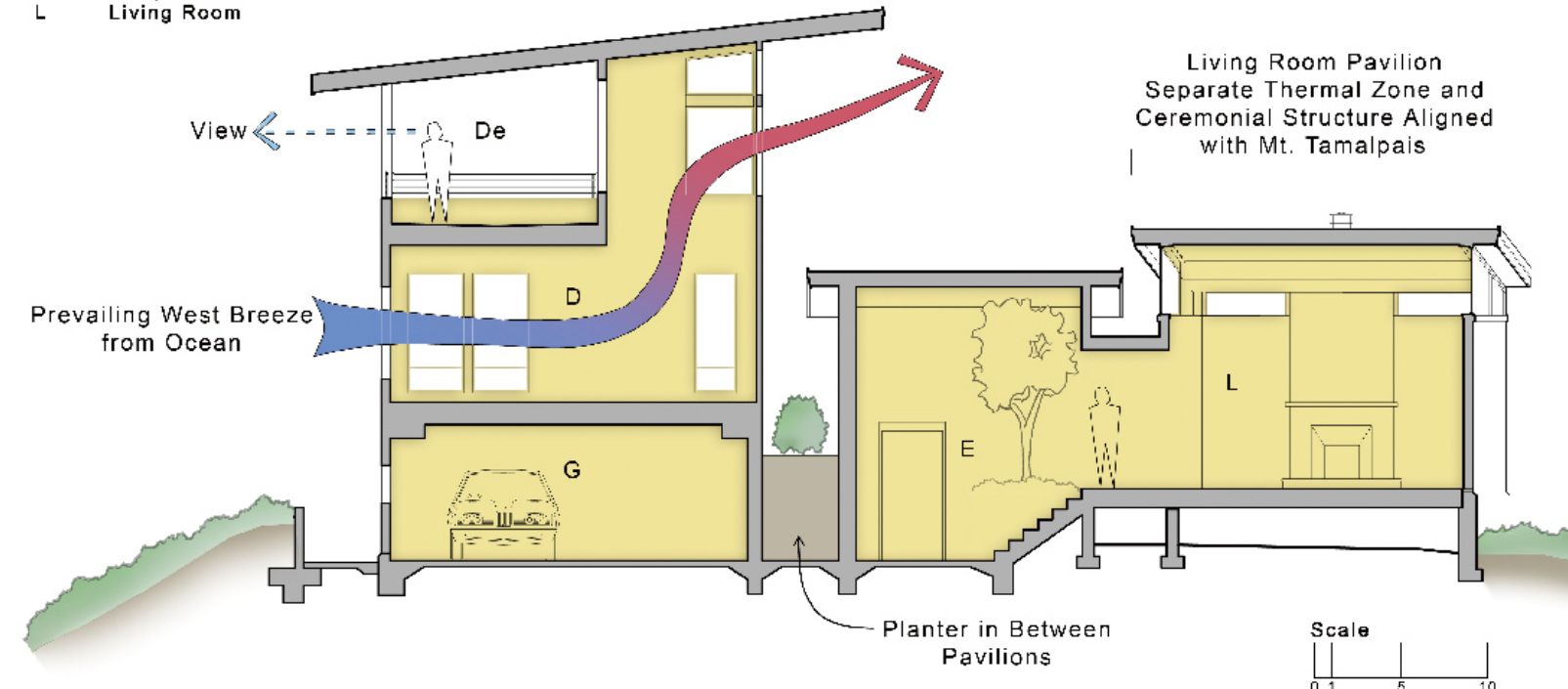


Credits  
Location: Oakland, San Francisco, California, USA

Key

- D Dining
- De Deck
- G Garage
- E Entry
- L Living Room



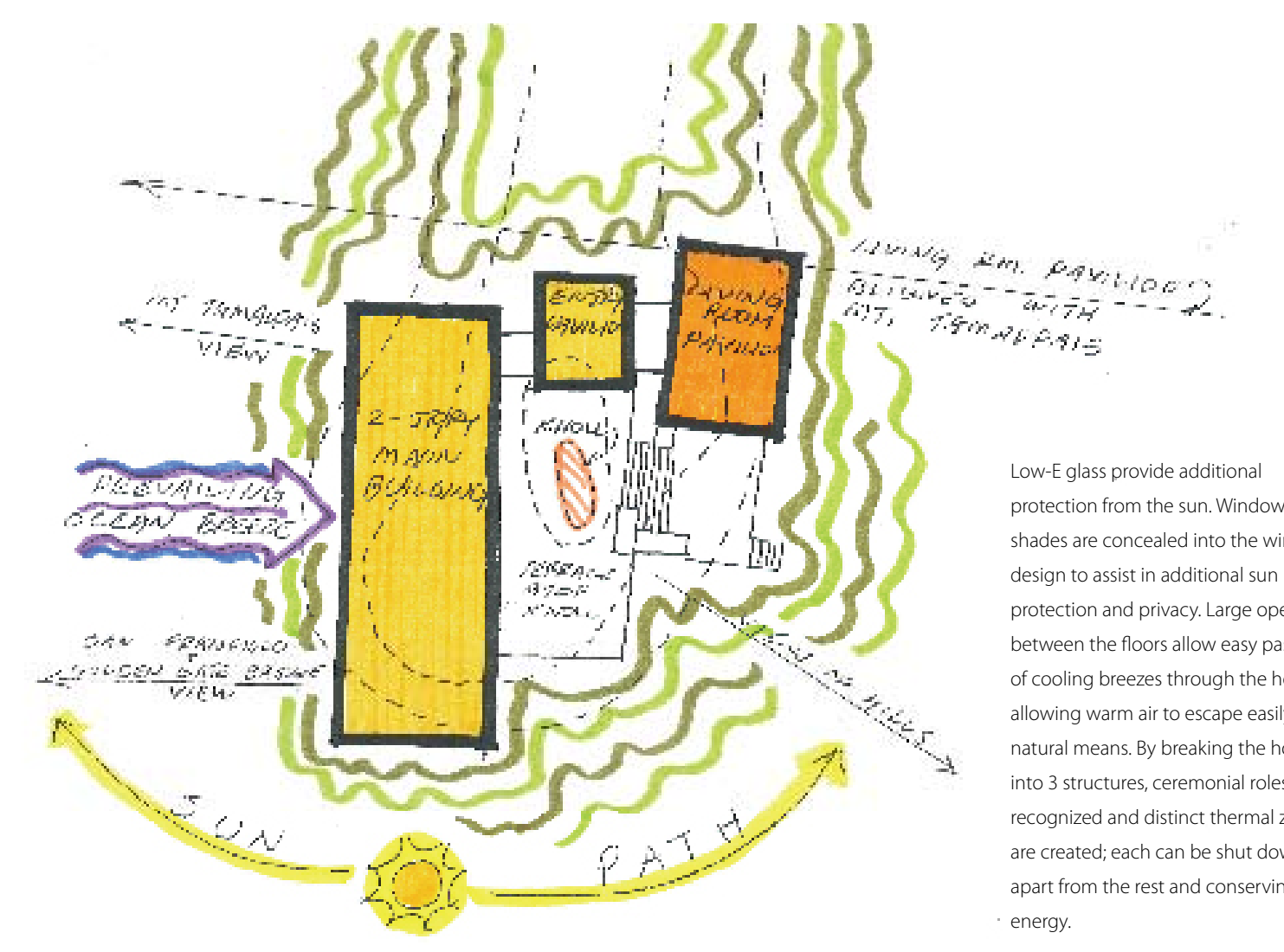
# Broadway Terrace House

Robert Nebolon Architects

This house sits on the Oakland Hills ridge which overlooks the San Francisco Bay. The site was heavily wooded with fire-damaged Monterey pines and large fern plantings with a small knoll in the center of the site. Views of downtown San Francisco, the Golden Gate Bridge, the other bridges, and Mount Tamalpais, an important geographic landmark that overlooks the Bay, could all be viewed from this knoll. Much thought was given to how this house could relate to the site, as well as the Bay Area context. As important, "green" measures were pursued which support this relationship by architectural means. To accomplish this embrace between house and site, the house is designed in three different structures that form an "L" around the knoll and embrace it. The structures are the living room pavilion, the entry pavilion, and the main living structure. The first structure, the living room pavilion, is filled with natural daylight and is the most formal and ceremonial structure of the three. To recognize its importance, the living room pavilion is set apart and rotated slightly from the other two structures to align with Mount Tamalpais as a way to convey its ceremonial role in the homeowner's life in the same fashion as a Japanese Tea House or Chinese Temple may be set apart from its more utilitarian neighbors and aligned with distance mountains or natural features as a way to recognize their significance. This ceremonial role also creates distinct thermal zone: The living room pavilion can be dormant when not in use and not affect the rest of

the house. The second ceremonial structure, the entry pavilion, is squeezed in between the living room pavilion and the main living structure. The entry structure sets the tone by being dark and cool by being recessed into the northern face of the knoll and filled with plantings. It too is its own distinct thermal zone. One then ascends a half flight of stairs from the entry to the light-filled living room pavilion, and the final half-flight up to the third and final structure to where the Bay views are found, as well as the bedrooms, the kitchen, and the family room. Throughout, the special qualities of San Francisco Bay natural daylight (bright and clear) are celebrated through-out this house by placement of windows in relationship to walls and textured surfaces. The procession is from dark to light, from limited views to expansive views as one makes their way around the knoll. The hope is that this procession will remind the owner and visitors of the dynamic qualities of the site and region. "Green" features are tied closely to the architecture. The main terrace is located on top of the knoll and is surrounded on two sides by the house. The main living structure acts as a wind break for the main terrace since the reliable 3pm sea breeze sometimes can be uncomfortable. This same breeze also helps ventilate the house. Large cantilevered trellises and large eaves help protect the house was excessive solar gain and provide places for plants to grow. High performance





Low-E glass provide additional protection from the sun. Window shades are concealed into the window design to assist in additional sun protection and privacy. Large openings between the floors allow easy passage of cooling breezes through the house, allowing warm air to escape easily by natural means. By breaking the house into 3 structures, ceremonial roles are recognized and distinct thermal zones are created; each can be shut down apart from the rest and conserving energy.



