CHIP WEBSTER
ARCHITECTURE

CASA CABANA

LOT 26

EL BOSQUE
NOSARA, COSTA RICA

CASA CABANA
EL BOSQUE

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01

ABOUT US

With a great love of nature and community creation, Chip Webster Architecture has been designing in Nosara since 2018. After earning dual degrees in Architecture and Business Management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Chip founded CWA on Nantucket in 1991.

CWA oversaw the creation of the El Bosque Community Covenants and Restrictions and then co-created the Architectural, Construction, Community, and Lifestyle Guidelines for El Bosque.

An award winning firm with an office in Nosara, CWA understands the level of quality and lifestyle expectations of homeowners in the USA and applies this same standard when designing in Costa Rica.







NOSARA

CASA LAGARTO







THE TREE HOUSE





CASA MADERA







BOX OF RAIN





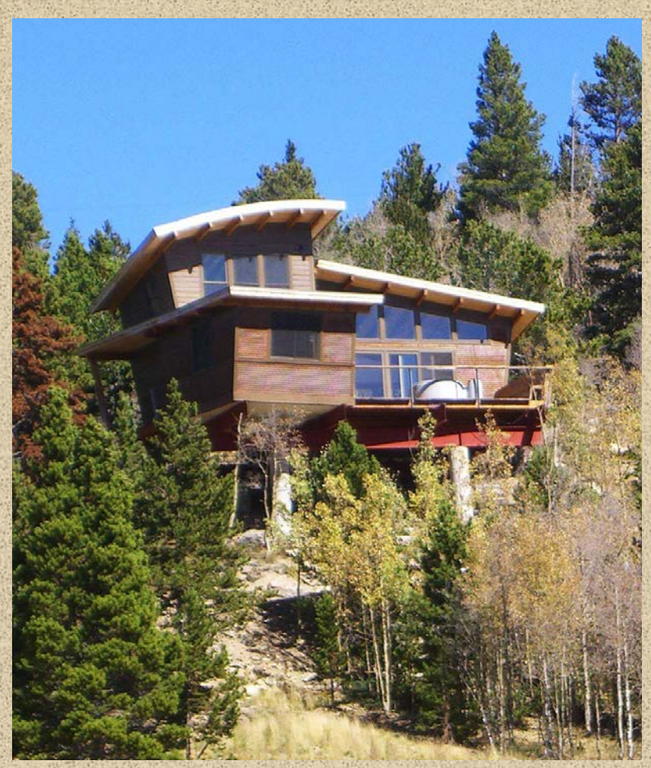
BEYOND













02

EL BOSQUE

El Bosque is a thoughtfully planned residential community shaped around a simple idea: that architecture, nature, and community can coexist.

Set within 37 acres of tropical dry rain forest near Playa Guiones, the neighborhood balances privacy and connection while preserving the landscape that makes Nosara distinctive. Here, daily life unfolds in close connection with the rhythms of the landscape.







A COMMUNITY DESIGNED WITH INTENTION

El Bosque was conceived as more than a collection of individual homes. Its master plan, conservation strategies, architectural, design, construction, and lifestyle guidelines work together to protect the character of the forest while creating a connected and enduring neighborhood.

PRESERVE THE FOREST

The majority of El Bosque remains natural land, protecting habitat and allowing the existing ecosystem to stand out as an integral part of everyday life.

LIVE LIGHTLY

Walkability, electric internal transportation, thoughtful water management, buried utilities, and dark-sky-conscious infrastructure reduce the community's impact on its surroundings.

BUILD WITH THE LAND

Homes respond to existing trees, topography, water, sun, and wind, minimizing disturbance while creating comfortable places to live within the tropical climate.

CREATE COMMUNITY

Shared amenities, trails, gathering spaces, and community guidelines balance privacy with opportunities for connection between neighbors and the surrounding landscape.











CHIP WEBSTER ARCHITECTURE & El Bosque

CWA helped develop El Bosque's CC&R's, and then co-created the Architectural, Design, Building and Lifestyle Guidelines and the Home Programs. The firm later oversaw the international team of participating architects to interpret and implement those principles across individual home designs, helping to translate the community's broader vision into architecture.

EL BOSQUE MAP



SUNSET LOOKOUT

At the Golden Hour residents can gather on Sunset Ridge to watch the sun set into the Pacific.



MAIN ENTRANCE



TRAIL SYSTEM

The network of trails throughout the property makes it easy to move safely through the community and connect deeply with the surrounding natural life.

BEACH SIDE ENTRANCE



LOT 26

CLUB HOUSE AND AMENITIES

03

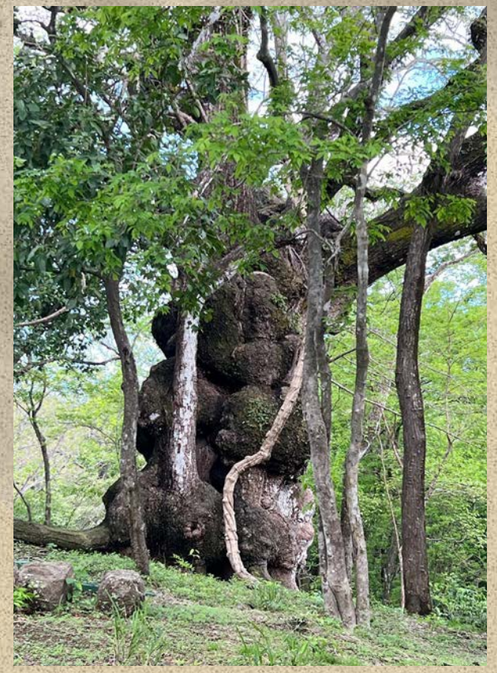
SITE ANALYSIS

Every site tells a different story. Before design begins, CWA studies the land in detail, looking closely at topography, existing vegetation, solar orientation, prevailing winds, and community parameters.

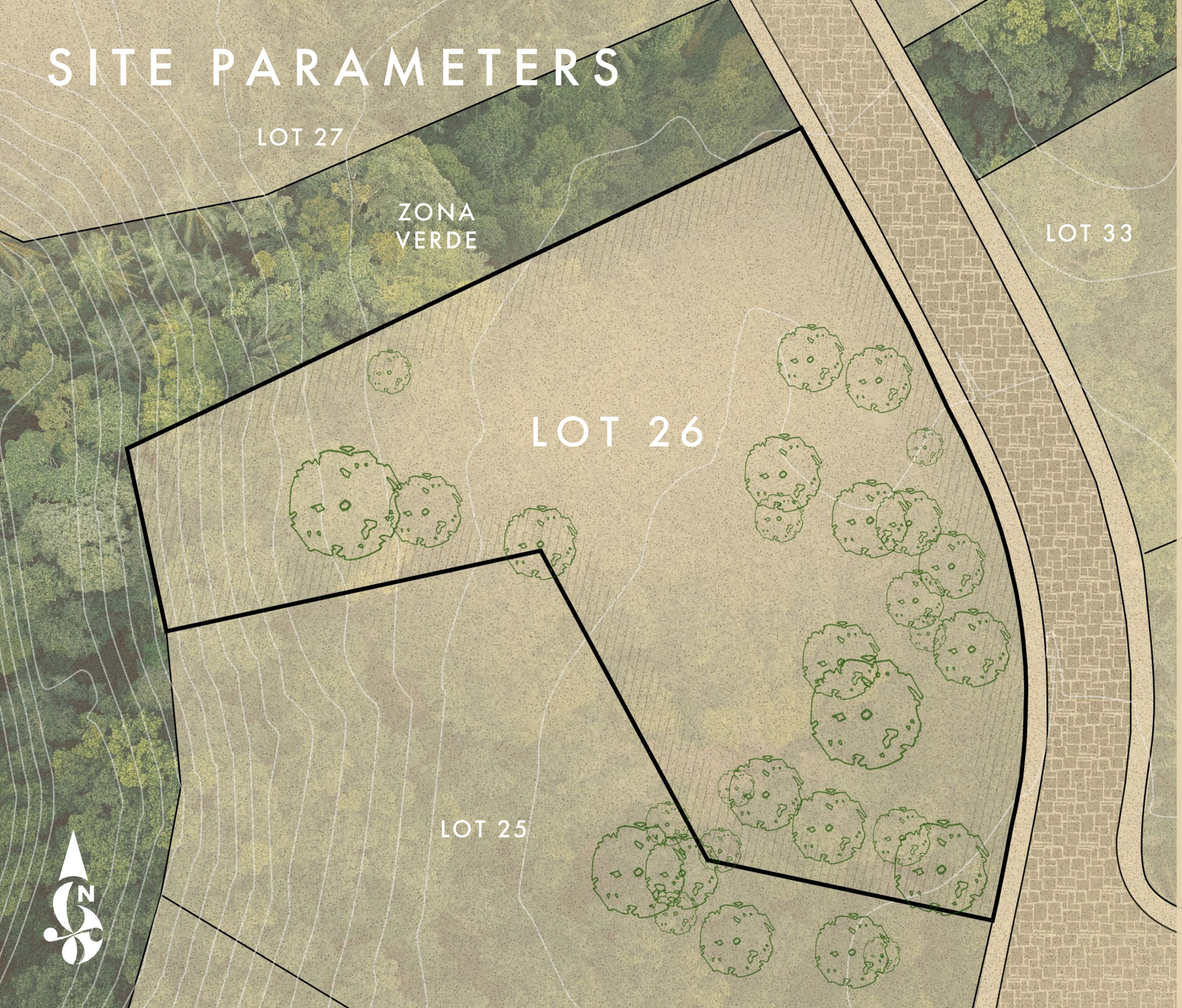
This careful analysis guides each design decision, creating a home shaped by the light, landscape, and natural rhythms of El Bosque.







SITE PARAMETERS



30% MAXIMUM GROUND COVER

3M REQUIRED SETBACK

MINIMAL SITE DISTURBANCE

Thoughtful home placement limits unnecessary disruption to the existing landscape.

PRESERVED TOPOGRAPHY

The home follows the site's natural contours.

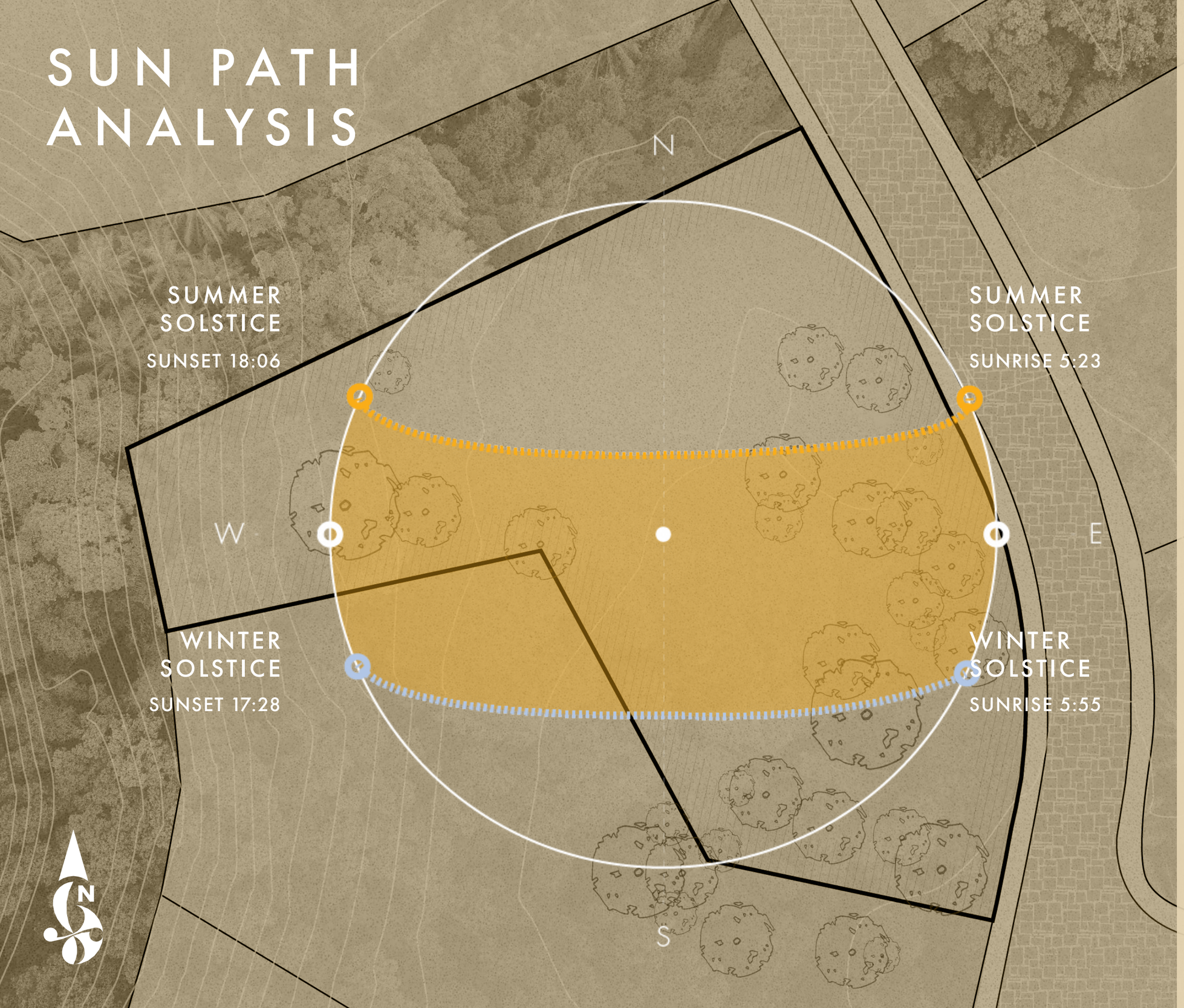
TREE PRESERVATION

The home is carefully sited to retain existing trees wherever possible.

DARK SKY DESIGN

Exterior lighting minimizes light pollution within the community.

SUN PATH ANALYSIS



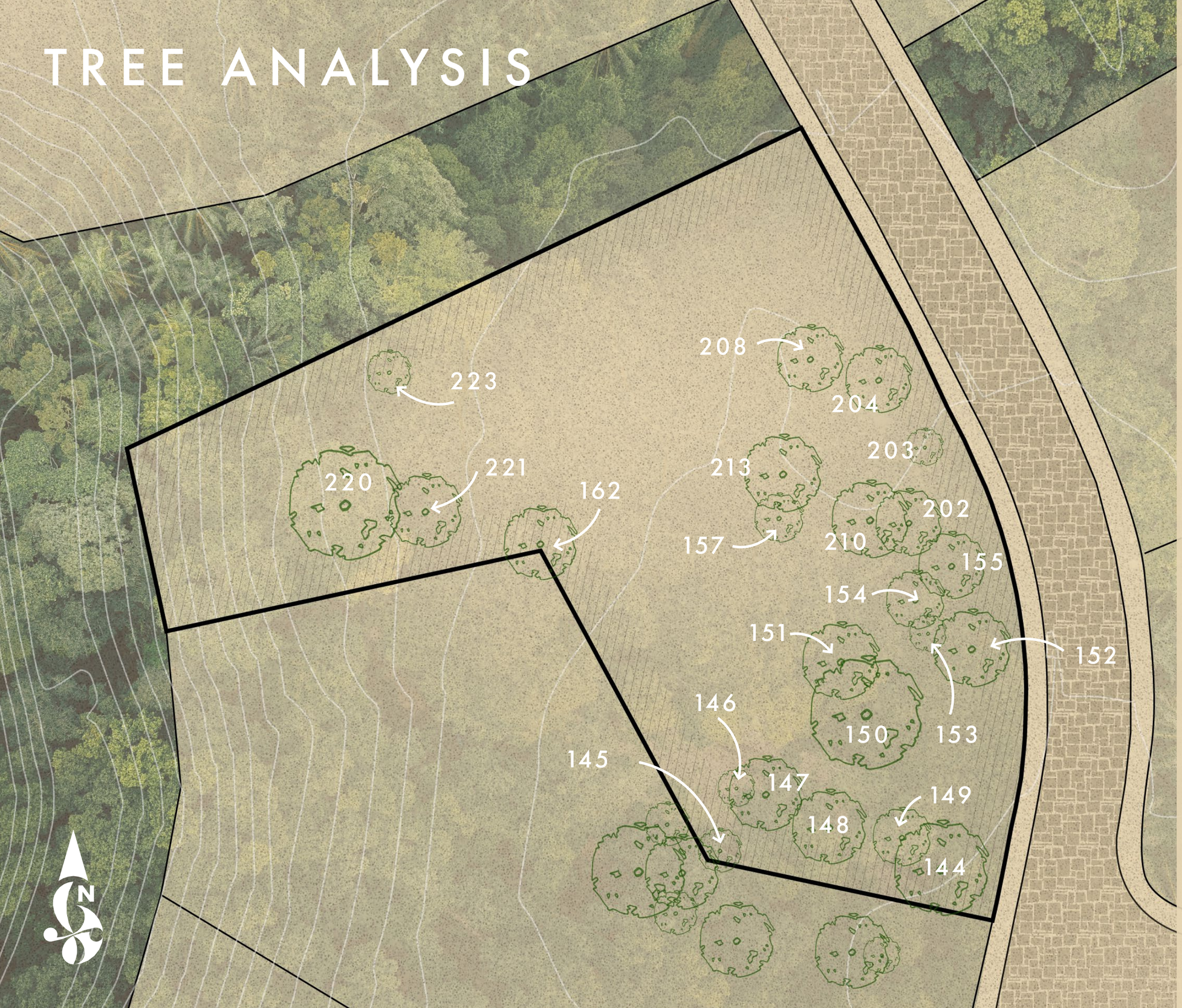
DESIGNING WITH THE SUN

The home is designed in response to the sun's path across the site, balancing natural light and shade while supporting comfortable indoor-outdoor living throughout the year.

A RESPONSE TO PLACE

Solar orientation, existing vegetation, and the character of the homesite work together to shape a home that feels naturally connected to El Bosque.

TREE ANALYSIS



TAG	Common Name
147	Guácimo / West Indian Elm
150	Guácimo / West Indian Elm
162	Guácimo / West Indian Elm
145	Guácimo / West Indian Elm
149	Guapira
203	Guava
146	Madroño
221	Madroño
151	Madroño
154	Madroño
223	Madroño
224	Madroño
153	Palmera Real
155	Palmera Real
202	Palmera Real
204	Palmera Real
210	Palmera Real
213	Palmera Real
220	Palmera Real
144	Palmera Real
148	Palmera Real
208	Palmera Real

TOPOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS



The sections below reveal how the home responds to the site's natural contours, allowing the design to settle into the landscape with minimal disturbance.

SECTION 1



SECTION 2



MAPPING EXISTING LANDSCAPE



UNDERSTANDING THE SITE IN 3D

A detailed 3D scan documents the existing landscape before design begins. Mapping the site's trees and vegetation helps inform a home that responds to what is already there.

3D POINT-CLOUD SURVEY

Existing trees + vegetation

04

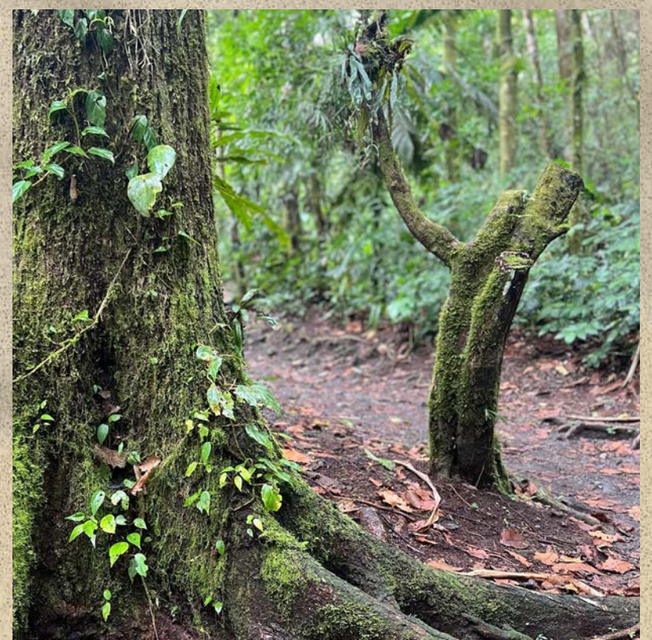
REFERENCE IMAGES

Casa Cabana's design is drawn from the architectural vernacular of Guanacaste.

The following buildings were photographed by Chip Webster as he traveled through the region looking for architectural reference.

The home's design is a contemporary interpretation of the materials, textures, forms and details he observed.







EXTERIOR REFERENCES











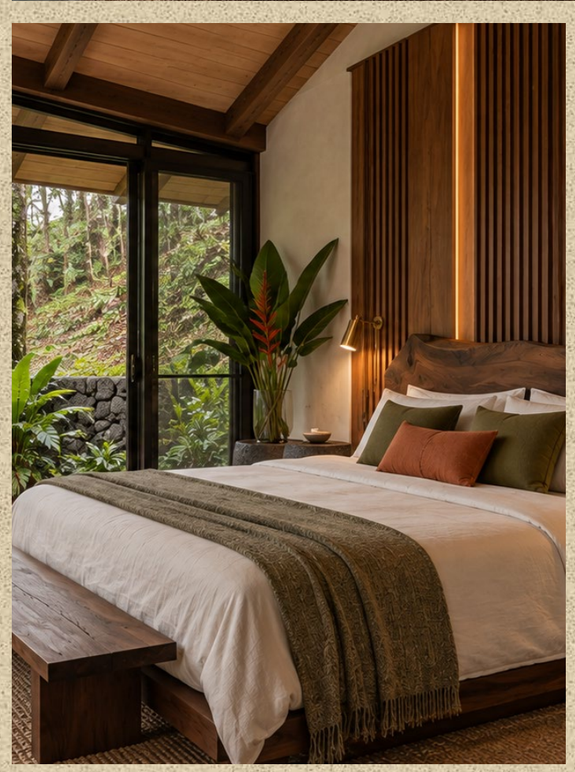


INTERIOR REFERENCES













05

HOME DESIGN

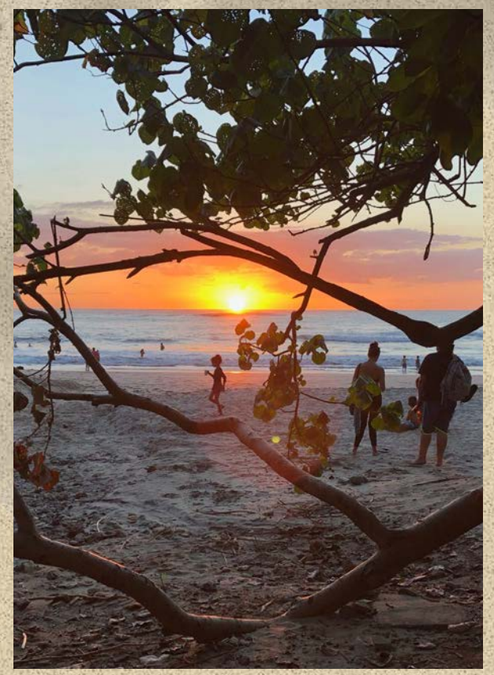
Natural textures, warm earth tones, filtered light, and open-air spaces inspire an architecture that feels both grounded and effortlessly connected to the surrounding landscape.

Together, they suggest an atmosphere of relaxed tropical living, one shaped by shade, breeze, and a strong relationship between interior and exterior.

Casa Cabana's design incorporates a linear, organizing boardwalk that connects the structures.





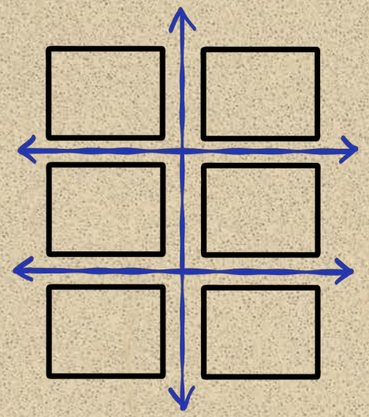


ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN PARTI

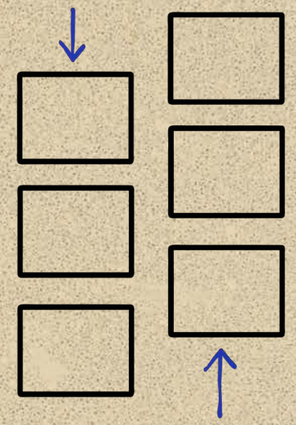
SINGLE MASS



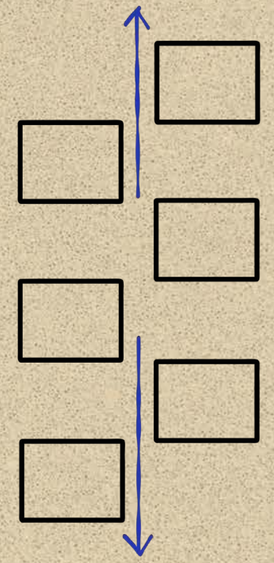
DIVIDE MASS



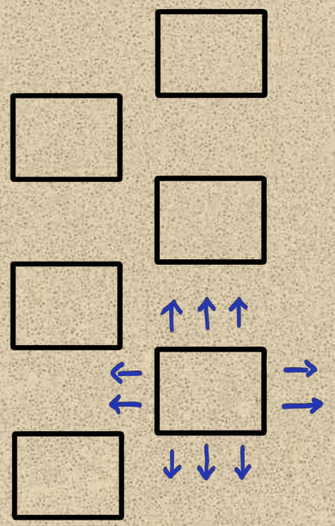
STAGGER



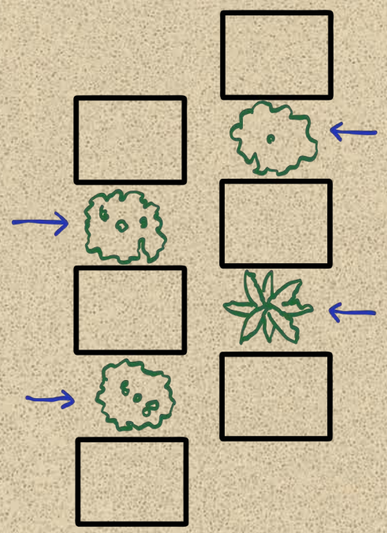
EXPAND



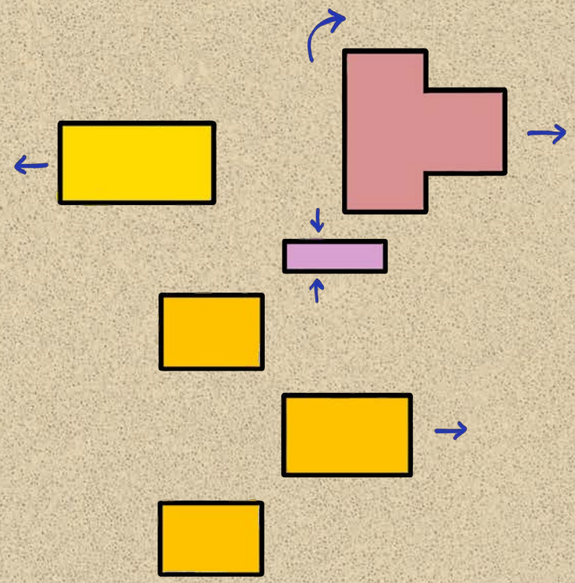
MAXIMIZE VIEWS



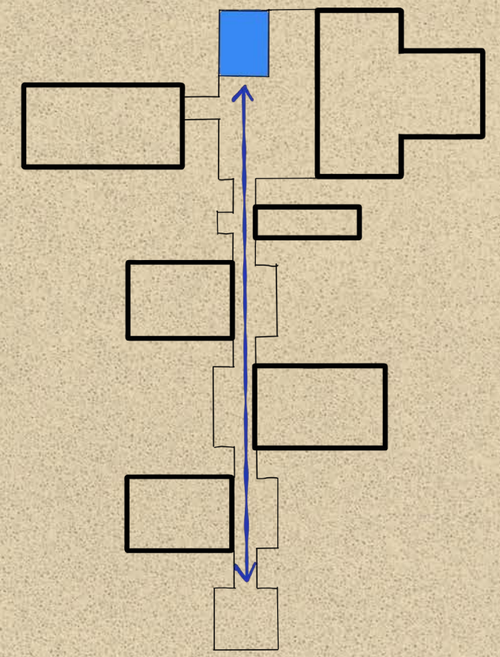
INTEGRATE VEGETATION



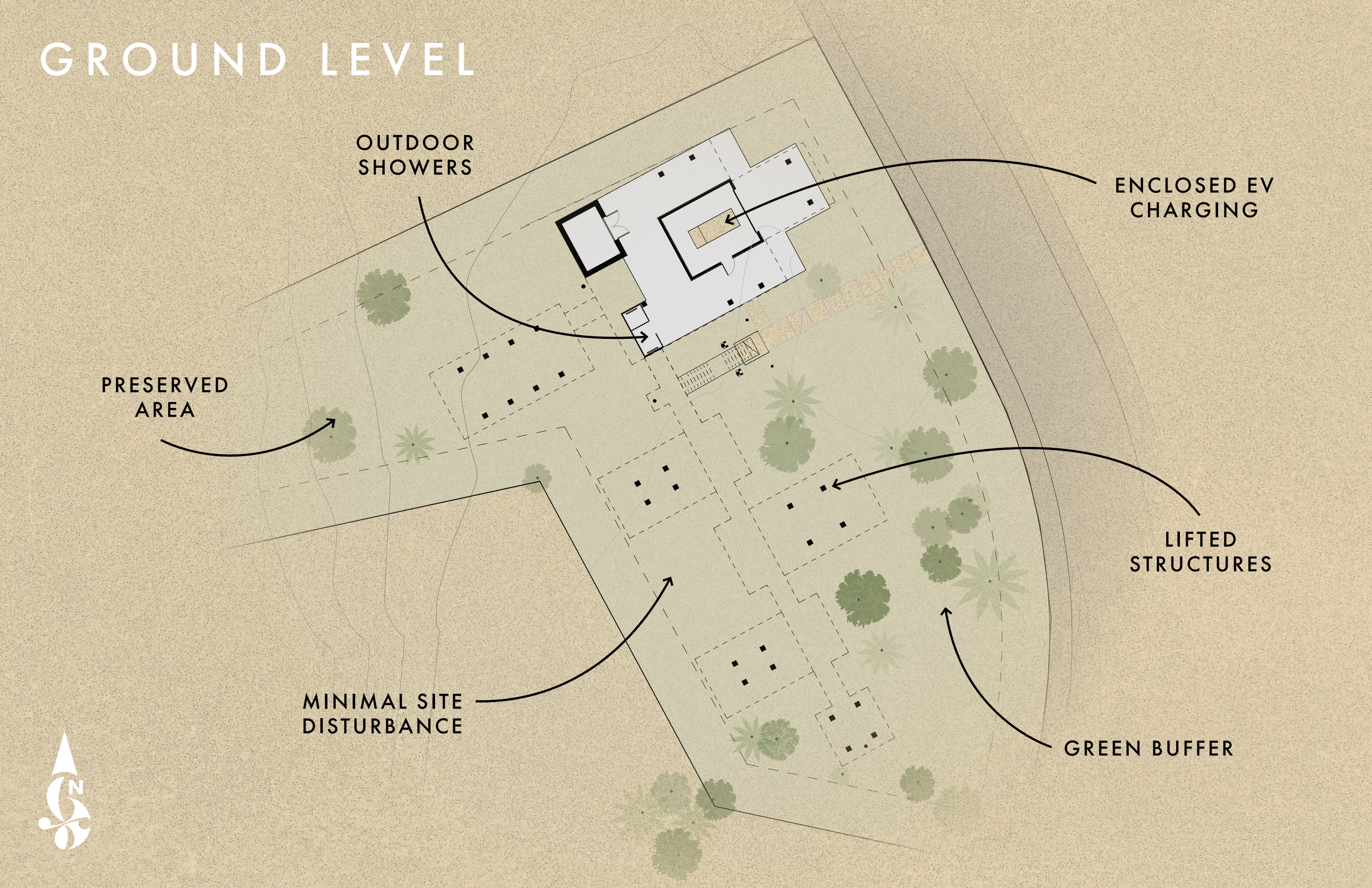
APPLY PROGRAM



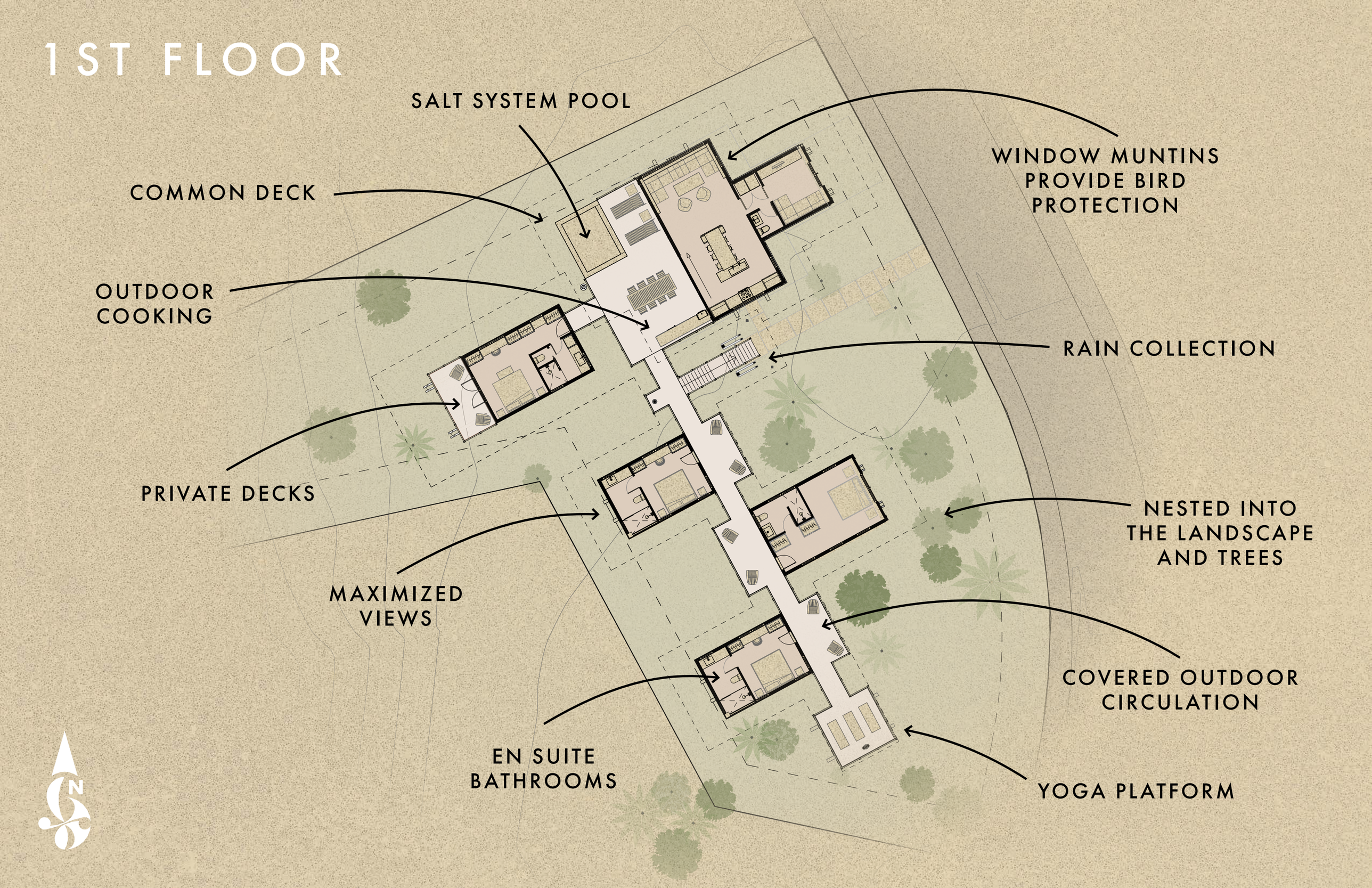
CONNECT SPACES



GROUND LEVEL



1ST FLOOR


SALT SYSTEM POOL
COMMON DECK
WINDOW MUNTINS PROVIDE BIRD PROTECTION
OUTDOOR COOKING
RAIN COLLECTION
PRIVATE DECKS
MAXIMIZED VIEWS
NESTED INTO THE LANDSCAPE AND TREES
COVERED OUTDOOR CIRCULATION
EN SUITE BATHROOMS
YOGA PLATFORM
N





















CREATING SPACES THAT SURPRISE, DELIGHT AND INSPIRE







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CONTACT CHIP WEBSTER

+ 1 508 237 2447

CHIP@CHIPWEBSTER.COM