



THE ROOM FOR DINING

The Gamble House dining room wraps itself around those who are gathered there. Its simple geometry and its magnificent art glass chandelier center attention on the table and encourage those present to feel close. Its walls and cabinets, all its furnishings, capture our attention inside. That the entire surround is so beautifully crafted, using materials of intrinsic quality and interest, sustains our attention and rewards repeated visits.

Great architects seem to know that houses are only partly about capturing a view or, in southern California, connecting inside and outside. Houses exist because we need the rooms that accommodate everyday life and special occasions. Greene and Greene designed the Gamble House dining room as a place for being together. Its windows allow light of varying intensity and color to animate the room as the day passes and as the seasons change. Twin doors allow passage to and from an adjacent terrace. But these are not the windows and doors that bond inside and outside. Rather, their character is more an open net through which views are caught. Walking from the great entrance hall to the dining room is a memorable experience. The transition from the dining room out to the terrace is not seamless — it is an event to be felt and enjoyed. To be in the dining room is a privilege the family shared every day. To be in such a room as a guest must have seemed like an honor. To visit the room now is simply a joy.

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