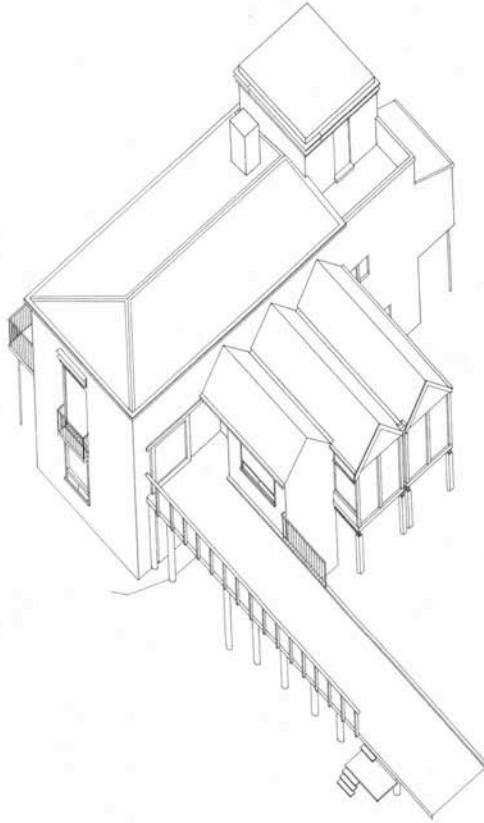


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Red Hill House



This house is situated on a steeply sloping site on a crest overlooking the sea in a former orchard district of the Mornington Peninsula. The new house replaces a weatherboard dwelling which sat within an established garden. The new residence is located on a boundary which divides the old garden from open paddocks, and a cross axis is established through a ramp structure that bridges the old garden and the upper living areas in the house.

This ramp adopts jetty typologies common in this part of Victoria; through its scale, it suggests an elevated ground plane common to the upper garden and the new house.

The lower rooms form a bank of living spaces linked by a common hallway, and their serial composition is expressed as a tectonic division in the lower part of the main, south facade. The alternating pattern of bedrooms and service rooms is concealed by a rhythmic wall treatment which expresses the serial volumes behind as a flat representation of trabeated structure.

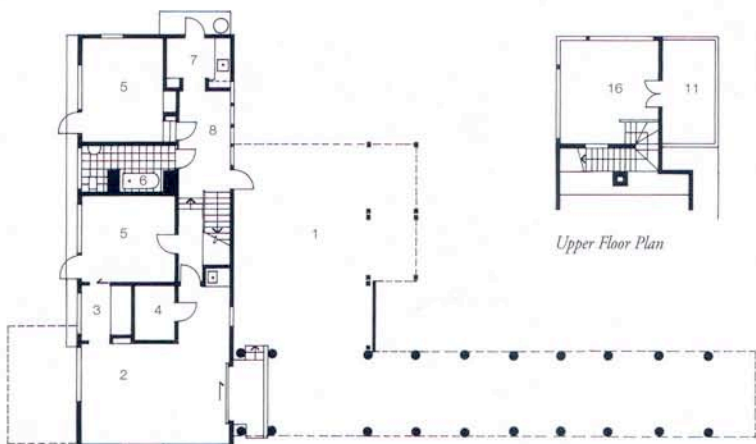
The upper living spaces are conditioned by their respective relations to the different topographic features of the site, the south facing view to the sea, principally the large volume of the living/dining areas expressed in a single window, and the north view to the garden made up of an attached wing of three separate bays. The bay typology of this part of the



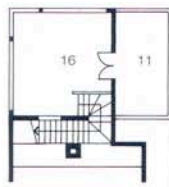
house seeks a solution to the problem of reconciling an internal grouping of common living spaces with an external scale appropriate to the old garden. The bay concept is an old idea—the aisle chapels of Romanesque churches, bathing huts, the architecture of Louis Kahn. We would like to think that it is used here with a certain realism.

The high room above the upper living spaces, breaking the roof line, projects an enclave into the treetops. This aerial suspension lets the room live in the bush, just where the trees thin out right in the midst of the foliage. The corner windows of the room open completely at the height of the branches, thus entering into dialogue with the sky, the sea and the site itself.

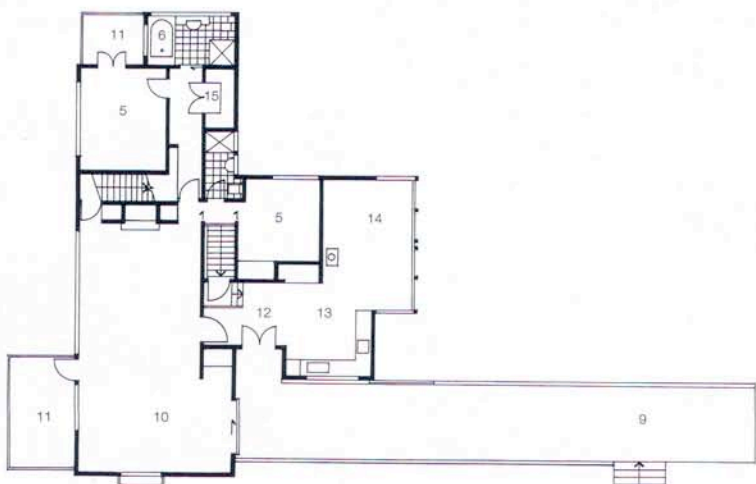
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Ground Floor Plan



Upper Floor Plan



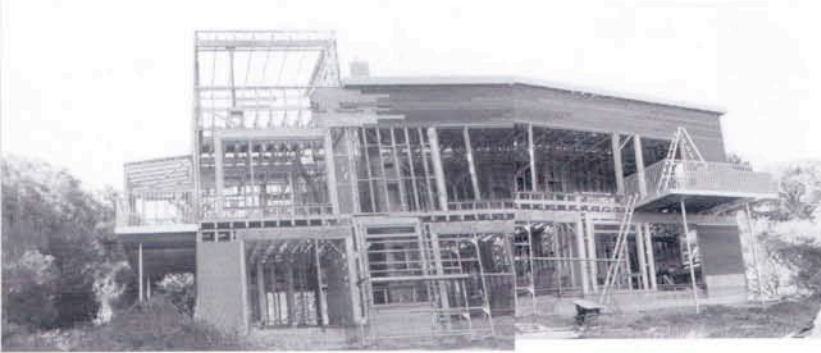
Lower Ground Floor Plan



A ring beam clasps this exceptional room, and provides a link with generic architectural questions of scale, structure, a fragment of a larger order and as decoration—the 'most abstract part of architecture'. The beam's colour and profile suggest that it is fabricated from standard sections; in reality, it is a non-standard, extravagant and highly studied element that deals primarily with empathetic aspects of architecture such as light and shadow, profile and the experience of weight.

- 1 Carpark
- 2 Studio
- 3 Alcove
- 4 Store
- 5 Bedroom
- 6 Bathroom
- 7 Laundry
- 8 Hall
- 9 Ramp
- 10 Dining/Living
- 11 Deck
- 12 Entry
- 13 Kitchen
- 14 Sunroom
- 15 Walk-in robe
- 16 Study





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