A combination of earthquakes, mud slides, and fires destroy celebrity homes in Malibu, California every year. Robust architecture is necessary to resist these natural hazards but threatens to overwhelm the land with its scale, destroying sensitive habitat and ecology in the area. In a landscape that is geologically and climactically volatile, is it possible to design large, luxurious residences with environmental responsibility? This luxury home built in the hills above Malibu attempts to balance the requirement for large scale intervention with minimal impact on the ecology of the site —poising the notion of architectural ecology as a branch of sustainability. Considering architecture as habitat for both people and nature may promote design opportunities as well as ecologically sensitive buildings.

A delicate glass belly suspends from the “bar” that bridges over the gulley—a concentrated location of habitat for plants and animals. This belly is an inverted viewing platform from which to view the 180 degree view of the Pacific Ocean, the orange glow of insomniac Los Angeles or less conspicuous inhabitants of the night.

Does the proposed architecture belong to the inhabitant or to the land? The design creates an awareness of a variety of ambient environmental conditions: the orientation to prevailing onshore breezes and strategic placement around animal tracks—possibly facilitating chance encounters with local wildlife.

Malibu Nights
An Ecological Response to Environmental and Human Volatility

Site Map: Main Level Plan with Animal Tracks Perspective View from South

Regional Site Map
Malibu Site Map
Site Map: Animal Tracks and Wind Diagram

Creative Areas
1 2 3 4
Sleeping Areas
Living Areas