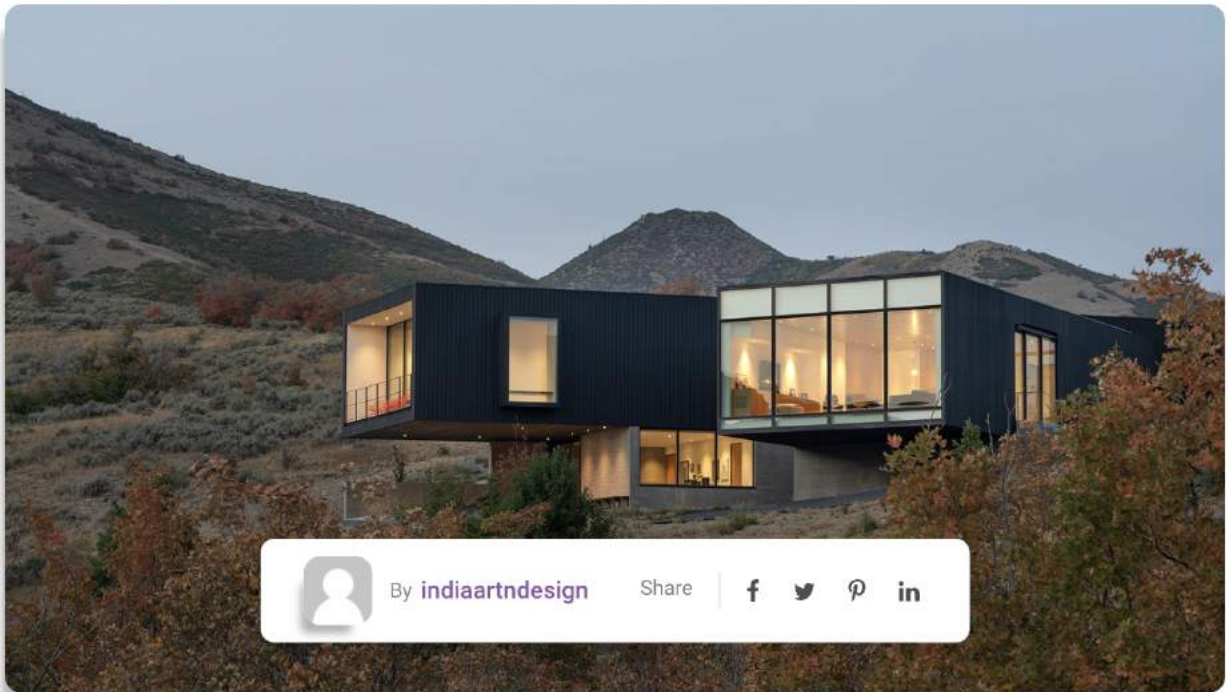




## This Wabi-Sabi Residence Draws upon Japanese Aesthetic Culture



Sparano + Mooney Architecture's daring and sustainably designed residence is nestled into a canyon high above Salt Lake City.

'Wabi-Sabi' is an ancient, philosophical tenet of Japanese aesthetic culture that embraces the imperfect, incomplete, and transient. It espouses simplicity and honesty in expression, those modest things in our world that convey beauty as they weather and age. Based on this very principle, the design of this home, located in Emigration Canyon above Salt Lake City, references the relationships among the mountain, vegetation, and wildlife found on the site – an expression of both, static and dynamic elements in nature.



The home is separated into two cantilevered volumes that float above the landscape and are finished with blackened skin. Running along an east-west axis, the north volume contains the home's more private areas – including a cantilevered outdoor patio featuring a spa pool – while the southwest volume contains spacious zones for gathering. Floor-to-ceiling glazed windows allow natural light to stream in, capturing the surrounding views from most rooms. The central hallway's skylights bring natural illumination deep into the interior.





The dramatic view down the canyon, with city lights visible in the distance, is the primary focus of the main living room. The interior spaces are designed to double-function as gallery spaces for the homeowners' collection featuring regional artists.





Materials are bright and warm with white walls, white oak flooring, and white Caesarstone surfacing. The rough texture of the board-formed concrete walls contrasts with the refined beauty of the natural landscape beyond and compliment the rugged aspect of the site's terrain.

The exterior is clad with full-height, vertical cedar boards. Establishing the overall height of the volumes on standard lengths of boards available, a modular strategy minimises waste, capitalising on time. Additionally, the large-format tile finish in a stack bond pattern extends the full width of the corridors and patio, maximising coverage. This considered approach to materials extends to the selection of interior elements, fixtures, and furnishings too.









The home blends in while also standing out from the natural surroundings. Alternative views of the canyon become evident from every angle within the room. At the front of the house, the cedar cladding morphs into a screen as part of an entry procession punctuated by glimpses of the panoramic view.



Designed to achieve LEED Gold certification, the home includes an array of sustainable features. The window system is designed with operable openings at key locations to take advantage of natural site ventilation, thereby reducing the need for mechanical heating/cooling, and increasing indoor air quality. The vegetated roof is planted with local grasses, camouflaging the home in its context, as the site is augmented with native and drought-tolerant plants and trees, merging into the landscape.

Several passive strategies including integrating the grading with the site topography to encourage the existing storm run-off to remain as unchanged as possible, and low-flow fixtures used throughout the home, the design works to minimise energy usage and further acclimatise the home contextually.

Fact File:

Typology: Residential Architecture

Architect Firm: Sparano + Mooney Architecture, Utah

Area: 4000 sq. ft.

Location: Salt Lake City, USA

Photography credits: Matt Winqvist and Lucy Call

Text courtesy of v2com newswire

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