

Studio — Saxe

Press Release
Pergola House
2024



HORIZONTAL PERGOLA SEAMLESSLY BLENDS INDOOR & OUTDOOR SPACES IN A COSTA RICAN OCEAN-VIEW BEACH HOUSE

Overview

Studio Saxe was commissioned by a North American client to design an ocean-view house that effortlessly merges indoor and outdoor spaces, encapsulating a clean, tropical aesthetic tailored to their lifestyle.

Our clients embarked on a life-changing journey, selecting the vibrant landscapes of Costa Rica for a new beginning. Seeking a connection with nature and a dynamic, active lifestyle for their family, they turned to our expertise at Studio Saxe.

We were tasked to create a living space that not only erases the traditional boundaries of home design but also embraces sustainability by generating its energy from the sun. This eco-conscious approach is complemented by expansive pergolas and overhangs, protecting from the sun's intensity while enhancing the architectural beauty.

Location: Playa Grande, Guanacaste, Costa Rica

Date of completion: December, 2022

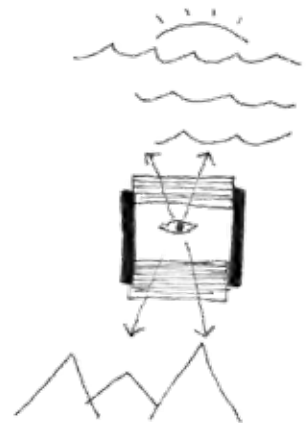
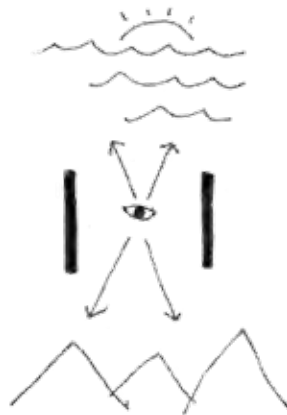
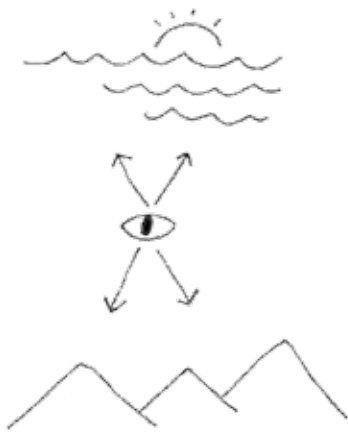
Client: T.R.

Area: Approx. 400m²



Concept

Inspired by the natural beauty of Costa Rica, Studio Saxe envisioned a design where the architecture itself becomes a bridge between the verdant outdoors and the intimate indoors. Our approach centered on a series of elegant pergolas, crafted not only to unify the garden with the living spaces but to extend the outdoor experience, inviting the gentle caress of coastal breezes and the symphony of mountain and ocean vistas into the heart of the home.

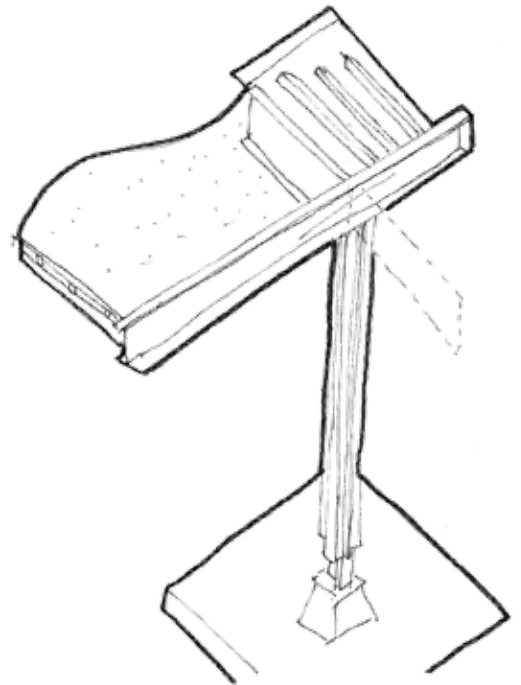


— Pergola House



Design

We envisioned a series of structured rib elements designed to expand or contract, responding to the presence of trees and the nuances of the topography. This adaptability allows the architectural program to harmonize with its location seamlessly. In this spirit, we integrated trees and vegetation throughout, crafting intentional gaps in the roofline to accommodate and celebrate the existing natural elements.



— Pergola House

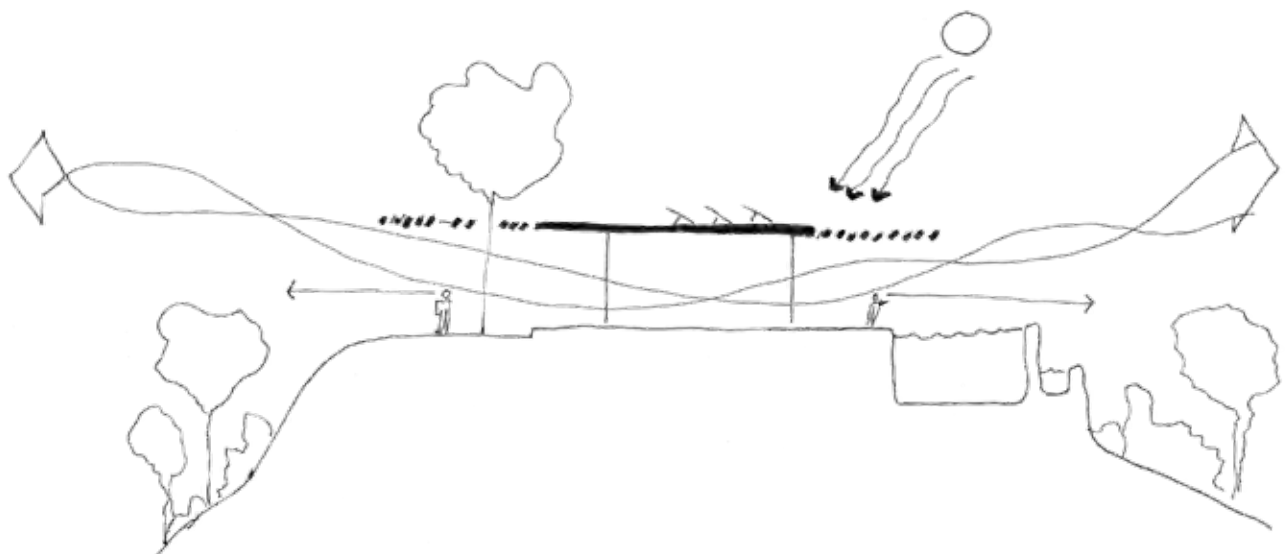




Construction

The construction process was a study in efficiency and sensitivity to the natural landscape. Structural metal ribs, prefabricated off-site, were brought in and assembled with precision, ensuring minimal disruption to the land. This method allowed for flexibility, letting the architecture fluidly adapt to its environment by navigating around existing trees and topographical challenges. The use of local materials alongside these prefabricated elements exemplifies our commitment to light-touch construction, binding innovation with traditional processes.

This home, born from a desire for renewal, now shines as a symbol of resilience and harmony, offering a sanctuary where family life flourishes amidst the nurturing embrace of nature.













— Pergola House







Sustainability

This home embodies sustainable living, generating its energy from the sun while shielding itself from its heat with expansive pergolas and overhangs. These architectural elements, along with strategically placed windows, foster natural ventilation, drawing in cool air from both the ocean and the mountains. Water recycling systems nurture the surrounding landscape, allowing it to thrive and, in turn, cool the home's exterior walls. This symbiotic relationship with the environment ensures the home is not only a haven for its inhabitants but a nurturing presence in the natural world.





This home, born from a desire for renewal, now shines as a symbol of resilience and harmony, offering a sanctuary where family life flourishes amidst the nurturing embrace of nature.

“Following the sale of our main residence and the sudden loss of our cherished summer home in the California wildfires, we were propelled to seek a fresh start. It was a pivotal moment that led us to the lush landscapes of Costa Rica, where we envisioned creating a home that would symbolize new beginnings and the resilience of the human spirit. Studio Saxe captivated us with their philosophy of design that not only blends seamlessly with its surroundings but also encapsulates the personal journey of its inhabitants.”

“Our vision was to craft a space that would echo the tranquility of nature while celebrating our family’s capacity to adapt and grow from change. We aspired for a design that would provide solace and inspire a deep connection with the environment, much like our previous home. Studio Saxe’s commitment to sustainable and innovative architecture made them the ideal partner to manifest our dream into a dwelling that stands as a beacon of hope and renewal amidst the vibrant backdrop of Costa Rica, a true haven for our family’s next chapter.” – The client



Architecture: Studio Saxe

Interior Design: Sofía Interiorismo

Collaborators: Sotela Alfaro Ltda., DYNAMO, Constructora Shmulik

Photography: Andres Garcia Lachner

— 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.

Latin America

Costa Rica

San Jose

PO Box 206-1225

T: +506 4030 6053

Europe

United Kingdom

London

T: +44 (0) 203 807 6408

North America

United States

Los Angeles

+1 (323) 283 8233

General Inquiries

info@studiosaxe.com

www.studiosaxe.com