

*Residential Architecture
Completed 2018
Commissioned
Manhattan Beach, California*

Located in the South Bay community of Manhattan Beach, this single-family home creates a strong connection to the outdoors on a well-trafficked corner lot. Dictated by the geometry of the setbacks, a concrete masonry wall defines a courtyard before transitioning into the building, providing seclusion for peaceful indoor-outdoor living.



Project Information

Size

House: 2,596 sqft; Lot: 5,928 sqft

Cost

\$425/sqft

Context

Set in a residential neighborhood of Manhattan Beach, the property is a corner lot that is located across the street from a school, a church, and a park.

Program

The home owners, both from Brazil, wanted an open floor plan with a strong connection to outdoor spaces that would remind them of home. They were concerned with privacy and the school traffic, but wanted the house to open to the outside as much as possible. They also requested a pool be added to the backyard when we were two-thirds into construction!

Solution

For increased visibility to traffic, the garage was placed at the south side of the property. Guests enter along a pathway that takes them through a courtyard before entering the home. Dictated by the geometry of the lot, the courtyard's concrete masonry wall—which is just high enough to block outside views from the street while allowing in the southern sunlight—tucks under a cantilevered second floor, transitioning from courtyard to building wall. Rotating selected masonry units so they protrude from the face of wall to create succulent planters gives the wall texture and life.

Two sets of sliding pocket doors seamlessly connect the courtyard to the open-concept ground level and then again to the patio and pool—which was carved out an existing backyard hillside. The oversized fenestration supports the home's passive cooling which use a series of strategically placed light wells on the roof capped with operable skylights to create mini thermal chimneys.

The bedrooms and private sectors are located on the second floor. The master suite looks out onto the park across the street, while the kids' rooms have views of the sunsets and backyard hillside garden. Solar scoops framed around the kids bedroom windows control sunlight and provide privacy from the pool below.

Aside from the masonry wall, the exterior is mostly stucco for its low cost and maintenance. Western red cedar clads both the interior ceilings and exterior soffits, adding warmth to the palette. Modular IKEA boxes paired with custom fronts and panels were used for casework throughout. The ground floor living space's polished concrete slab continues outdoors to become patios. A turf-block driveway allows rainwater to percolate into the water table, and native and drought-tolerant plants fill the yards.











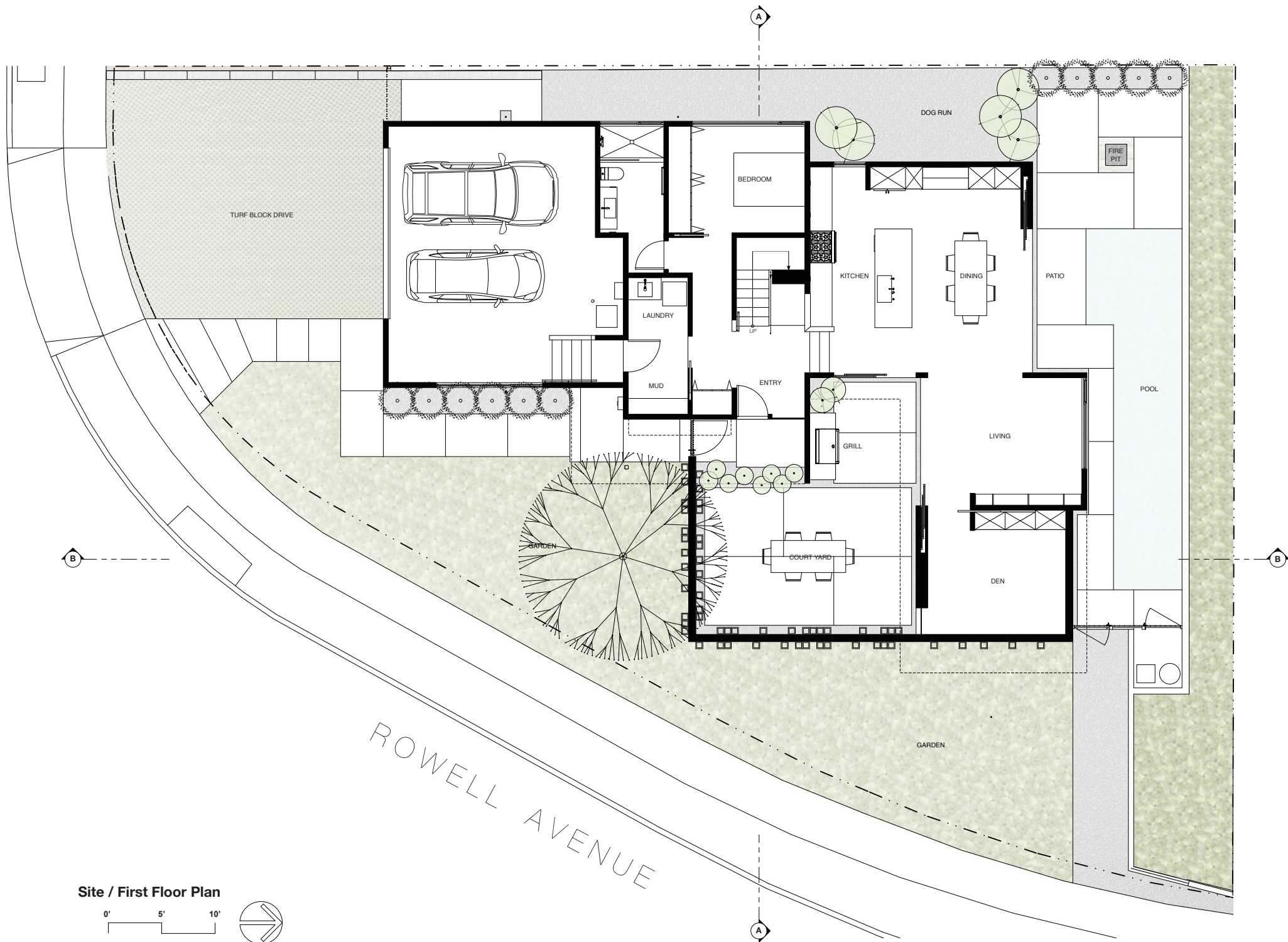


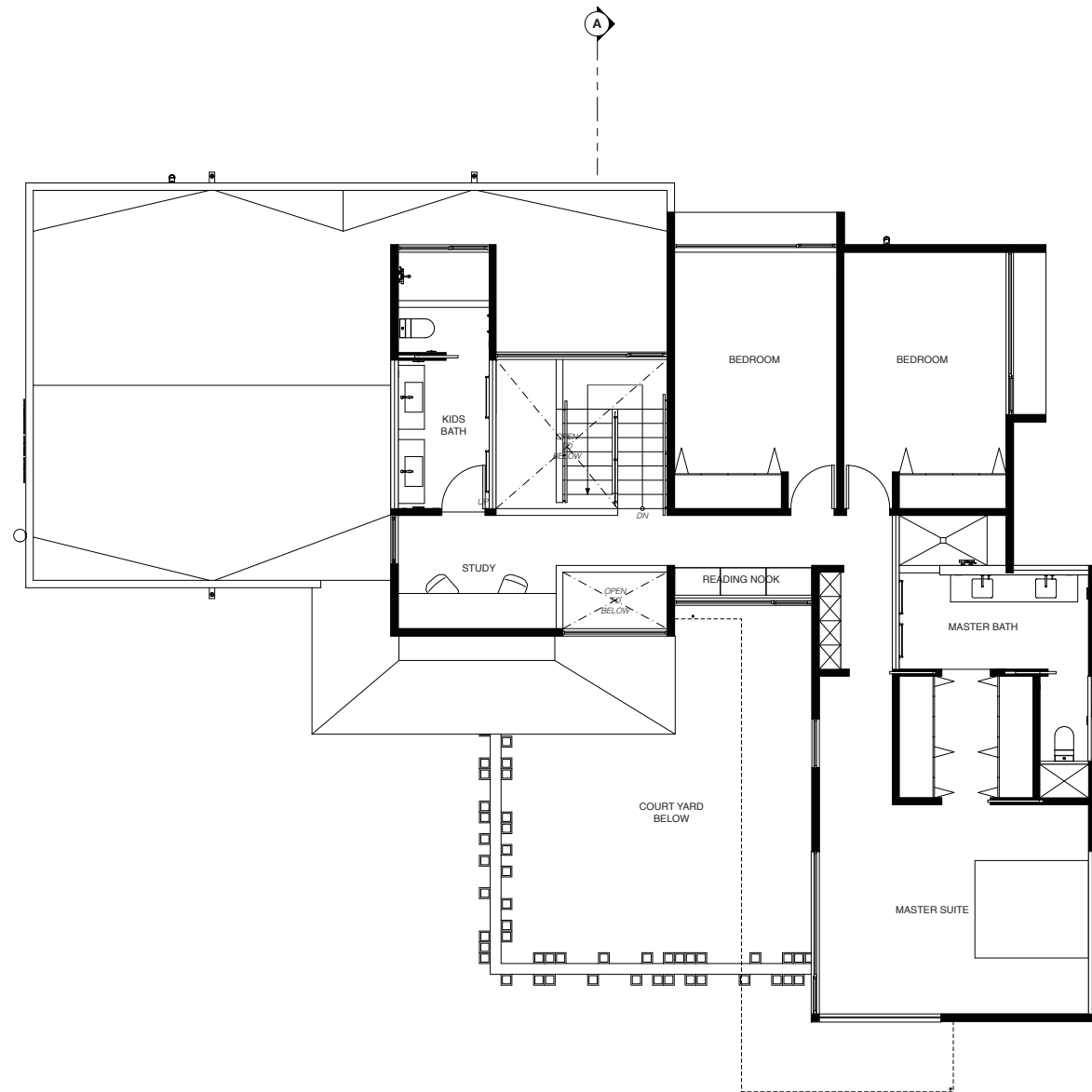




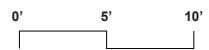
Vicinity Map

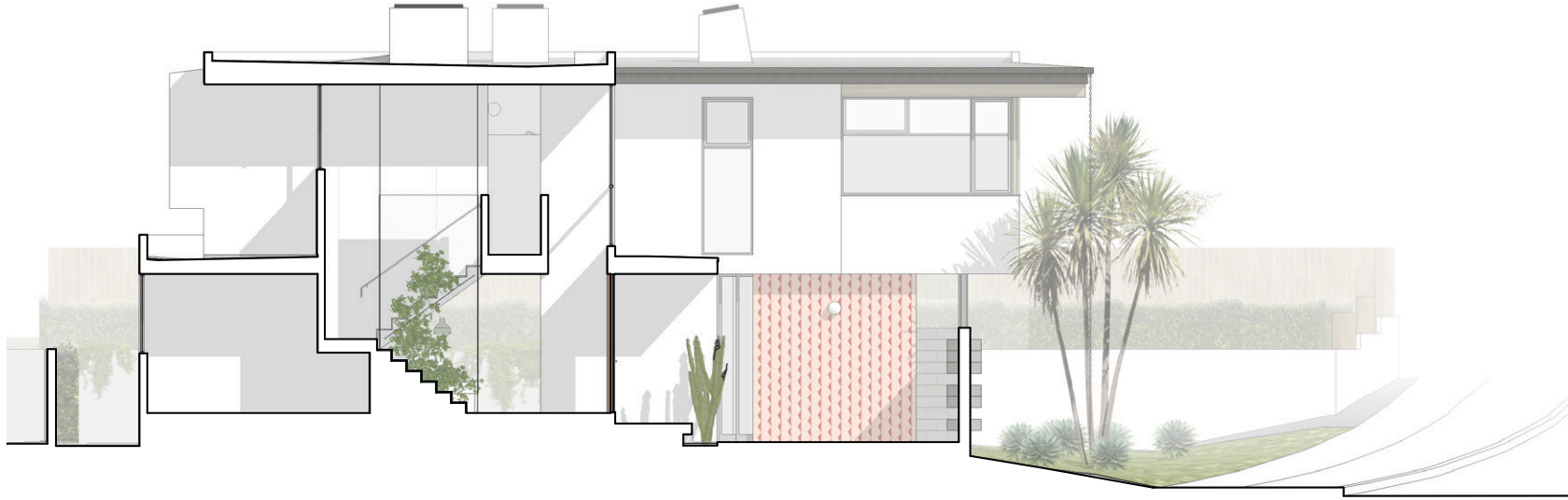






Second Floor

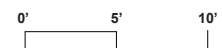




Section AA



South Elevation





Section BB



East Elevation

