comfort without the use of energy. An array of sustainable systems such as rain water catchment, water recycling systems, energy generation, and clever design makes this project a pioneer in sustainable tropical architecture that has passive design at its core



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**Builder:** Adrian y Alvarado Empresa Constructora

**Structural Engineer:** Sotela Alfaro LTD

**Electromechanical Engineer:** Dynamo Studio

**Interior Design:** Pauline Steenkamer Nosara Design

**Photography:** Andres Garcia Lachner

**Landscape:** Vida Design Studio



# — About us

Benjamin G. 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.



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