

Architect Norm Applebaum at Fox Hollow

Norm Applebaum Architect Address: 9830 Edgelake Dr, La Mesa, CA 91941, USA Tel: +1 619-463-1867 Email: normapplebaumaia@cox.net

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Introduction by Ian Volner

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Perched atop a tree-covered knoll on a 320-acre (129-hectare) site in West Paso Robles, this magnificent home was designed around three multi-trunked oak trees. The structure becomes one with the site as it weaves around the trees, integrating with nature and framing views in all directions.

The design process began with an initial program supplied by the client. From there, a floor plan was devised, delineated and set into the site, creating a study model for the structure. Each space was then studied relative to scale in order to understand what the space might feel like. After several months examining the model, the architect met with the client to review and approve the completed model. When approved, the structure was scaled from the model and working drawings were created for the commencement of construction.

Materials used include steel, wood, glass, and smooth Portland cement plaster. The straightforward post and beam structure utilizes steel I-beams and steel tube columns, with jaw dropping cantilevered overhangs, 25 feet (8 meters) to 50 feet (15 meters), and steel I-beams spanning up to 100 feet (30 meters), as impressive and distinctive features of the home.

Norm Applebaum









