21st Century Houses

150 of the World's Best

Robyn Beaver

Harage:

Rubin Residence

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, USA

McIntosh Poris Associates Photography: Kevin Bauman This residence, designed for an empty-nester couple, rests on the edge of a ravine. From the street, the house appears as a single-story ranch home surrounded by lush landscaping. Inside, the house virtually opens up to nature through the vast wall of windows in the back, giving endless views of the woods and ravine and abundant natural light into the open living-dining area. Cut-out windows throughout the house frame the natural setting, bringing it into the home almost as artwork.

The main floor encompasses areas used on a regular basis such as the master suite, kitchen, living room, dining room, and den. With few walls

separating individual rooms, the space is organized instead by functional objects such as a dual-purpose quilted leather wall that faces the living area and a cantilevered wood-clad table-top, attached to a storage unit, that separates the kitchen, living, and dining rooms.

The lower level looks out to the large courtyard and Zen garden and the ravine beyond. In the courtyard, a set of stairs rises along a cedar-clad volume to an unattached screen porch and terrace, providing additional space for outside dining and entertaining. The stairs are lined with glass railings for uninterrupted views.



























