

The Changing Home

Thoughts on post-Covid19 spaces linked to the natural elements

Alex Michaelis, founder, Michaelis Boyd



Plans for "Leaf House", Michaelis Boyd

Home is still home, but where it was once a transient space for many - running in and out early in the morning and late at night, crashing out for the weekend and left empty on holidays in search of experiential times in different settings and countries - in 2020 our vision of home has now changed, I think for ever.

There will be no seismic shift to going back to work full time - we will have work spaces that are smaller and shared and for occasional meetings and think tanks. The home must adapt.

What is fascinating is how quickly we forget that these pandemics and health crises have happened again and again - the reaction this time has been exaggerated by the super highway of information, the connectivity and the instant news culture we have.

I feel strongly that as the world gets fuller and fuller, architecture of the home - a now the work space as well - needs to embrace the simplicity applied to design in the 30's with an understanding that nature, plants and trees, as well as the natural elements of sun, wind, air and earth all need to be part of design.

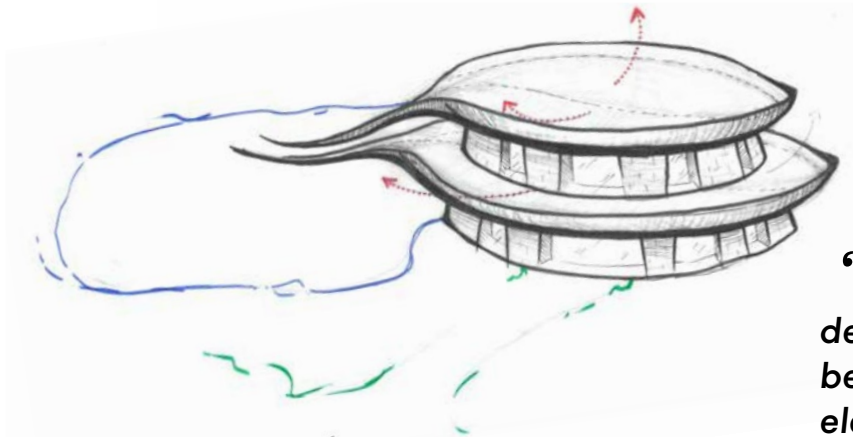
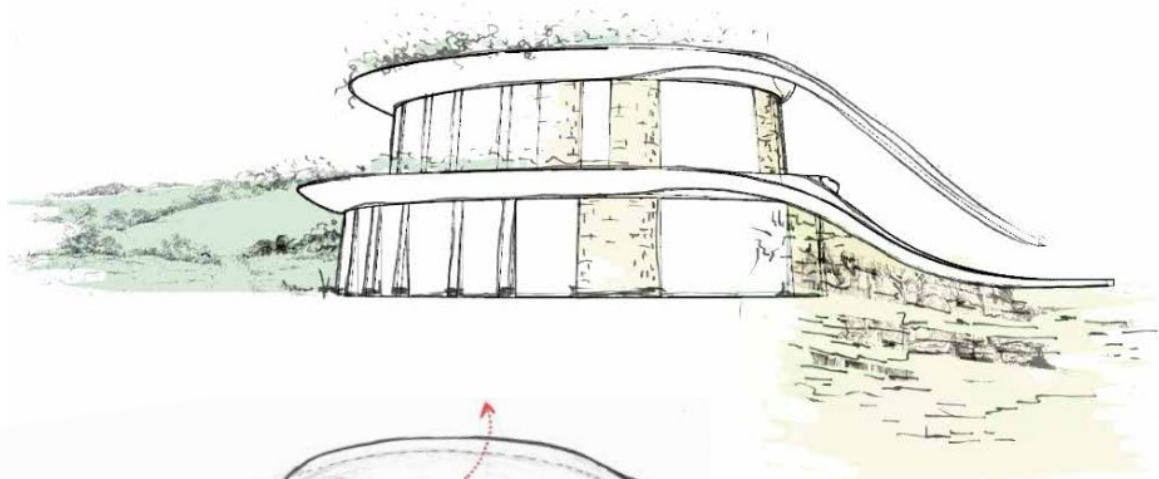
What if every flat and roof in the world was planted and fuelled by nature? What if all homes were built to maximise energy efficiency?

A recent article by Vitra told us - "In the 30's, Alvar Aalto, completed the Paimio Sanatorium, a facility for the treatment of tuberculosis in southwest Finland, whose main purpose was to 'function as a medical instrument,' architecture to promote recovery from disease. Daylight from the windows and the terraces, where patients could sleep, was part of the treatment, as the sun had been proved effective at killing tuberculosis bacteria. At the sanatorium, architecture itself was the cure".

The 1930's created sanitariums of cleanliness and simplicity. The 2020's need to create simple spaces inextricably linked with the natural elements. Nature should be leading design and simply and organically be interceded with the hard elements architects and designers have always moulded.

The garden home with growing trees and plants, fruits and vegetables, supporting the humans inside by swapping oxygen for carbon dioxide, maybe even using human waste to fertilise - a circle of life creating simplicity and calm.

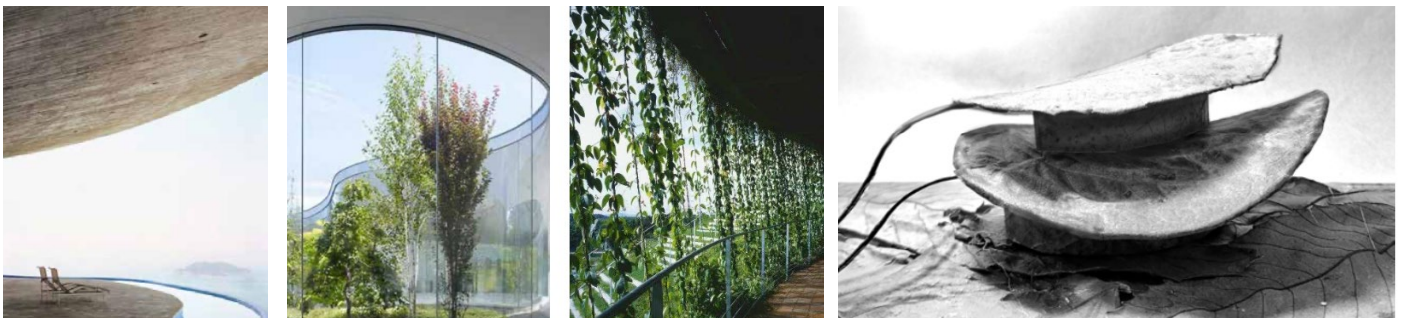
The greenhouses of each home and of bigger developments being the heart of the home but also acting as a thermal break for hotter or colder external conditions. We can learn from slow growth of nature to slow down ourselves, reconnecting with the lost roots of the planet - the greatest guide for humanity is our planet and all the natural systems on Mother Earth.



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- Alex Michaelis

Sketches and inspiration for “Leaf House”



About Michaelis Boyd

Michaelis Boyd is an international team of 40 architects and designers dedicated to creating exceptional architecture, interiors and objects. Based in London and New York, the studio was founded in 1996 and has since worked on residential and commercial projects across five continents. Our design-led approach results in simple, light-filled spaces that incorporate playful elements and sustainable solutions - from original new build properties and historic renovations to luxury hotels and resorts, private members clubs, restaurants and bars and retail stores. By working collaboratively to question, provoke and contribute solutions, the studio’s positive and pragmatic team push boundaries to deliver bespoke projects that exceed our clients’ expectations.

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