

The client is a nature enthusiast who wished for a weekend house that would serve as a private retreat to enjoy quiet natural surroundings. Thus the brief called for a house that would allow the client to unwind and feel closer to nature.

The site is a small valley situated on a hill, surrounded by thick rainforest and blessed with picturesque streams and cool rushing brooks of waterfalls. It is a hilly slope, 1 acre in size, and sits in a village of Janda Baik, a popular weekend destination for city dwellers, 45 km North of Kuala Lumpur.

The main idea behind this project is to create an establishment that emulates the shape and the characteristics of a leaf. The design objective is to bring nature closer, allowing the owner to enjoy and observe the indigenous surroundings as she escapes from her busy and hectic life during the weekends.

The architect wanted to create a modern structure that would stand out in a rainforest setting. Experimenting with the idea of a contemporary design brought about the concept of exuding lightweight impressions and elevated feelings, just like a leaf hanging on a tree. The architect also intended to highlight the contrast between the modern structure and the rainforest setting creating a symbolic contrast between wild nature (the surrounding rainforest) and the modern civilization (the modern structure).

The spatial arrangement of the living hall, dining and kitchen are designed within an open space setting, and

IRONLEAF

Nestled within its green surroundings is a uniquely designed bungalow that reaches out expansively within its site, immersing itself into nature.

CLIENT
PRIVATE

LOCATION
JANDA BAIK, PAHANG

YEAR COMPLETED
FEBRUARY 2010

ARCHITECT
MK LOOI ARCHITECT IN
COLLABORATION WITH
LNL SDN BHD

SITE AREA
4,046.9 SQM

BUILT-UP AREA
418.06 SQM

PROJECT PRINCIPALS
AY LOOI MUN KIT, ADRIAN
LIEW K.W.

PROJECT TEAM
LNL SDN BHD

C & S ENGINEER
B & L ENGINEERS
SDN BHD

MAIN CONTRACTORS
WT RENOVATION &
CONSTRUCTION

PHOTOGRAPHER
COURTESY OF
LNL SDN BHD



TOP RIGHT, FROM LEFT: Pond at ground floor; staircase detail; BELOW: Broad balcony. Also in view, the unique roof structure

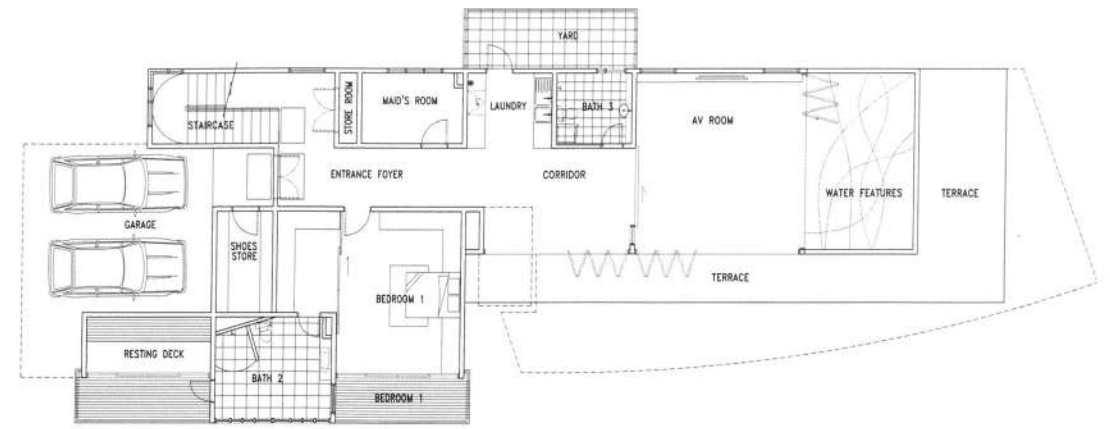


made possible by long span steel structures. These spaces are organised befittingly and finished with a neat form of architecture. Busy activities are focused on the first floor with living hall dining and kitchen, whereas the ground floor with mainly bedroom and AV room is reserved with an aesthetically pleasing environment, for

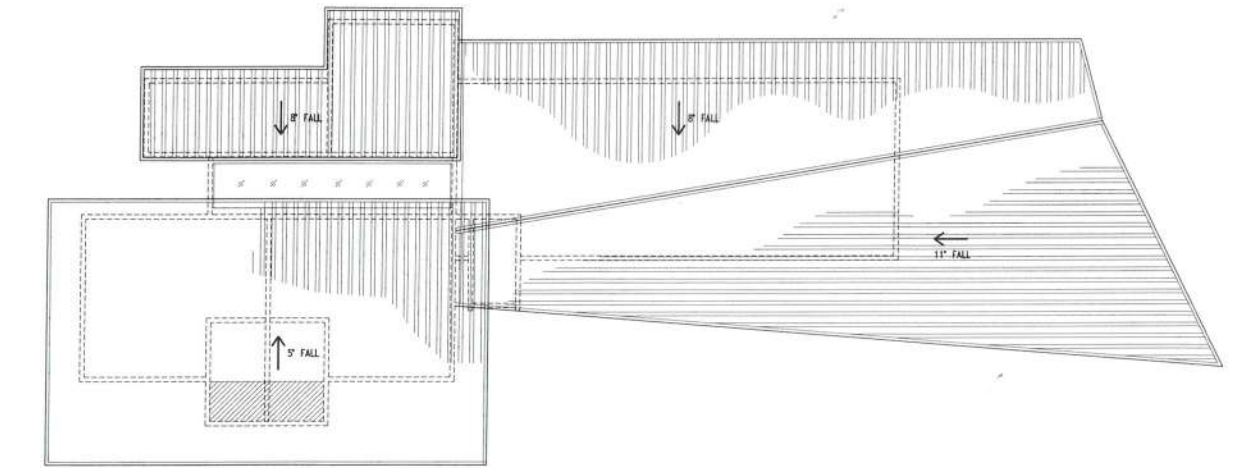
owners to enjoy what the site offers. The transition between the spaces, from the dining to the living area, is emphasized through the design. The flow of movement from the living area leads to the balcony and overlooking the vista. This allows uninhibited airflow through the entire house. There is an

open bathroom for an unconstrained indulgence in nature. The size of the entire house, with 2 rooms, comfortably allows for a small family to stay at one time, but it is inviting for approximately a number of 8 guests. It is about 418 sqm of habitable areas in total. The spacious balconies allow for people to interact with each

other while at the same time enjoy the natural greeneries. Spaces and materials are selected and arranged to integrate well with the surroundings. Glass walls and windows are used to connect the outside to the inside of the house. The balcony is cantilevered out to the open. The first floor cantilevered balcony



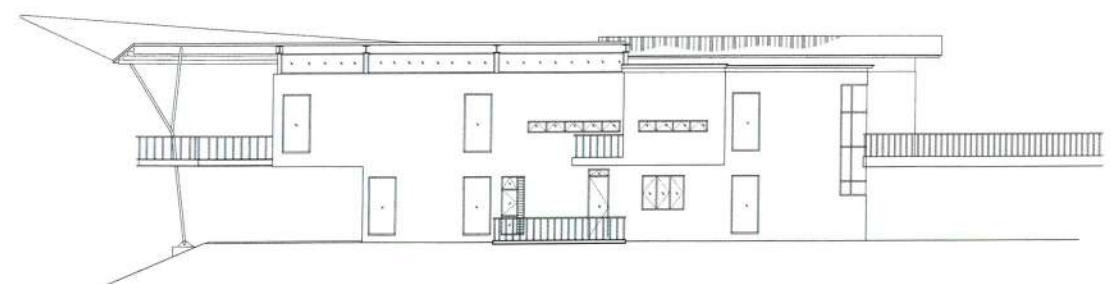
Ground Floor Plan 0m 2.5m 5m



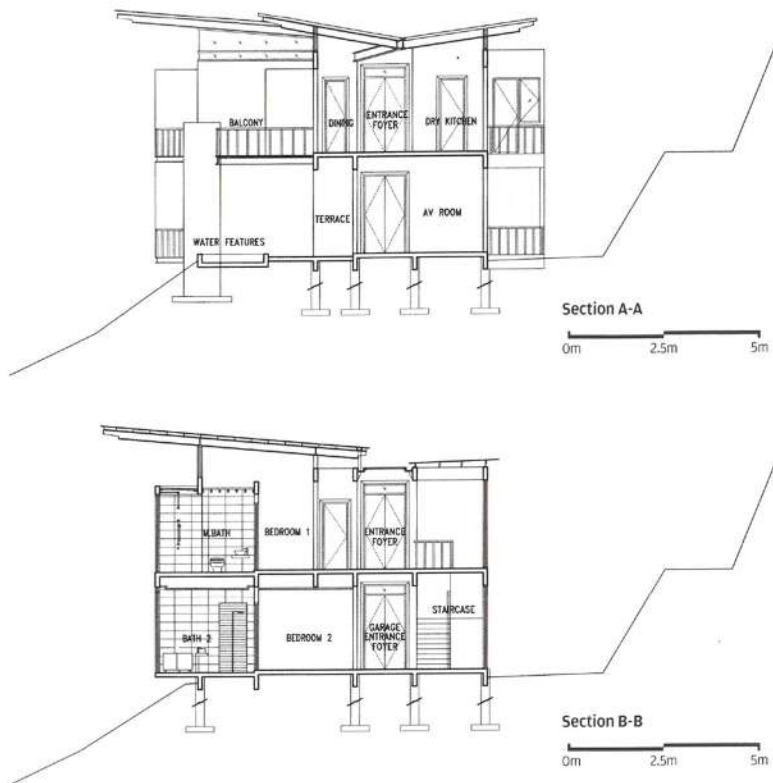
Roof Plan 0m 2.5m 5m



Front Elevation 0m 2.5m 5m



Rear Elevation 0m 2.5m 5m



FROM TOP: open toilet; the metal roof; RIGHT PAGE FROM TOP: View of outside and inside of the living area, near the island counter; view of the living room

gives an extra sense of elevation due to the fact that the house itself is built on a high ground, creating an exciting shape of the overall structure. Whilst offering a breathtaking view, it also helps blurring the edge between the interior and the exterior, when the sliding glass doors are opened. The same timber flooring is continued toward the exterior, portraying the connection with the outside nature.

The steep contour causes the design to be linear which compliments the use of the 'leaf' concept. The site context of sitting in a high ground provides maximum open space to take full advantage of the cooling air flow, for ventilation as well as for visual purposes. Upon stepping up to the first floor, one's eyes will immediately be directed to the living room, while the glass sliding doors allow you to enjoy astounding views of the hill. Complimented with the whispering wind, wandering monkeys and twittering birds literally everywhere, it is only natural that most people

would instantly fall in love with this location. One could even watch hornbills hanging out on a tall tree if one is lucky.

The materials are carefully chosen to sustain and require minimal maintenance, considering the natural environment and the remoteness of the location. Metal decking, floor-to-ceiling glass panels and steel frames are mainly used for the house, while a solid concrete base is built for the house to sit on. Steel is the main feature that can be pre-fabricated off site to save workers cost and time.

Polished concrete, rendered cement surfaces, are applied in some areas of the house, from the walls to the breakfast table. These materials also create a striking contrast with the wooden decks and floorings. These choices of materials provide a sense of balance and harmony as they are well blended into the design. Trees cut on site are recycled and used as materials for furniture, the staircase and outdoor uses.

