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# The Sea Ranch: Fifty Years Of Architecture, Landscape, Place, And Community On The Northern California Coast



## Synopsis

One hundred miles north of San Francisco, the Sonoma County coast meets the Pacific Ocean in a magnificent display of nature. This is the location of the Sea Ranch, an area covering several thousand acres of large, open meadows and forested natural settings and interspersed with award-winning architecture. The ecologically inspired plan drawn up for the Sea Ranch in the mid-1960s caused a quiet revolution in architecture. Renowned landscape designer Lawrence Halprin's master plan incorporated a set of building guidelines that structured the visual, as well as physical, impact upon the landscape. Subsequent buildings by architects such as Joseph Esherick, Charles Willard Moore, Donlyn Lyndon, and William Turnbull have been recognized worldwide for their remarkable environmental sensitivity. This revised and updated edition of the now-classic monograph, the only one on the Sea Ranch, contains eleven additional projects and an updated account of the ongoing development process and land-management issues.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Go north of San Francisco along the coast for a hundred miles or so. Buy 4,000 acres of timber and grazing land. You'll find that you have quite a setting for a housing development. Add rules that say how the house must fit into the land and the scenery and you have quite a housing development in quite a setting. Beginning in 1963 this is just what happened. And over the resulting 40 years quite a stunning set of houses has been built there. This book is a photographic and descriptive journey through several of these houses, each of which were designed to fit into that exact landscape. It's also the story of the building of this "super development." The story is told with 200 color

illustrations, 170 black and white spread over some 304 pages. Each of the houses described suit their place. This is not to say that they are alike, but that they all just seem to fit. It would be a spectacular place to live.

Reviews many houses built in the same site for owners with different needs designed with similar guiding principles. Drawings, and photos are balanced with carefully controlled text. The consistent presentation of each building is very useful. The drawings are bit small for detailed study, but give a useful impression of each. This would be useful for those interested in this particular development; and for anyone interested in the consistent application of a set of principles to a series of projects over time by various designers.

Essays by Donald Canty and Lawrence Halprin accompany beautiful black and white and color shots of California's architectural wonders of the coast which comprise the exclusive Sea Ranch community of homes. Ecologically inspired planning and innovative architectural dreams and designs went into the formation of the California's Sea Ranch community, which sprawls across several thousand acres of land. This could easily have been a picture presentation alone, but the fine house-by-house considerations of design, plan, and history makes it much more, and The Sea Ranch will be revered by architectural reference collections in art libraries.

Got it as a Christmas gift for my Dad and he was thrilled about it and couldn't put it down for 3 days. If your trying to find it cheaper just bite the bullet because you won't be able too. This book is hard to find used or new so don't hesitate if it says 4 left buy it because if you do a search for the book and try to find it cheaper you won't.

A beautiful coffee table book! Christmas gift, but I'm sure the recipient will love it!

This is a beautiful book about a beautiful place on the California coast!

We are fascinated by The Sea Ranch - both the original design concepts and the execution. This coffee table book is chock full of great photos, explanations, and maps - written by those who original conceived and designed what is today one of the most beautiful, peaceful, yet intriguing places along the "wild Sonoma Coast". If you have been to TSR or are planning to go there, this is a great prerequisite or review of the creation known as The Sea Ranch.

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