

## HUNT RESIDENCE

Napa, California

When Phyllis Hunt purchased an eight-acre hillside lot in Napa, California, in the early 1990s, she knew instinctively she couldn't build just any house on the site. She wanted something organic and welcoming, something that fit the land. Her instincts proved her quite right—in more ways than one.

Though always privately owned, the oak-covered hill sat in the middle of one of Napa's oldest neighborhoods, and local residents had been using the hill for generations as a park. They picnicked, hiked, and practiced rock climbing on the boulders at the top of the hillside. From below, some even worked on their golf swings—old golf balls dot the lower reaches of the slope. Deer and other wildlife roamed between trees and boulders. Before Hunt's purchase, neighbors and city officials had defeated five previous home proposals for the site.

Hunt, a health-care professional, wasn't daunted. She felt she could offer the neighborhood a home that was pleasing and inviting, not, as she puts it, "a tract house on steroids." More important, she was willing to keep the land open to neighbors, as it had been in the past.

As Hunt pondered her piece of the hillside, her thoughts centered upon a round shape for the house, something

Below and opposite: Low rock walls embrace the house, which curves into its hillside setting. The windows capture the sun's warmth by day and provide views of city lights in the evening.





