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- 1 | Angled rooftop terrace.
- 2 | The villa embraces the courtyard and pool to create a private oasis in a dense urban environment.
- 3 | The house is imagined as a series of dynamic, angular forms huddled about the pool like a small, waterfront village.
- 4 | Cascading waters create a soothing focal point to the dynamic architectural composition.
- 5 | Abundant glazing blurs the distinction between interior and exterior space.

THE SITE

Set amongst a concrete jungle of repetitive abodes, this ultra modern villa designed by Costa del Sol-based Diseño Earle, is scribed into the natural fauna of the site. The house sits on a primarily southwest orientation running parallel to the natural site contours, which includes a small creek that swells during the seasonal rains. The angular shape of the structure shields the interior courtyard and pool area from the surroundings, and provides an oasis of privacy within the dense site. The sculptured roof helps protect the site from the gaze of nearby residents, while incorporating a terrace that delivers panoramic sea views and even more sun exposure. The house could be described as a hybrid, part modern villa, part garden pavilion.

DESIGN

The sculptural ethos of this residence is a deliberate mix of essential design concepts; creating a virtual embrace with the ancient trees, turning one's back on the unsightly street and the protection of the unique location. The roof gives focus to the angular geometry of the plan as it grows from the asymmetrical tapering alignment of the site, creating dramatic outdoor living spaces. Working closely with the clients (a permanently Costa-based professional couple), the architects sought to create a house based on an intimate dialogue between the building and the landscape, seamlessly linking indoor and outdoor lifestyles. The pool, which wraps around

the courtyard and private areas of the villa, acts as a natural contrast to the modernist construction. The waterfall smoothly cascades from roof to pool, and serenades the master suite with the cooling sound of rushing water. The 'L' plan allows each space in the house to orient itself towards the courtyard, using the pool as a focal point. The choreography of the house is flexible, allowing for various paths of movement and the outside courtyard acts as a counterpoint to the dynamic plan.

CONSTRUCTION

From a distance, the focus is on the form itself. Heavy masonry walls wrap the building on the street side and to the north, leaving most of the glass on the courtyard side of the building. The curved, sculptural roof is covered in copper infused tiles. Both inside and out, the massive steel structure is exposed at various points of the building. The change in roof levels allows for natural light to enter at unusual points throughout. The building is also partially cooled by these unusual elements which allow for evaporative cooling and circulation.

The building was constructed on an old creek bed which created the need for much deeper foundations than would normally be required. This develops an interesting contrast between the wispy steel structure and the heavy concrete structure below.

