



AERIAL

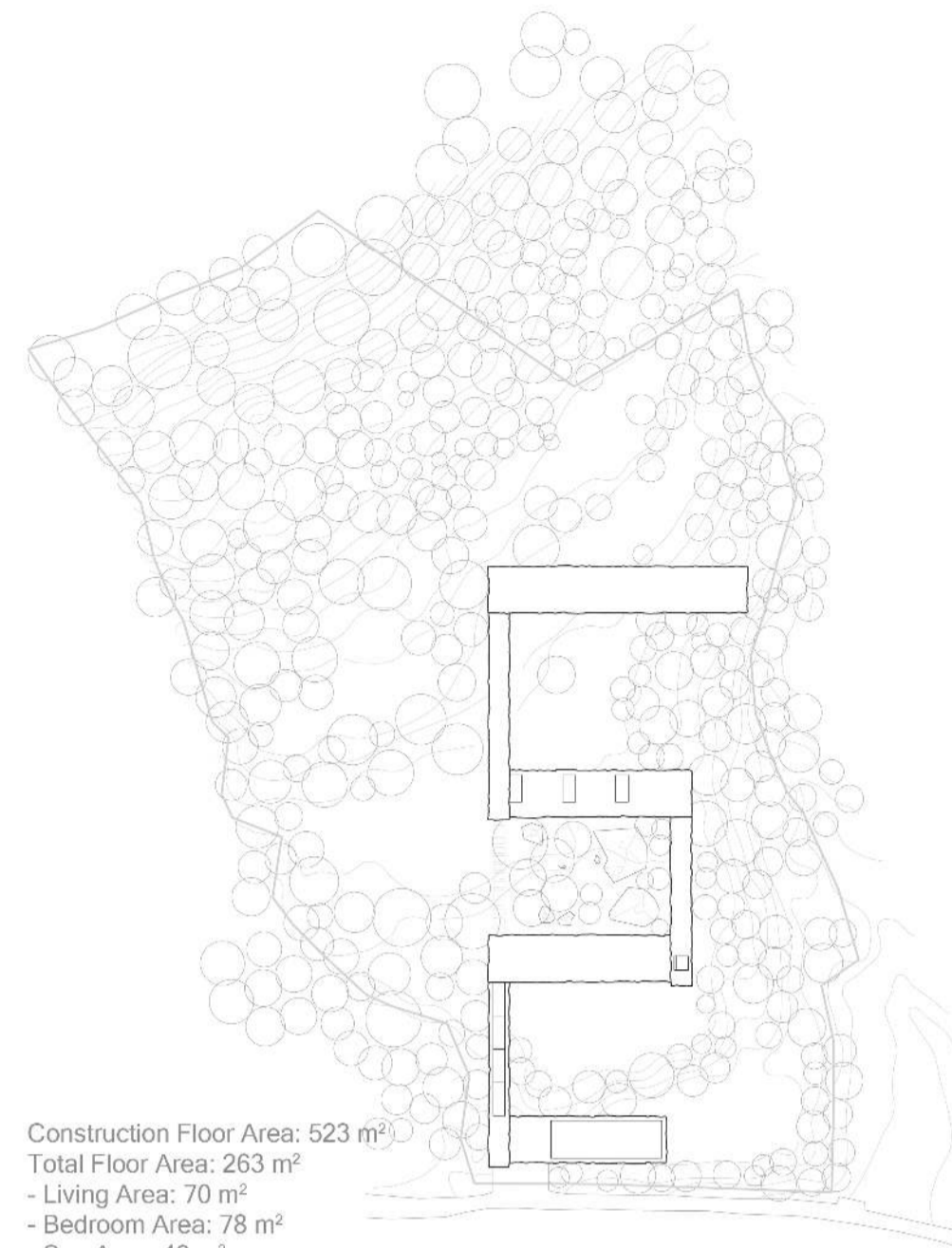
LIVING STONES

生ける石

Yakushima, an island forged from slowly cooled granite, presents a beautiful symbiosis between stone and tree. At the island's mountain peaks, breathtaking granite megaliths stand as an undeniable wonder of nature. The residence's design began with the concept of granite stones sitting effortlessly upon Yakushima's hills. Living Stones proposes a way of life inside the granite—the heart of the island—immersing the inhabitant in its materiality and geometry.

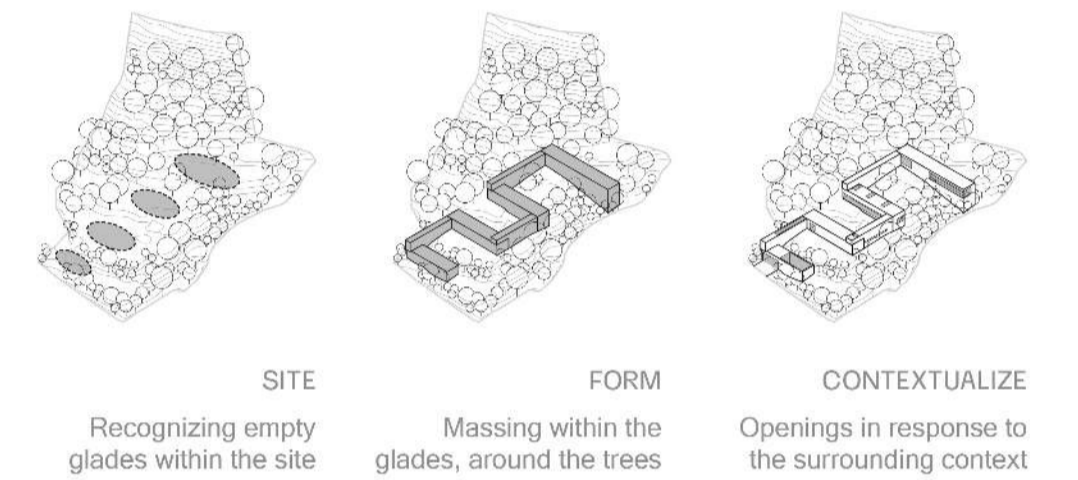
As you walk around the island, you witness an abundance of stone retaining walls along the rice paddies and houses, built to inhabit the sloped terrain. These architectural elements showcase the primal human will to occupy and live within natural conditions. Since the site shares these characteristics, the design follows the logic of the rice paddies and housing foundations, utilizing multiple heights within the residence to form layers along the slope.

The residence is designed to revere the existing trees on the site. The building's form emerged from zoning and connecting the bare areas where trees are sparse. By doing so, the massing becomes a meandering form that crawls up toward the mountain. Naturally, each zone occupies a different height and responds to the surrounding conditions and program with delicately placed openings.



Construction Floor Area: 523 m²
 Total Floor Area: 263 m²
 - Living Area: 70 m²
 - Bedroom Area: 78 m²
 - Spa Area: 48 m²
 - Support Area: 67 m²
 Outdoor Equipment Area: 70 m²

SITE PLAN 1:850



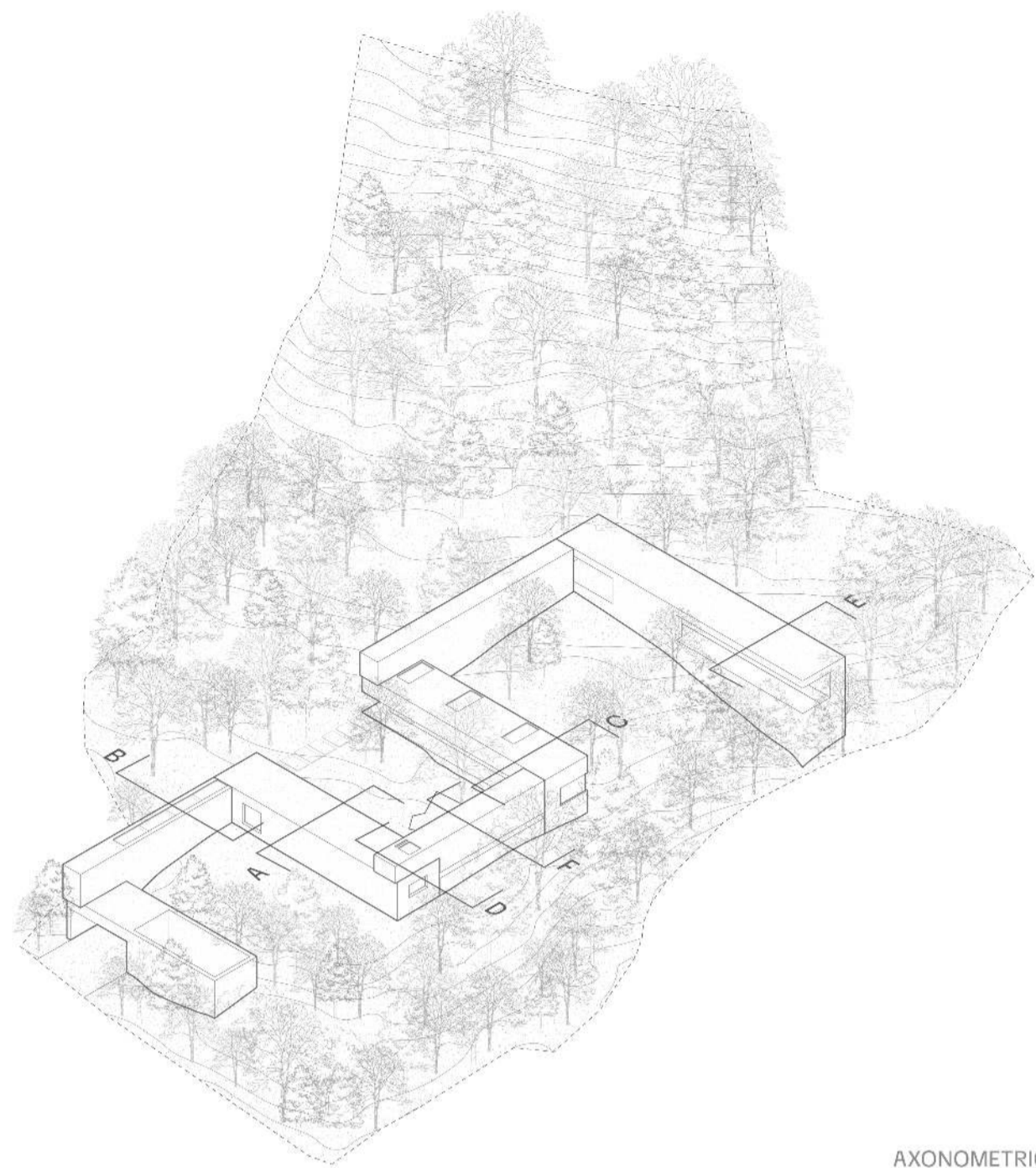
SITE
Recognizing empty glades within the site

FORM
Massing within the glades, around the trees

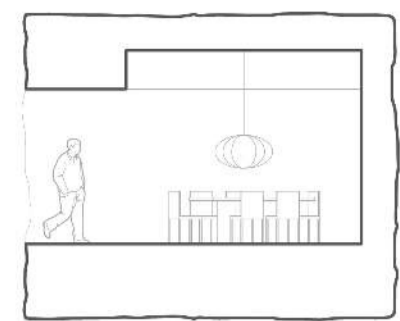
CONTEXTUALIZE
Openings in response to the surrounding context



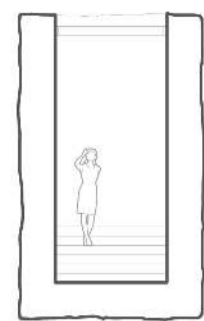
COURTYARD
0645



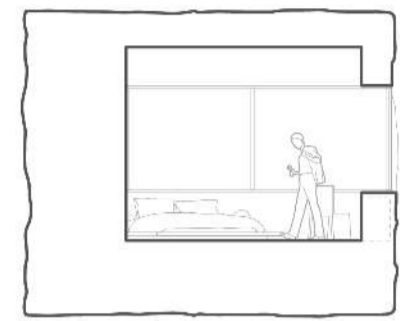
AXONOMETRIC



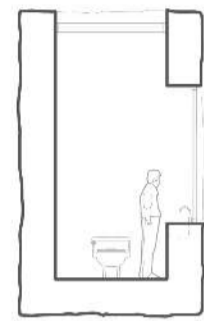
A Dining Room



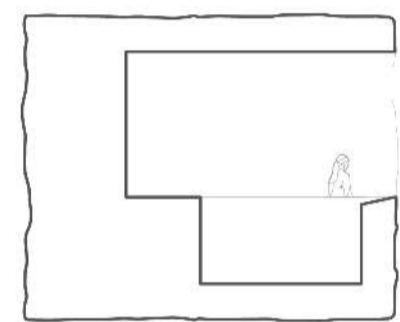
B Main Staircase



C Bedroom



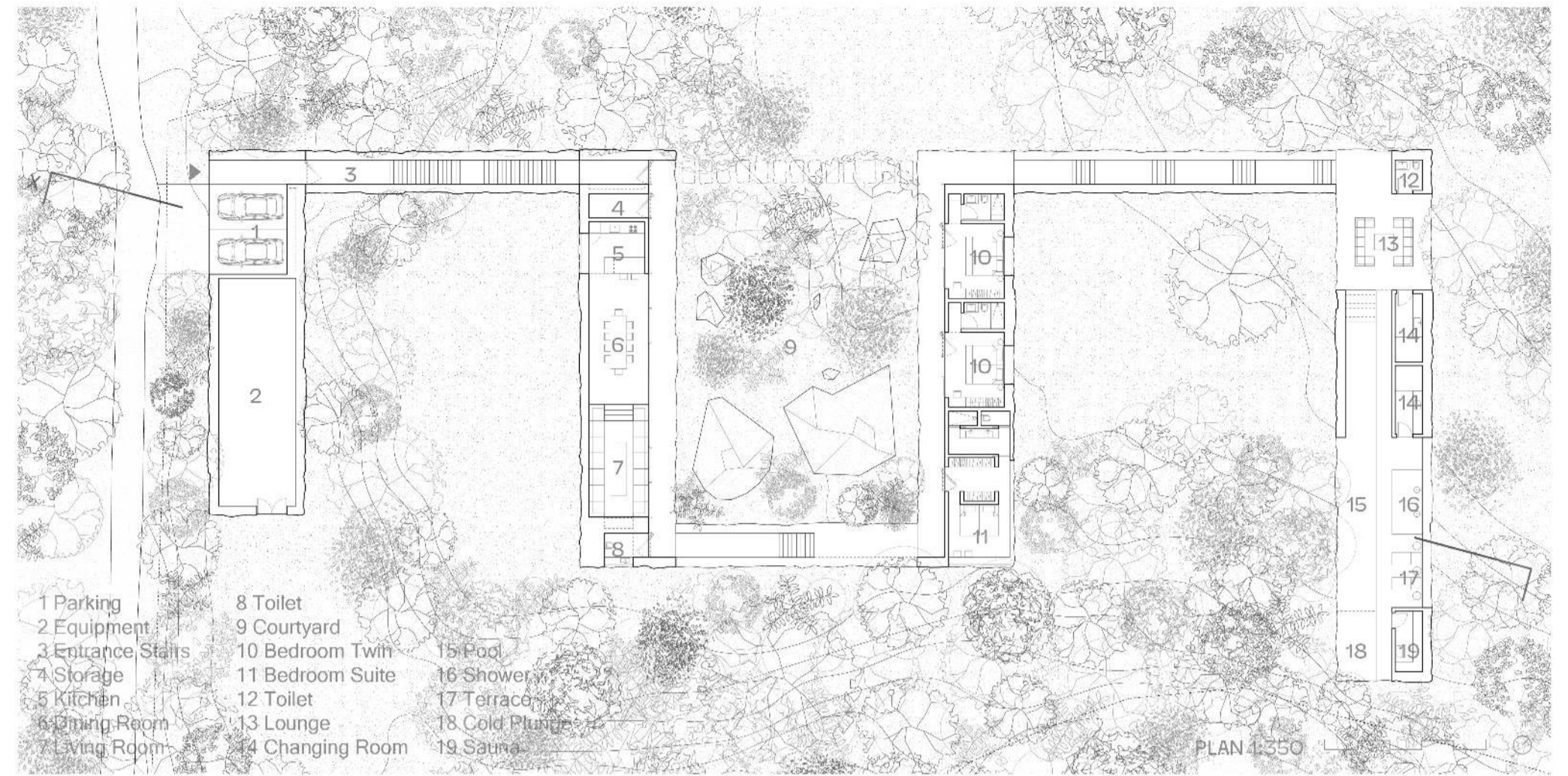
D Toilet



E Pool



F Walkway



CONCEPT

Japanese stone carving is a rich tradition, deeply rooted in the use of local granite. It emphasizes harmony with nature and subtle forms. Ranging from Buddhist iconography to garden elements and symbolic statues, it protects and reinforces the lives of the people. Living Stones translates this concept into architecture. Each zone is conceived as a monolithic lump of granite, carved out to become occupiable. As a resident, you walk around and within the varied textures of the stone. In this way, the granite—symbolizing the island of Yakushima—becomes a dwelling place.

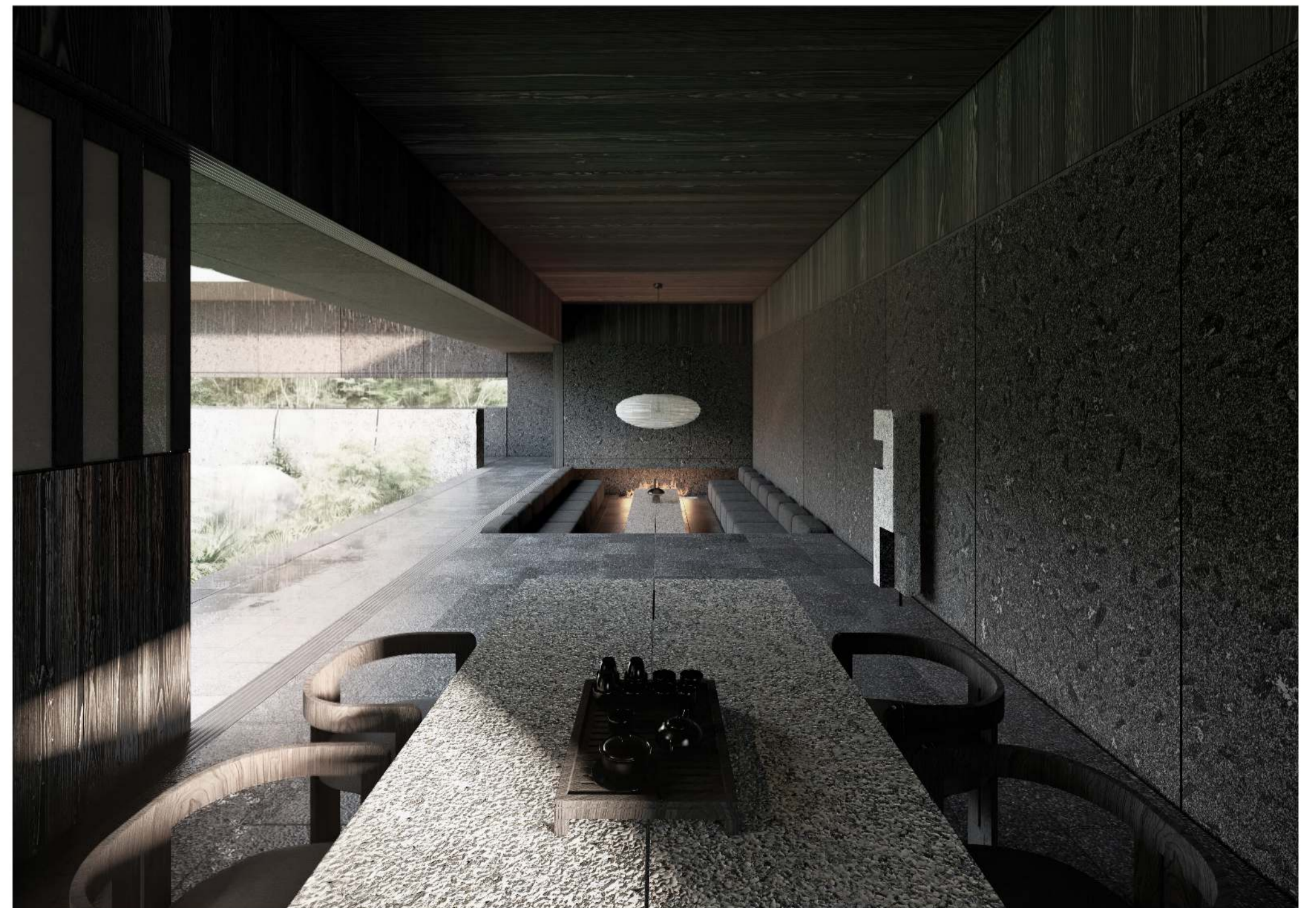
This carved-out quality is elegantly revealed in the building's section. Each section becomes sculptural, showcasing distinct types of openings toward the outdoors: a wide expanse facing the courtyard and ocean, a punched window framing the sky, or a low linear slit viewing the forest. These apertures allow residents to experience the nature of Yakushima through the frame of the granite. Integrated with human experience, the granite is no longer a simple material, but a living entity holding geological time and earthly existence.



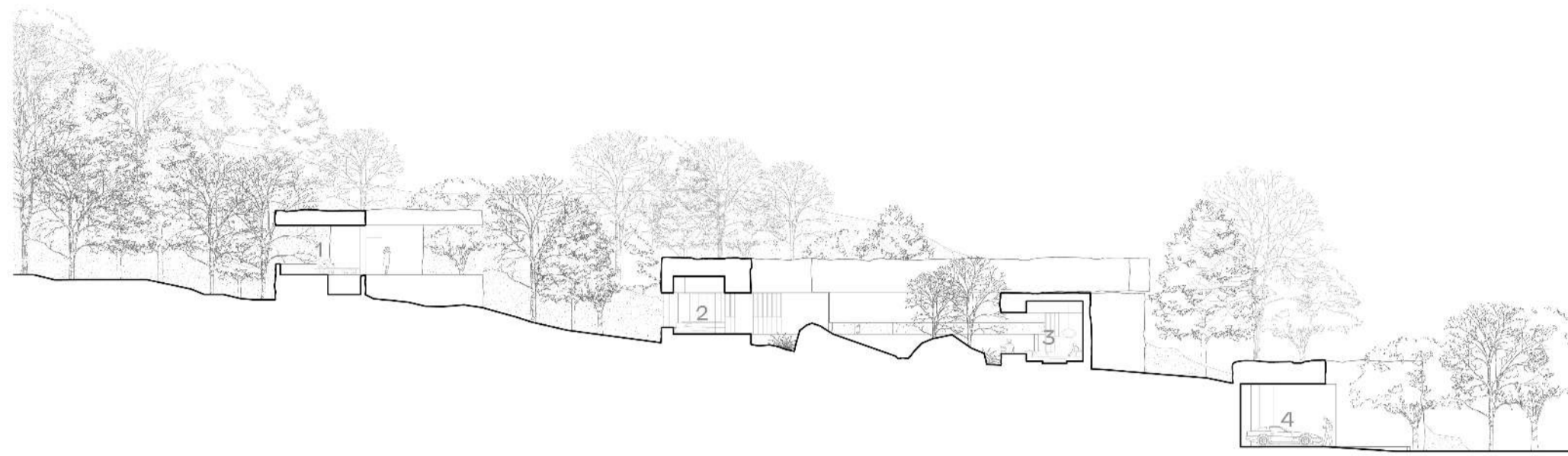
BEDROOM SUITE



COURTYARD

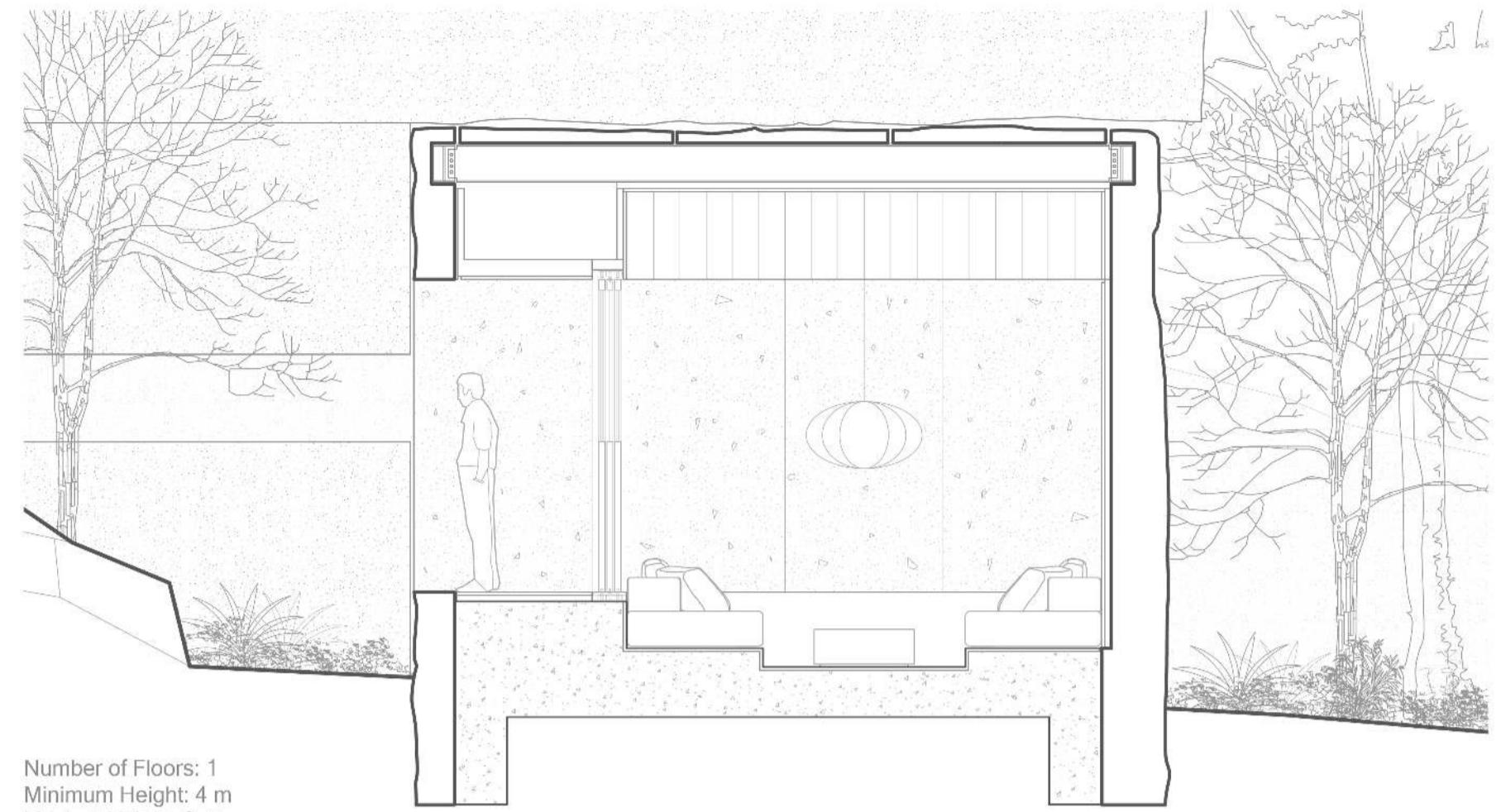


LIVING AND DINING
0645



- 1 Spa
- 2 Bedroom
- 3 Living Room
- 4 Entry

SECTION X 1:350



Number of Floors: 1
 Minimum Height: 4 m
 Maximum Height: 9 m
 Structure: Masonry

DETAIL SECTION 1:50



LAND

Along with reverencing the existing trees, the natural slope that is a fundamental condition of an island was a value that should not be defied. The idea behind the lifestyle of the residence is not a typical villa or hotel, but a space that amplifies the given characteristics of natural elements. Following the logic, main programs are separated in four categories, each of them effortlessly sitting on the hill to allow the residents ascend towards the mountain as they follow the stairs and walkways to their designated destination within the residence.

The meandering walkway is delicately designed to present people with an understated elegance of the scenery within and outside the site. From the entry staircase, you will see only the sky. As you walk up and introduce yourself to the living quarter, where a courtyard with wild vegetation and large and small stones are forming a garden. As you walk around the garden and reach the highest point of the residence, the spa area, you are presented with the breath taking view of the ocean. These moments of experience is what the Living Stones wants the residence to feel in the daily lives.

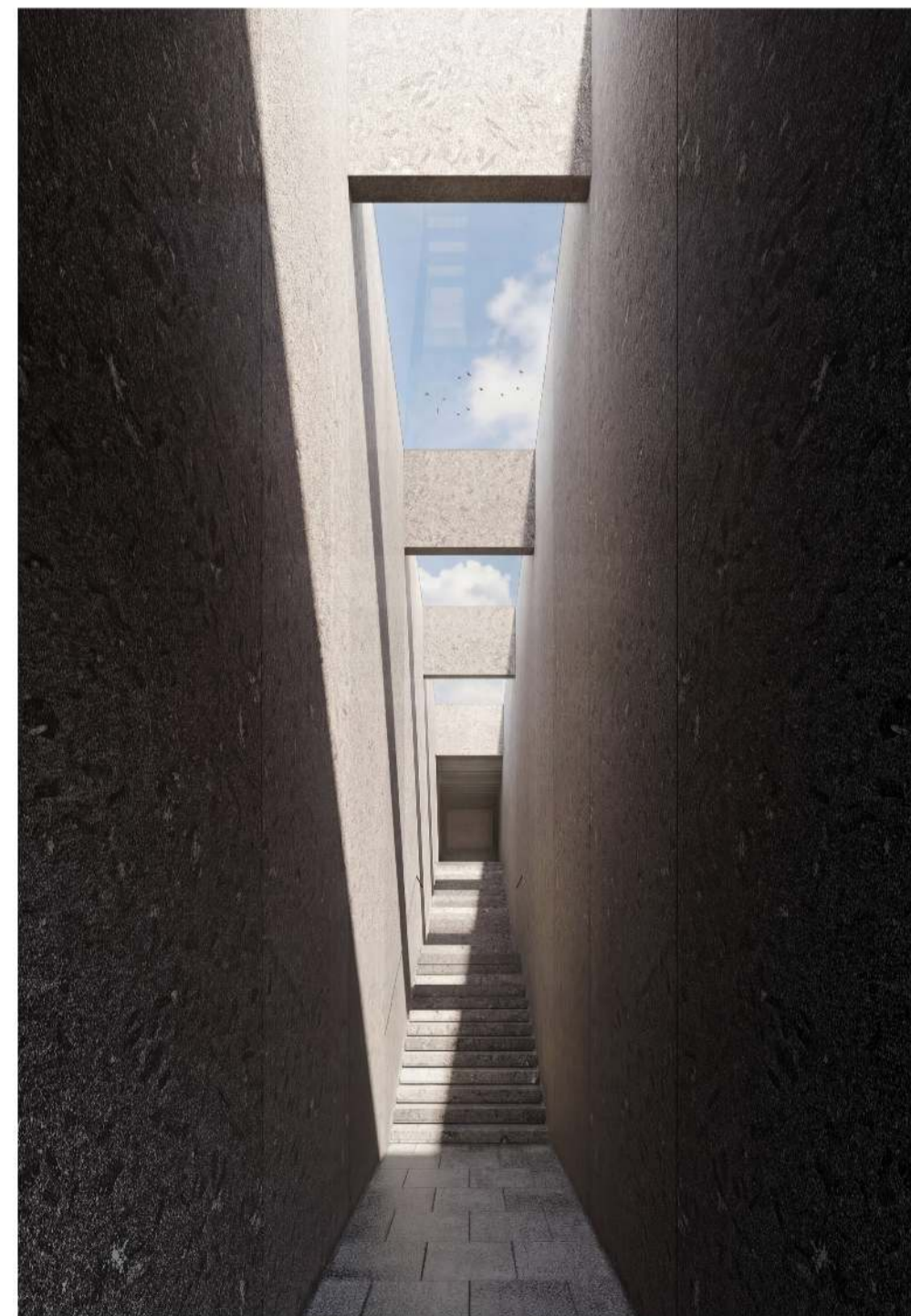
MATERIALITY

The material palette of Living Stones is simply composed of two elements: granite and cedar wood. Both are abundant local resources that represent Yakushima. The cedar wood undergoes a charring process, known as Yakisugi, to obtain natural resistance to rot, insects, and fire. This technique imparts a distinctive, beautiful black finish and textured feel that harmonizes with the granite. It is mainly used for softer, more private surfaces, such as the living room ceiling, bedroom floors, and the doors connecting these spaces.

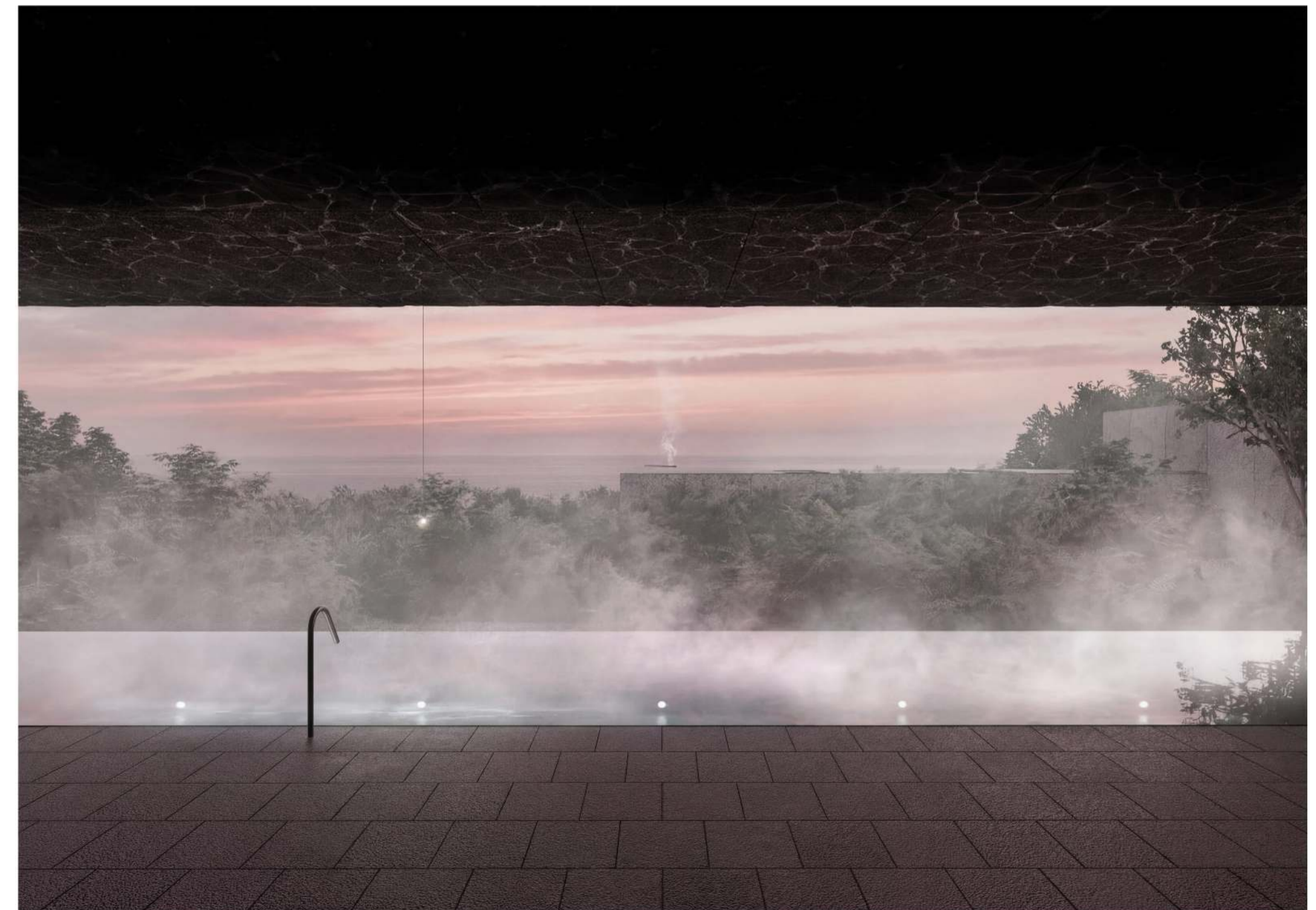
The granite is presented in three distinct finishes, selected for both aesthetics and function. The exterior surface retains its natural roughness, for the building's boulder-like appearance. Inside, the walls are finished with honed granite, showcasing the crystals in a flat matte surface. The floors feature flamed granite tiles, providing a practical, non-slip surface for outdoor areas—including the pool and walkways—as well as indoor spaces like the living, dining, and kitchen areas. These subtle textural differences create a nuanced and tactile experience throughout the residence.



STREET



ENTRY STAIRCASE



POOL AND SPA
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