

Mission Statement

June 23, 2011

1. Iconic design (first and foremost) ... that fits in the neighborhood
2. Sustainable without aesthetic compromise
3. Design for a family of five but accommodate guests and large gatherings
4. Abundant natural light, garden views and outdoor living
5. Use natural and healthy elements in gracious rooms with a clean, uncluttered, warm and peaceful feeling
6. Simplify: fewer moving parts = less maintenance; proven vs. bleeding edge = less worry, fewer annuity costs and more enjoyment; learn from others but don't be afraid to be the first when necessary
7. Reduce, reuse, recycle (demo, materials, construction)
8. Landscaping: low water use but visually stimulating, fragrant and colorful; employ grey water and rainwater catchment where feasible
9. Cost:
 - a. *Not* green for the elite
 - b. Do better than just optimizing the performance/cost curve by changing the shape of the curve and getting better performance at a lower cost ...
 - c. ... but spend more if you get more (now and on an NPV basis)
10. Design requirements:
 - a. Plan in great detail (measure *thrice*, cut once) before starting to build
 - b. Passive house certification = architect, builder, subs must have training
<http://www.passivehouse.us/passiveHouse/PassiveHouseInfo.html>
 - c. Net zero site energy use or Net Zero Source Energy Use
 - d. Aesthetic and efficient windows and doors
 - e. Surpass earthquake design requirements