



New Life is Built into a Forest

Architect [Taller Héctor Barroso](#)
Project [Entre Pinos](#)
Location [Valle de Bravo / Mexico](#)

“Because architecture needs to live, the natural environment is as important as the architecture,” says Mexico City architect Héctor Barroso Riba of Taller Héctor Barroso.

Barroso Riba demonstrated this sentiment with a residential complex in Valle de Bravo, where he designed five weekend houses that have become part of the site’s topography. Six separate volumes make up each home. These structural forms are unobtrusively connected with short passageways, and they are interspersed with vegetation.

“This draws the architecture closer to human scale,” explains the architect. “It also means that the sense of a group of houses is lost,” he says of the design, which is replicated for all five houses. Extensive views of the gardens merging with the pine forest to the south provide a focal point, and the central courtyard, formed by the void between the six volumes, creates an intimate feel.

The non-linear composition of the separate volumes allows movement through the houses in a free-form sequence inviting exploration. Light, shadow, and nature’s sounds create different experiences at various times of day—whether residents are curling up in enclosed spaces or basking in the openness of more exposed areas.

Each volume operates almost independently, as there is no architectural hierarchy. One of the bedrooms and the living, dining, and kitchen areas are on the lower level, directly connected to the outdoor environment. The upper levels include three additional bedrooms, offering cocooned spaces with framed forest views.

The use of local materials such as locally produced bricks, certified wood from the area, and soil extracted during excavations root the buildings into the landscape. The muted color of the soil used on the walls ensures the houses blend in with the forest and exist as part of its living language.



This well-considered design leaves the lasting impression that the development has been here for decades—almost as if the trees have grown in the spaces between the volumes and not the other way round.

