



Aerial View



Arrival View



Villa of Proximities
Yakushima Island, Japan

Set upon the misty hillsides of Yakushima Island—an environment of ancient forests, volcanic rock, and abundant rainfall—this villa emerges as a constellation of three pavilions lightly stitched into the terrain. The landscape, with its dense vegetation and panoramic views of the mountains and sea, is the primary author of the architecture. The project imposes a vernacular form that responds to the context, offering a retreat that deepens the resident's relationship to the island's primordial character.

A guiding wall moves through the hillside, acting as foundation, threshold, and frame. It conducts visitors through an unfolding of proximities—moments of shelter, exposure, and discovery—while framing both a cultivated garden and the wild landscape beyond. The three pavilions—devoted to living, bathing, and meditation—are tuned to differing degrees of immersion, inviting residents into a continuous dialogue with the natural environment.

In one of the world's rainiest climates, each structure is a responsive vessel that filters water, light, and air, creating refuge without severing connection to the elements. The villa is not a static object; it is an evolving journey that aligns daily rituals with the sensorial phenomena of Yakushima. The villa acts as an environmental filter rather than a barrier. Interiors remain semi-porous, with curated openings framing the forest and sea. The predominant sound is water: dripping from eaves, collecting in pools, and echoing against stone. The boundary between inside and outside is blurred through layered spaces and choreographed views.



Hillside View



Small Garden View

Project Data

Building Floor Area – 287m²
 Constructed Floor Area – 305m²
 Total Area – 592m²
 Max Height – 11.3m

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Main House | Bath House |
| 1 Entry | 10 Bath/ Cold Plunge/ Shower |
| 2 Living | 11 Sauna |
| 3 Dining | 12 Changing Room |
| 4 Kitchen | |
| 5 Pantry | Exterior |
| 6 Powder Room | 13 Porch |
| 7 Bedroom Suite 1 | 14 Pool |
| 8 Bedroom Suite 2 | 15 Small Garden |
| 9 Bedroom Suite 3 | 16 Large Garden |
| | 17 Meditation Room |



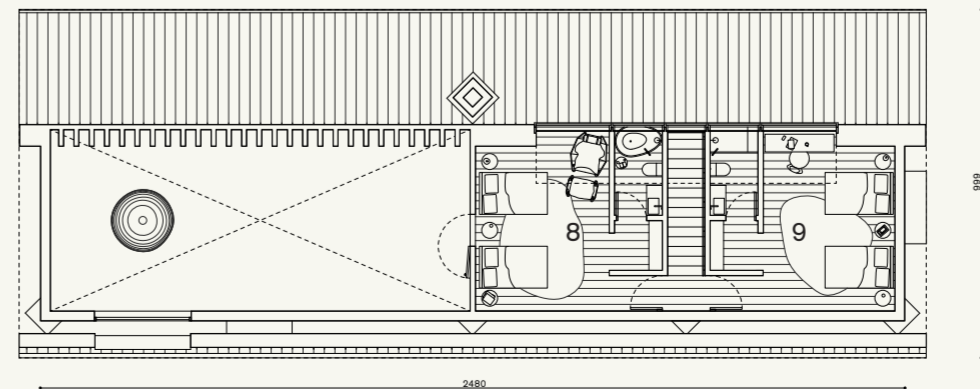
Plan 01



Bedroom 02 View



Pool View



Plan 02

Glimpsing Motchomodake

The villa's plan is defined by relative proximities and detours. Visitors arrive from below through an attenuated entry, met with an expansive view of the courtyard backed by the mountainous scenery. A circular pool on the entry axis divides the landscape into two distinct gardens. Throughout the site, a cluster of apertures—from horizontal panoramas to cropped skylights—constantly renews the guest's relationship to the mountain. Movement between these structures is a small pilgrimage, encouraging mindfulness through shifts in grade and texture. The project proposes a dwelling that cultivates domestic wanderlust, fostering a participatory and intimate connection with nature.

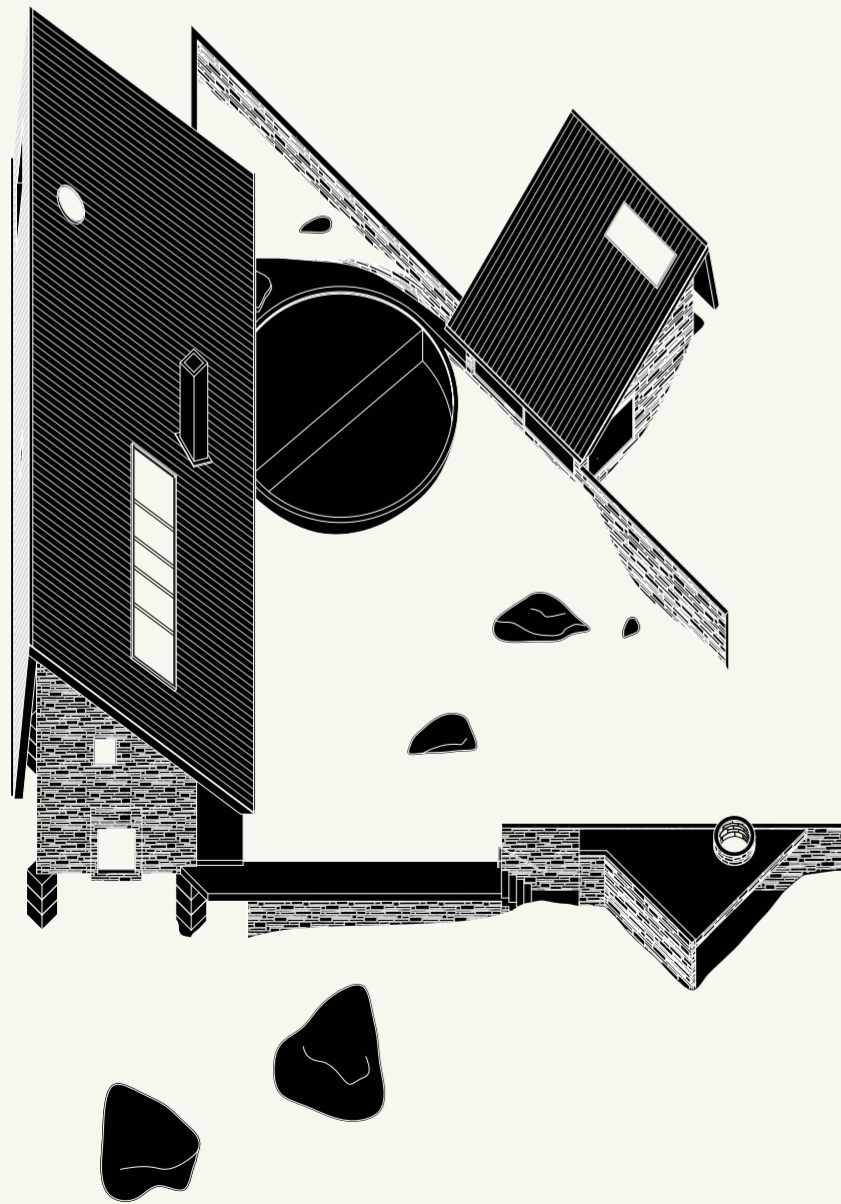
The main house is lightly perched to offer immediate orientation toward mountain and sea views. The bath house nestles closer to the earth, engaging moisture and rock to turn bathing into a sensory ritual. The meditation room positions deep among the trees, where silence is most profound.



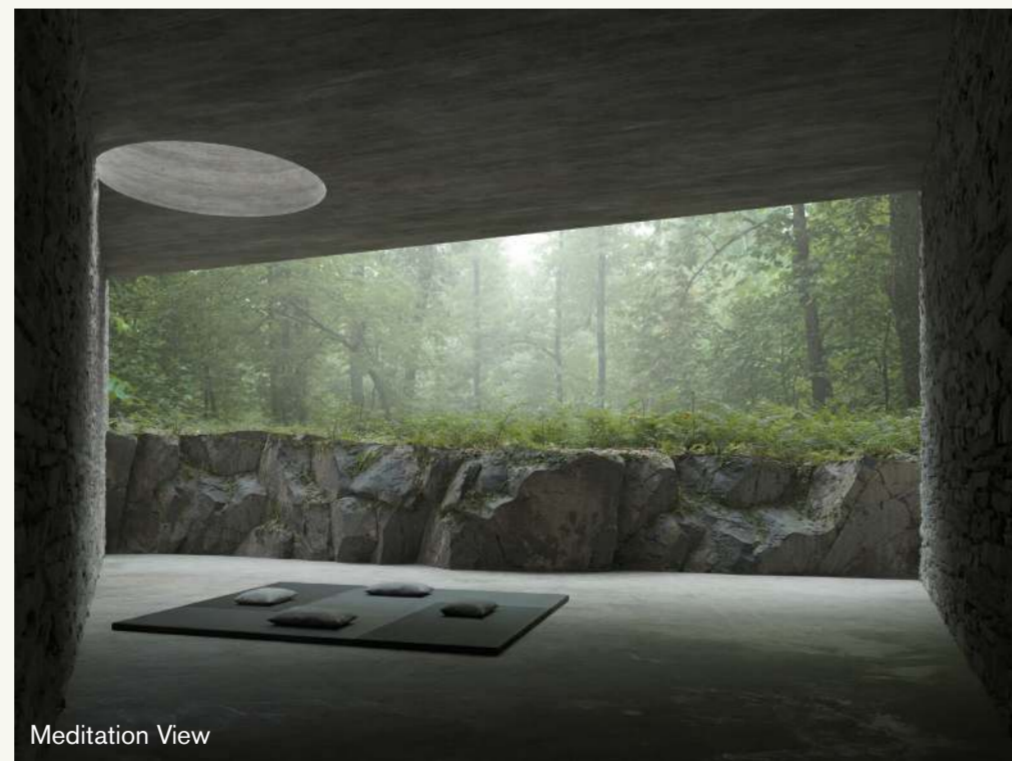
Bathhouse View



Living View



Material Axonometric



Meditation View

A House of Stone
 A palette of metal, stone, concrete, and wood acts as an extension of the site's geology. The materials function as a cohesive hierarchy deployed across the elevational change of the site, allowing the visitor to sense varying degrees of attachment: floating, touching, and rooting. Stone anchors the pavilions, echoing rock outcroppings while providing structural integrity and thermal mass. Concrete forms the continuous guiding path—a datum that bridges natural irregularities and connects the three structures. Wood introduces warmth and tactility, mediating between human touch and the cool forest air. Metal captures rainfall, ages with time, and offers a precise contrast to the organic surroundings.

Section 01 & 02

