

BENVENUTO RESIDENCE - IMAGE SUMMARY



1. A plan view of the property reveals the relationship of the architecture to the planned landscape and existing vegetation. Outdoor gathering spaces are tucked close to the structure; new understory plants fill in the spaces around them and blend the architecture in with its surroundings.



2. Young Jeffrey Pines (*Pinus jeffreyi*) planted at the base of the mature trees provide a naturalistic understory and will become the new upper canopy as the landscape matures.



3. An illustrated projection: The native meadow plantings that are enjoyed today will transition to a mature conifer forest in the coming decades. While ecosystem transition can be regarded as inevitable on a remote site such as this, numerous strategies were employed to accelerate this transformation. For instance, excavation was intentionally limited to preserve the native seed stock found in the site's undisturbed soils. These seeds, along with introduced ecosystem-specific plantings, prevent the establishment of invasive species and help re-conceptualize development as a catalyst for ecological succession.



4. A carefully selected hydroseed mix consisting of Wax Currant (*Ribes cereum*), Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), and Bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) blanket the borders of the home. This mix of plants, native to the mountainous areas of the Western United States, transitions to the existing undergrowth surrounding the property.



5. The landscape is conceptualized as an extension of the surrounding Sierra Nevada and occurs at numerous scales simultaneously. The ecology thus becomes a native garden, forming an impressive vista for the homeowners.



6. Indigenous understory plantings of Western Service Berry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), Sierra Currant (*Ribes nevadense*), and Mountain Spirea (*Spiraea densiflora*) border the bluestone terrace and fade into the existing understory.



7. Bluestone site walls complement the façade of the home and delineate the programmed outdoor space. Wildflowers, such as Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) and Moonlight Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparis 'Moonlight'*), continue on the other side of the walls and supplement the existing landscape.



8. Flexible indoor/outdoor spaces, oriented toward key views, encourage interaction with the surrounding landscape and integrate the living spaces with the site.