

## Project Description:

Project: Benvenuto Residence

Location: Truckee, CA

When a Los Angeles-based family began their search for a vacation home, they found their ideal setting on this 1.3 acre lot nestled in the Sierra Nevada mountain range north of Lake Tahoe. As the architect and landscape architect for the project, the firm had a unique opportunity to creatively integrate the various design aspects to fulfill the client's wishes for a home emphasizing outdoor living, the surrounding landscape, and the enjoyment of fresh mountain air.

The landscape design for this mountain getaway has two main objectives: create an intentionally minimal planting design that is harmonious with the native vegetation; and integrate the surrounding landscape with the exterior and interior architecture.

Team involvement during construction phase allowed for large, mature trees to remain in place, and for the strategic placement of new trees to blend in with the existing forest. Native plants enhance the understory, resulting in a low maintenance, low water-usage landscape that provides wildlife with an extension of their habitat. The understory enriches the surrounding ecosystem, and allows the plant community to continue right up to the edges of the architecture.

While minimally invasive, the landscape design is intentional in its program. The design strives to create a fluid, living environment that succeeds from meadow to forest over time. Plantings are meant to evolve naturally, and continue their trajectory of succession and adaptation.

Panoramic views and the site's natural topography guided the design of the home. Continuous indoor and outdoor spaces that open and close depending on the sun, wind, and seasons bring awareness to the surroundings and enjoyment of the scenery. Similar to the indoor spaces, the outdoor dining area, kitchen, lounges, fire pit, pool, and spa capitalize on views of Lookout Mountain and provide a full visual experience of the scenery. Landscape lighting, developed in collaboration with the neighborhood association to meet its dark sky ordinance criteria, is also minimal.

The result is a peaceful refuge, where family and friends are able to observe and enjoy the natural growth of the surrounding landscape.