



Whale House

Michael Carmichael's house sits near the edge of a meandering creek near Santa Barbara, Calif. The creek bed is a jumble of eroded sandstone boulders, and the house rises above it like a shingled continuation of the rocky outcroppings. The locals call it the Whale House, and it coils itself around a central courtyard. Cedar shingles, with as little as ½-in. exposure in some places, cover its freeform, undulate shapes. The whale lives in a quiet forest of oak and sycamore, and its primeval aura is magnified by the vertebrate ridge cap that climbs its rounded back.

—Charles Miller

