An acknowledgement of Monterey history had strong design influence for the Idea House.

– THOMAS BATEMAN HOOD. AIA
The 2008 Sunset Idea House responds to the program for a residence with flexible spaces using sustainable materials for an active family. Architectural form is influenced by Central Coast building traditions, dating prior to statehood in 1850 to present day. Consisting of three iconic structures, loosely connected by walled Courtyards, we created three imaginary “histories” about the site to define overall architectural character.

First History: Hacienda
Ten years before California’s first Constitutional Convention, land adjacent to the Juan de Anza trail, dating from the Spanish colonial period was settled. A traditional one-story Hacienda was constructed in the adobe style. Courtyards walls enclosed a vegetable garden and animals. Oaks provided shade and bay views.

Second History: Ranch
A ravaging fire in the late 1800s resulted in abandonment of the homestead. The land changed hands in a poker game to a rancher. Seeing the advantages of the old homestead site on high ground with fresh water alongside the old De Anza trail, the ranch family constructed three structures: a two-story Residence and Carriage House with verandas, and a Barn amidst the adobe remains. Self-sufficiency was still essential for survival. The cattle market was nearly a half-day’s journey by horse. The ranch remained active until the 1960s. Ranching had declined. Population and demand for housing grew, and the land was sold.

Third History: Residence
Today along the Central Coast many ranches have been developed into homes and offices. For the Idea House, an acknowledgement of “history” has strong influence. By design, “old” ranch buildings appear to have been restored and repurposed. New energy technologies and “green” materials have been used. Cisterns replace rain barrels. The Barn’s west wall is cut away, allowing the shading oak to continue to thrive.

Self-Sufficiency into Sustainable Design
The ways of self-sufficiency have evolved into a need for energy efficiency and resource management. Sustainable design and responsible construction are now standard for our work as architects.

At Thomas Bateman Hood Architecture, we strive in all our work to demonstrate our commitment to design excellence for our clients, our community, and the environment.

Sustainable Elements of the Idea House include:
- A solar thermal system on the Bunk House warms radiant floors with comfort and efficiency.
- A photo-voltaic panel array on the Carriage House generates electricity.
- Cisterns collect rainwater from The Barn to maintain the restored landscape of native plants.
- Reclaimed timbers and old growth redwood barn siding are used with structural insulated panels and manufactured trusses.
- New fire resistive siding recalls wood without loss of trees.
- Energy Star rated windows, lighting and appliances improve efficiency beautifully.
- Low VOC paints improve indoor air quality.
- Light-filled spaces utilize sustainable materials and provide varied settings for family and guests, connecting interiors to Courtyards and bay views.

Vestiges of 160 years of life on the Central Coast can be relevant as we build today. The entire design and construction team worked together to create a sense of new in a familiar way—like a thoughtful remodel of an old ranch. The Idea House demonstrates how “green building” can create results that are responsible, functional and beautiful.

For further information or a no obligation meeting, please contact us thru the above info or e-mail: tom@t-hood.com