

Architecture

Elevated Design & Curved Roof

Goal

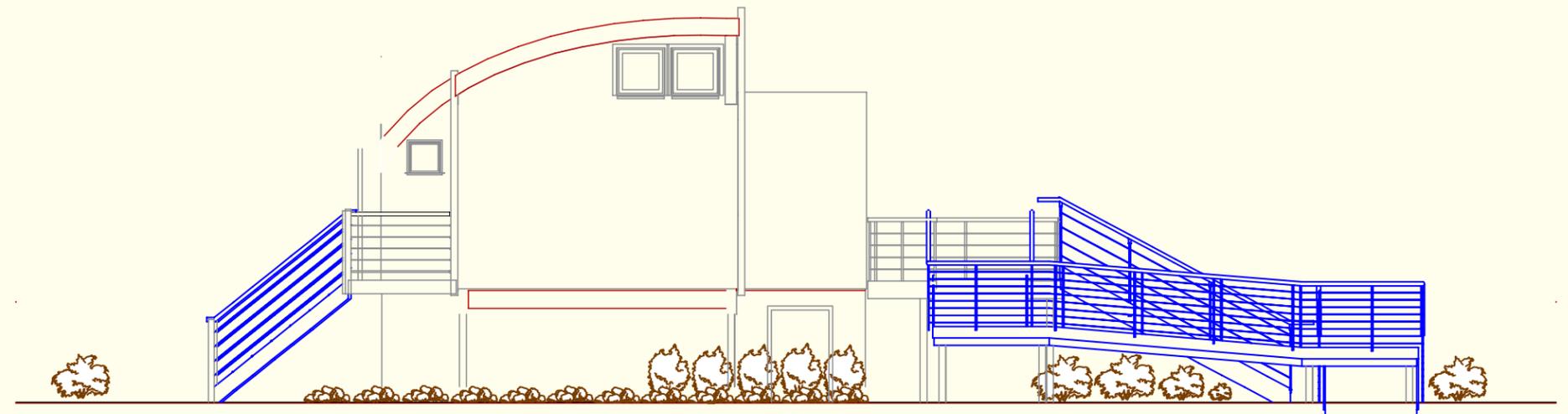
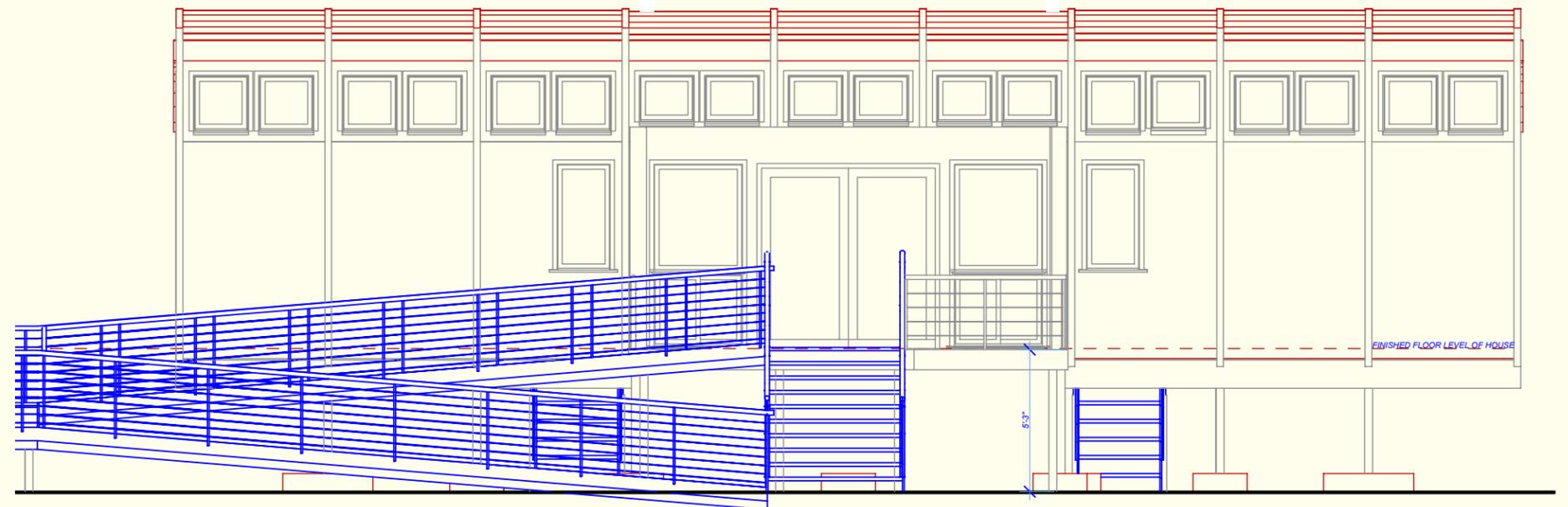
The team set out to build a showcase house that inspires the public to “go solar” The house integrates sustainable design and technology into the building shape.

Elevated Design

Think about how a house touches the ground and impacts the natural water systems and land around it. This house has a small footprint, leaving more permeable surface on the site. The elevated design maximizes living space, limited by contest rules, by storing batteries and water tanks below the central living space.

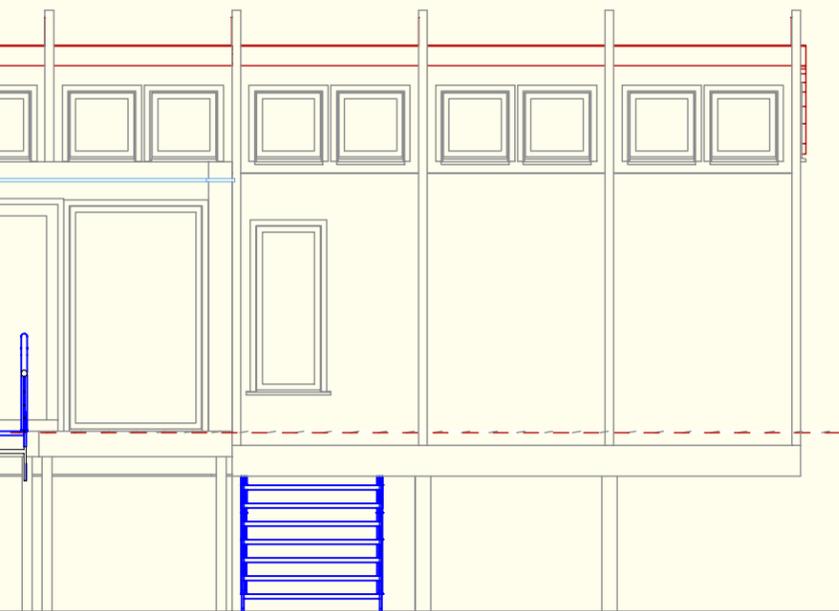
Curved Roof

Many people associate solar houses with steep solar roofs of the 1970's. The curved roof on this house creates a softer, inviting form. It acts as a metaphor for the path of the sun across the sky. The curvature fixes the solar panels at a range of angles. This accommodates the varying altitude of the sun throughout the year.



Entrance

The house extends to meet guest with a front entry volume. The walls of the threshold are distinguished by continuing the Plycem cement panel veneer of the base into the interior. The entry has a 7' ceiling that then opens into a 12' ceiling in the main living area. The north wall of the entry is almost entirely glass allowing the east and west walls to be seen from both the interior and exterior. The front porch becomes a visual and spatial extension of the living space.



Doorways

Sliding pocket doors mark the threshold between the living area and the bedroom. Pocket doors allow a large doorway into the bedroom, opening the room to the rest of the house and providing privacy when desired. Keeping the doors in one plane saves space and continues an operational motif that is repeated in the closet doors, patio doors, and upper kitchen cabinets.

Private Decks

Decks open the house to the landscape and create habitable exterior space for each room. Tend to the herb garden or have morning coffee on the kitchen deck. Enter the bedroom deck through sliding patio doors. Shutters fold over the doors allowing a breeze to passively cool the house, while maintaining privacy.

Built-In Cabinets

Stay organized and save space using the built-in cabinets. The team handmade these cabinets from bamboo panels and wheat board under the guidance of a local carpenter.

