



NOT A HOTEL, Yakushima

# One line 一線



**Site**  
The project is located on a southern island of Japan, on a gently rising hillside within the dense forest landscape of Yakushima. The site is characterized by three natural elements: a pond, large rock formations, and mature trees distributed across the terrain.

**Form**  
The architecture is conceived as a linear intervention that connects these natural elements without disturbing their original conditions. A long building is carefully placed across the site, passing over the pond, weaving between existing trees, and gradually ascending along the slope. As a result, the building is perceived as a single continuous roof plane aligned with the topography, maintaining a restrained architectural presence within its surrounding context.

The plan is subtly curved to avoid existing vegetation and to occupy naturally open clearings. The building extends longitudinally from the flat ground toward the hillside, allowing all spaces to maintain visual connections with the surrounding natural environment across varying terrain levels, from lowland forest to hillside and distant sea views.

The building consists of two above-ground levels and one partially embedded basement. Spatial organization is achieved through gradual level changes that follow the natural slope, rather than through partitions. This approach allows the interior to be perceived as a single continuous spatial sequence extending from the lowest to the highest point of the site, unified beneath one roof.

Full-height glazing on both sides of the narrow section ensures a constant visual connection with the landscape. Semi-outdoor corridors and slender concrete columns define the architecture's perimeter, serving as transitional layers between interior and exterior spaces. These elements allow natural conditions to become part of the interior environment, while also functioning as deep eaves that mitigate solar heat and respond to Yakushima's year-round rainfall.

Movement through the building corresponds directly to changes in terrain, allowing the relationship between architecture and topography to be read continuously through the section.

Site Plan  
Scale 1:1,500



Total program integrated with existing natural pond.

Functions arranged as a linear sequence.

Roof plane elevated parallel to the hillside.

Treated as a single roof plane, the mass is elevated to allow nature to pass through.



Exterior - The One line concealed within the natural

Exterior - Continuous Roof Aligned with Terrain



Exterior - Sunset Pool Terrace-Semi-outdoor transition space



Interior - Cold Bath and Sauna embedded into the hillside

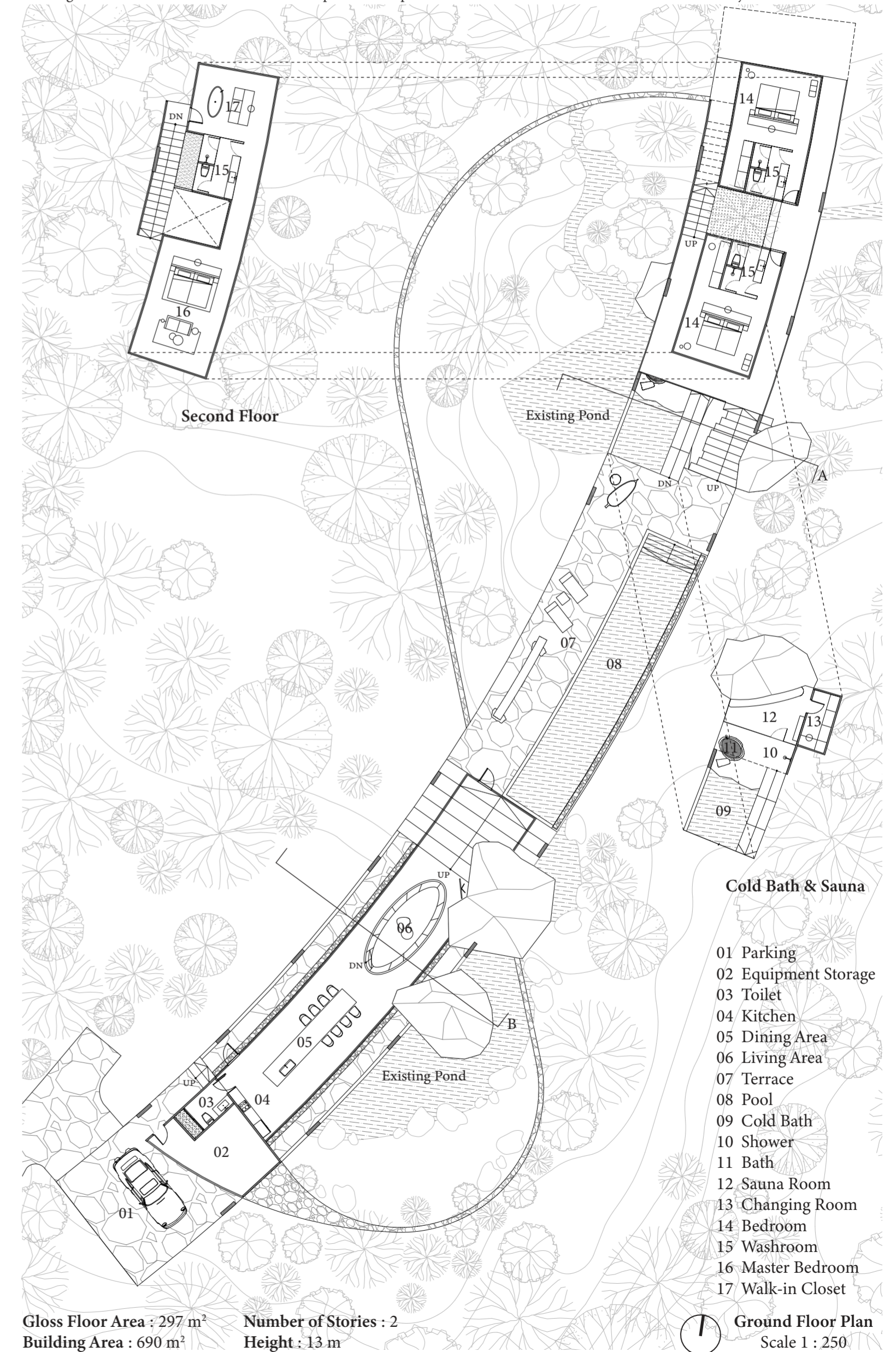
### Functions

Programmatic functions are arranged linearly along the building's length and intersect directly with existing natural features. Large rock formations are retained and extend into the interior, most notably in the living area, where a rock becomes an integral spatial element rather than a separate object.

At the center of the building, a semi-outdoor pool terrace functions as a transitional zone between shared spaces and private areas, while maintaining spatial continuity along the length of the architecture.

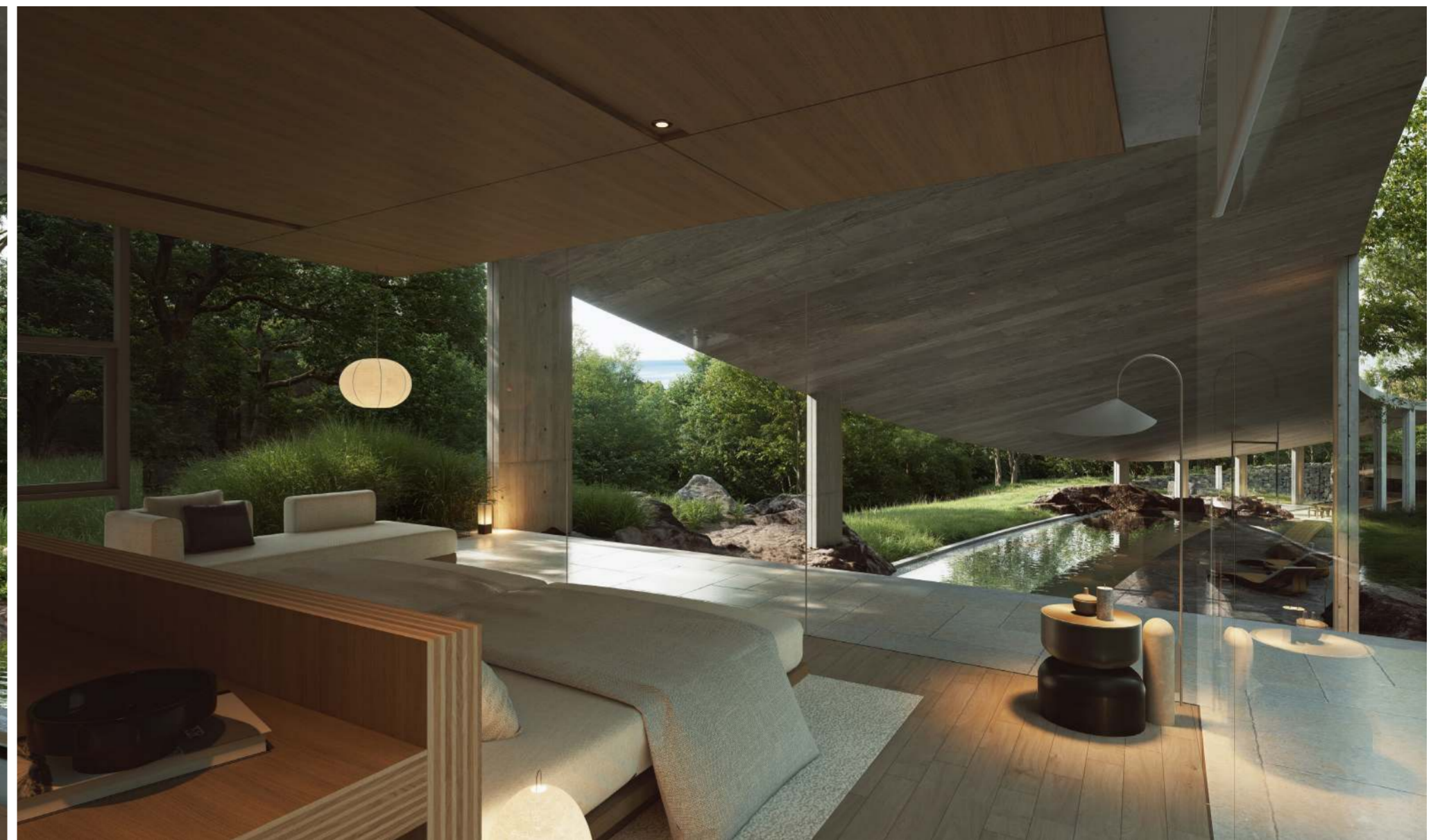
The cold bath and sauna are positioned adjacent to the existing natural pond at a higher elevation and are partially embedded into the hillside. Their placement creates visual continuity between the constructed bathing spaces and the natural water body, reducing the boundary between architectural and natural systems. Environmental conditions—such as humidity, temperature, and the sound of rainfall—remain perceptible within these spaces, reinforcing their direct relationship with the surrounding landscape.

Private rooms are intentionally located at the terminal end of the villa to achieve maximum privacy within the forest setting. From this position, the rooms maintain visual connections to the forest canopy, mountain ridges, sea, and sky, while simultaneously overlooking the full length of the building below. This allows the architecture to be perceived as part of the continuous terrain rather than a detached object.





Interior - Living and dining areas blend in with nature.



Interior - Bedroom views flow seamlessly through the entire building.



Section Perspective  
NTS

### Materiality & Interior Expression

The interior is articulated through a contemporary Japanese architectural language, emphasizing spatial continuity, restraint, and material clarity, with loose furniture placed centrally within each space to reinforce the longitudinal reading and spatial continuity of the architecture.

Natural elements from the site, including the existing pond and large rock formations, are visually drawn into the interior through full-height glazing. These elements function as spatial components rather than decorative features, allowing nature to serve as a sculptural presence that reinforces the continuity between interior and exterior spaces.

Local Yakusugi cedar, native to Yakushima Island, is employed throughout the project in various forms to meet spatial requirements. It is used as formwork for exposed concrete flat slabs, soffits, and structural columns, imprinting the texture of wood onto the concrete surfaces and expressing material honesty and constructional clarity. Yakusugi is also used as wall and floor finishes, allowing occupants to perceive the site's character through tactile contact and the wood's natural scent.

All semi-outdoor areas utilize natural materials such as mountain stone and locally sourced Yakushima granite. In several locations, existing ground surfaces and natural rock formations are intentionally allowed to extend into the architectural space, reducing the boundary between constructed materials and the island's natural terrain, reinforcing harmony between architecture and nature.



### Water

The design places particular emphasis on the site's existing natural water system, which is organized into two ponds according to functional use.

The first pond is located adjacent to the living area and functions as a water retention basin, collecting rainwater from both natural runoff and roof drainage. The roof geometry is intentionally designed to direct water toward this pond, allowing rainwater to be stored and reused on site.

The second pond is positioned adjacent to the cold bath to maintain spatial and environmental continuity during bathing. Natural Yakushima granite retaining walls are constructed around the pond to manage water flow, thereby maintaining perceptibility of water movement, the sound of flowing water, and the sensory conditions of the surrounding forest.

Although the architecture spans across both ponds, water is allowed to flow continuously beneath the building, maintaining its natural movement. An overflow system is provided for both ponds, allowing excess water to return to the surrounding landscape in accordance with existing natural conditions.

+7.00 m.

+0.00 m.

Retaining Wall  
Yakushima granite

Flat Slab Roof  
Exposed Concrete - Yakusugi Formwork

Concrete Column  
Exposed Concrete - Yakusugi Formwork

Existing Rock

Existing natural pond  
collects rainwater and  
roof runoff for on-site reuse.

Retaining Wall  
Yakushima granite

Isometric  
NTS

+13.00 m.

Elevation  
Scale 1 : 250

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