

DATE: February 16, 2022

AGENDA ITEM #2

TO: Design Review Commission

FROM: Nazaneen Healy, Associate Planner

SUBJECT: SC21-0055 – 875 Highlands Circle

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider design review application SC21-0055 subject to the listed findings and conditions.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a design review for a one-story 308 square foot addition, second story window changes, and exterior improvements to an existing two-story house. The following table summarizes the project's technical details:

GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION: Single-Family, Small Lot (4du/net acre)

ZONING: R1-10

PARCEL SIZE: 10,011 square feet

MATERIALS: Composition shingle roofing, cement plaster siding,

and fiberglass windows

	Existing	Proposed	Allowed/Required	
Coverage:	2,257 square feet	2,750 square feet	3,003 square feet	
FLOOR AREA: First floor/lower level Second floor/upper level Total	749 square feet 2,162 square feet 2,911 square feet	749 square feet 2,470 square feet 3,219 square feet	3,503 square feet	
SETBACKS:				
Front	25 feet		25 feet	
Rear	33 feet	26 feet	25 feet	
Right Side 13 feet		10 feet/No Change	10 feet/17.5 feet	
Left side $(1^{st}/2^{nd})$ 13.5 feet/13.5 fe		13.5 feet/13.5 feet	10 feet/17.5 feet	
Неіснт:	23.5 feet	23.5 feet	27 feet	

BACKGROUND

Neighborhood Context

The subject property is located on an interior lot on Highlands Circle between Andover Way and Lockhaven Drive. This portion of Highlands Circle primarily consists of Ranch style houses that are similar in size, footprint, and building scale, some of which have undergone updates to materials and design characteristics over the years. The surrounding neighborhood is considered a Consistent

Character Neighborhood as defined in the City's Residential Design Guidelines. The materials commonly seen include stucco, wood siding, brick or stone veneer accents, and wood shake or composition shingle roofs. Like the subject home, many of the surrounding homes consist of two levels built into the sloped street.



Zoning Compliance

As depicted on the site plan (Sheet A1.1) a public utility easement (PUE) and wire clearance easement (WCE) are located along the east side and rear property lines. The Tract Map prohibits any structures except fences and utility company structures within the PUE and limits the height of structures within the WCE to 15 feet. Therefore Condition of Approval No. 6 requires removal of the existing side yard shed or relocation in compliance with the Tract Map and Chapter 14.15 – Accessory Structures in R Districts of the Zoning Code.

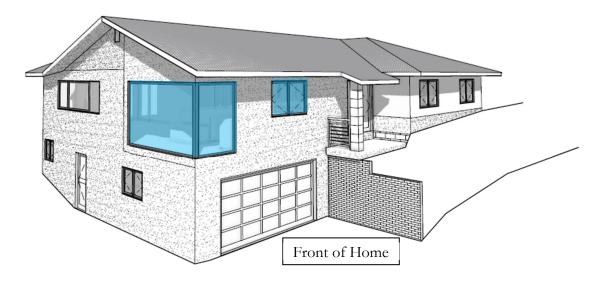
DISCUSSION

Design Review

According to the Design Guidelines, in Consistent Character Neighborhoods, good neighbor design has design elements, materials, and scale found within the neighborhood and the emphasis should be on designs that fit-in and lessen abrupt changes.

The project consists of a 308 square-foot first-story addition with second-story window changes and exterior improvements. In the images below, the new addition and windows are highlighted in orange and the expanded or relocated windows and doors are highlighted in blue.





First-Story Addition and Exterior Modifications

The property slopes from one side to the other and the addition would expand the existing one-story portion of the home on the uphill (west) side towards the rear and side of the property. The new addition incorporates plate heights at 8'-0 to 9'-3" above the finished floor height, maintains the existing roof type and pitch, and incorporates materials to consistent with the existing home for an integrated design compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. Other proposed exterior changes include:

- Removal of the front window trim and shutters;
- Replacement of the existing front windows to match the new window style;
- Replacement of the front façade brick veneer with stucco;
- New front entry column, guard rail, and entry door with side lite; and
- New garage door.

Pursuant to Section 14.76.030 of the Zoning Code, the first story addition and exterior modifications would normally be reviewed and approved administratively by the Community Development Director or their designee. Staff finds the proposed first-story addition and exterior modifications to be in compliance with the R1-10 zoning district development standards, the Single-Family Residential Design Guidelines, and the design review findings pursuant to Section 14.76.060 of the Zoning Code and therefore recommends design review approval of the first-story addition and exterior modifications. A materials board is provided as Attachment E.

Second-Story Modifications

The project adds new windows to the rear façade, shift one second-story window on the front façade slightly inward, and replace the existing northeast front and side second-story windows with new floor to ceiling windows at the corner. Consistent with past determinations and pursuant to Section 14.76.040 of the Zoning Code, new or modified second story windows that increase the glazing area or may create potential privacy impacts have been referred to the Design Review Commission for review and approval.

Currently, the existing front façade windows are similar in size and placement and the proposed changes would incorporate a different window style/size with a degree of asymmetry. Staff has

concerns with the proposal's consistency with Section 5.9 of the Residential Design Guidelines which speaks to locating windows where they visually relate to one another as part of a larger design composition, particularly as viewed from the street. Staff requests DRC direction on whether raising the sill heights and/or shifting the new corner windows inward would create a more composed front façade consistent with the Residential Design Guidelines. The proposed new rear windows are angled and parallel to the gable roof, which would also introduce a new window type but with minimal impact to the overall home.

Privacy

Given the topography of the subject site and surrounding properties, the proposed new windows have the most potential for privacy impacts on the neighboring lot to the east, located downslope and adjacent to the two-story portion of the subject home. In addition, the existing left interior side setback of the second floor is nonconforming at 13.5 feet where 17.5 is currently required. Therefore, staff has included Condition of Approval No. 3 requiring evergreen screen plantings along the east side property line to obscure views from the second floor windows and minimize potential privacy impacts. Along the rear and west side of the property, the grade slopes upward several feet which will prevent privacy impacts from the new rear windows and one-story addition.

Trees and Landscaping

As indicated on the site plan (Sheet A1.1) there are eight existing trees on the subject site (Tree Nos. 2 through 9), all of which are indicated to be preserved. Tree No. 1 is also protected but is located on the neighboring property to the west with branches that overhang into the subject site. Staff recommends tree protection conditions (Nos. 4, 12, and 17) to protect Tree Nos. 1 through 9.

The plans indicate the existing landscaping is to remain, therefore staff has included the standard condition of approval that requires the applicant to maintain or provide new landscaping as needed, which will be inspected before final inspection. New or rebuilt landscaping would need to satisfy the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance requirements should it exceed the 2,500 square-foot landscaping threshold for residential additions (Condition of Approval No. 5 and 18).

Environmental Review

This project is categorically exempt from environmental review under Section 15303 of the California Environmental Quality Act because it involves the construction of an addition to an existing single-family house.

Public Notification

A public meeting notice was posted on the property and mailed to 12 property owners in the immediate vicinity (Attachment A). A document from the applicant regarding outreach is included in Attachment B. The applicant also posted the public notice sign (24" x 36") in conformance with the Planning Division posting requirements, as shown in Attachment C.

Cc: Bahi Oreizy, Applicant and Architect Shalini Dawani & Naresh Gopalani, Property Owners

Attachments:

- Public Notification Map Α.
- Applicant Outreach Public Notice Poster В.
- C.
- Design Plans D.
- Materials Board Ε.

FINDINGS

SC21-0055 – 875 Highlands Circle

With regard to the addition to the existing two-story house, the Design Review Commission finds the following in accordance with Section 14.76.050 of the Municipal Code:

- a. The proposed addition complies with all provision of this chapter;
- b. The height, elevations, and placement on the site of the proposed addition, when considered with reference to the nature and location of residential structures on adjacent lots, will avoid unreasonable interference with views and privacy and will consider the topographic and geologic constraints imposed by particular building site conditions;
- c. The natural landscape will be preserved insofar as practicable by minimizing tree and soil removal; grade changes shall be minimized and will be in keeping with the general appearance of neighboring developed areas;
- d. The orientation of the proposed addition in relation to the immediate neighborhood will minimize the perception of excessive bulk and mass;
- e. General architectural considerations, including the character, size, scale, and quality of the design, the architectural relationship with the site and other buildings, building materials, and similar elements have been incorporated in order to insure the compatibility of the development with its design concept and the character of adjacent buildings; and
- f. The proposed addition has been designed to follow the natural contours of the site with minimal grading, minimum impervious cover, and maximum erosion protection.

CONDITIONS

SC21-0055 – 875 Highlands Circle

GENERAL

1. Expiration

The Design Review Approval will expire on February 16, 2024, unless prior to the date of expiration, a building permit is issued, or an extension is granted pursuant to Section 14.76.090 of the Zoning Code.

2. Approved Plans

The approval is based on the plans and materials received on January 13, 2022, except as modified by these conditions. The scope of work is limited to that shown on the plans and may not exceed rebuilding 50 percent of the existing floor area of the structure.

3. Evergreen Screening

Evergreen privacy screening, minimum 15-gallon size of a species with a mature height of minimum 15 feet, shall be planted and irrigated along the east side property line to obscure views from the new/relocated second floor windows to the satisfaction of the Community Development Director.

4. Protected Trees

Tree Nos. 2 through 9 and the privacy screening required herein shall be protected under this application and cannot be removed without a tree removal permit from the Community Development Director. Tree No. 1 is also protected and cannot be removed without a tree removal permit but is located on the adjacent property and requires the property owner's authorization to remove.

5. Landscaping

The project shall be subject to the City's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO) pursuant to Chapter 12.36 of the Municipal Code if 2,500 square feet or more of new or replaced landscape area, including irrigated planting areas, turf areas, and water features is proposed. Any project with an aggregate landscape area of 2,500 square feet or less may conform to the prescriptive measures contained in Appendix D of the City's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.

6. Existing Shed

The existing shed located in the east side yard within a public utility easement shall be removed or relocated in compliance with Tract Map No. 2787 and Chapter 14.15 - Accessory Structures in R Districts of the Zoning Code.

7. Encroachment Permit

An encroachment permit shall be obtained from the Engineering Division prior to doing any work within the public right-of-way including the street shoulder. All work within the public street right-of-way shall be in compliance with the City's Shoulder Paving Policy.

8. New Fireplaces

Only gas fireplaces, pellet fueled wood heaters or EPA certified wood-burning appliances may be installed in all new construction pursuant to Chapter 12.64 of the Municipal Code.

9. Indemnity and Hold Harmless

The applicant/owner agrees to indemnify, defend, protect, and hold the City harmless from all costs and expenses, including attorney's fees, incurred by the City or held to be the liability of the City in connection with the City's defense of its actions in any proceedings brought in any State or Federal Court, challenging any of the City's action with respect to the applicant's project. The City may withhold final maps and/or permits, including temporary or final occupancy permits, for failure to pay all costs and expenses, including attorney's fees, incurred by the City in connection with the City's defense of its actions.

INCLUDED WITH THE BUILDING PERMIT SUBMITTAL

10. Conditions of Approval

Incorporate the conditions of approval into the title page of the plans.

11. Applicant Acknowledgement of Conditions of Approval

The applicant shall acknowledge receipt of the final conditions of approval and put in a letter format acceptance of said conditions. This letter will be submitted during the first building permit submittal.

12. Tree Protection Note

On the grading plan and/or the site plan, show all tree protection fencing and add the following note: "All tree protection fencing shall be chain link and a minimum of five feet in height with posts driven into the ground."

13. Green Building Standards

Provide verification that the house will comply with the California Green Building Standards pursuant to Chapter 12.26 of the Municipal Code and provide a signature from the project's Qualified Green Building Professional Designer/Architect and property owner.

14. Underground Utility Location

Show the location of underground utilities pursuant to Chapter 12.68 of the Municipal Code. Underground utility trenches shall avoid the drip-lines of all protected trees unless approved by the project arborist and the Planning Division.

15. Air Conditioner Sound Rating

Show the location of any air conditioning unit(s) on the site plan including the model number of the unit(s) and nominal size of the unit. Provide the manufacturer's specifications showing the sound rating for each unit. The air conditioning units must be located to comply with the City's Noise Control Ordinance (Chapter 6.16) and in compliance with the Planning Division setback provisions. The units shall be screened from view of the street.

16. Storm Water Management

Show how the project is in compliance with the New Development and Construction Best Management Practices and Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention program, as adopted by the City for the purposes of preventing storm water pollution (i.e. downspouts directed to landscaped areas, minimize directly connected impervious areas, etc.).

PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF BUILDING OR DEMOLITION PERMIT

17. Tree Protection

Tree protection fencing shall be installed around the natural driplines, or as required by the project arborist, of Tree Nos. 1 through 9 as indicated on the site plan. Tree protection fencing shall be

chain link and a minimum of five feet in height with posts driven into the ground and shall not be removed until all building construction has been completed unless approved by the Planning.

PRIOR TO FINAL INSPECTION

18. Landscaping Installation

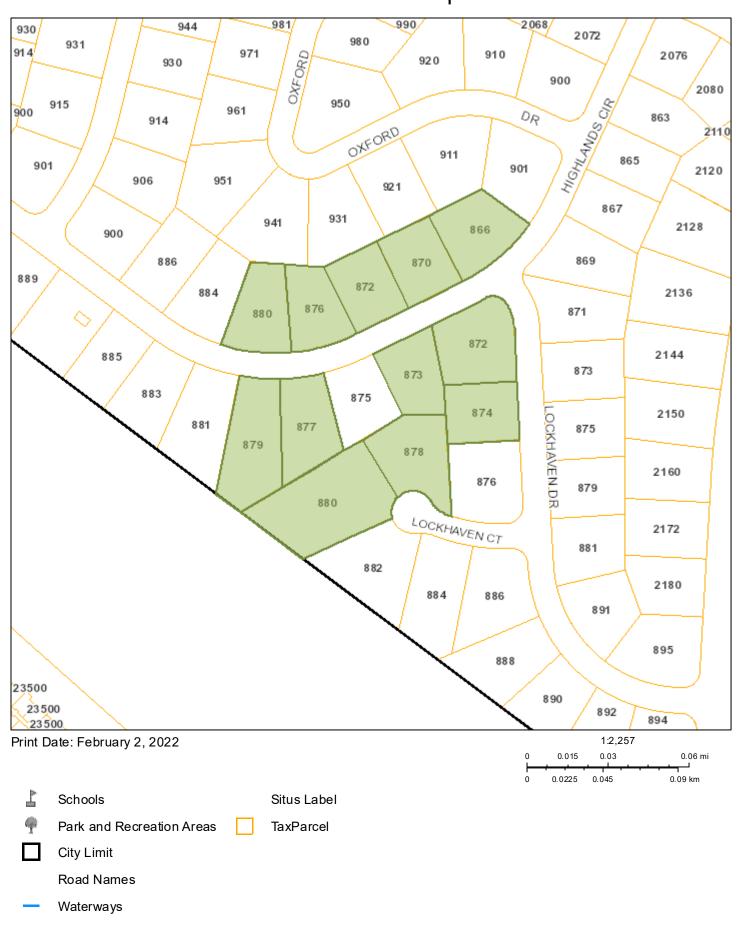
19. All trees, front yard landscaping, and privacy screening shall be maintained and/or installed as shown on the approved plans or as required by the Planning Division. Landscape Privacy Screening

The landscape intended to provide privacy screening shall be inspected by the Planning Division and shall be supplemented by additional screening material as required to adequately mitigate potential privacy impacts to surrounding properties.

20. Green Building Verification

Submit verification that the house was built in compliance with the City's Green Building Ordinance (Chapter 12.26 of the Municipal Code).

ATTACHMENT A Notification Map



ATTACHMENT B

We have met with the Naresh and Shalini to review the changes they plan to make to the second story windows at their house on 875 Highlands Circle.

We have reviewed the set of drawings submitted to the city and are supportive of this project and have no objections.

Name:	Joy Desai
Address:	870 Highlands Circle
	Los Altos
Signature:	Joy Desai
Name:	Brian Treco
Address:	876 HILHLAPICINCU= LOS ALTOS, CA 940 24
Signature:	12
Name:	Fun April Notal
Address:	Fyn Apy Nofal 866 Highlands Civ Los Altes, CA 94024
Signature:	- Les Gertes L
Name:	EUGENE M. XOUNG
Address:	872 HIGHLIND CINCLE
	Los ACtor, CA 94024
Signature	
	- Oxford on

Name:	FARZAD GHAFARI
Address:	877 HighLands cir
	Los Altos CA 94024
Signature:	Forzard (650) 468-7410
Name:	EUGENE A. BURGARI
	880 HIGHLAMPS CIRCLE
, ladi edo.	LOS ACTOS, CA EA 94024
Signature:	Elga a Blegari
	alghe a begin
Name:	The latest three latest being
Address:	878 bothaven ct
	las Altos CA94024.
Signature:	agrush.
Name:	Patricia Focister
Address:	874 Lockhaker Dr
	Las Altos
Signature:	lut DD

Name:	Thi Ping Li
Address:	873 Hishlands Circle
	Los Altos, CA 94024
Signature:	Los Altos, CA 94024 Lina Thou)
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Signature:	

ATTACHMENT C



TWO STORY DESIGN REVIEW PACKAGE FOR GOPALANI RESIDENCE

875 HIGHLANDS CIRCLE LOS ALTOS, CA 94024



875 Highlands Circle - EXISTING ELEVATION FROM STREET



877 Highlands Circle



872 Highlands Circle

866 Highlands Circle



870 Highlands Circle





876 Highlands Circle



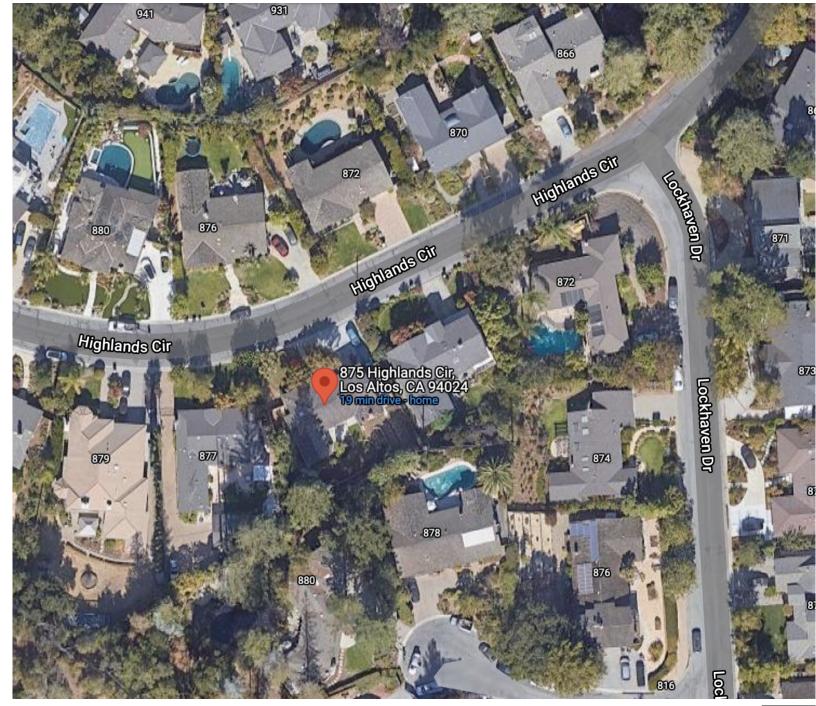




874 LOCKHAVEN DR



NEIGHBORHOOD STREETSCAPE 8 876 Lockhaven Dr.



NEIGBORHOOD AERIAL VIEW



Project consists of: INTERIOR REMODEL AND GROUND FLOOR ADDITION

360 design studio ARCHITECTURE 1491 BEN ROE DRIVE info@360designstudio.net

LOS ALTOS, CA 94024 phone 650.360.2905

ATTACHMENT D

SHEET INDEX

CIVIL SURVEYOR

COPPENS LAND SURVEYING 360 DESIGN STUDIO 1479 MALLARD WAY, BAHI OREIZY 518-227-0097

PROJECT DIRECTORY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

(E) HOUSE: (E) GARAGE: 875 HIGHLANDS CIRCLE, LOS ALTOS, CA 94024 **APN:** 342-11-203 **LOT SIZE:** 10,011 SF TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION: VB

ZONING COMPLIANCE Existing Proposed Allowed/Required 2,207 (22%) 2,750 (27%) Lot Coverage: 3,003 (30%) 2,871 (28%) 3,174 (32%) Floor Area: 3,504 (35%) Setbacks: NO CHANGE Front 25'-2" 26'-4" 10'-2" NO CHANGE

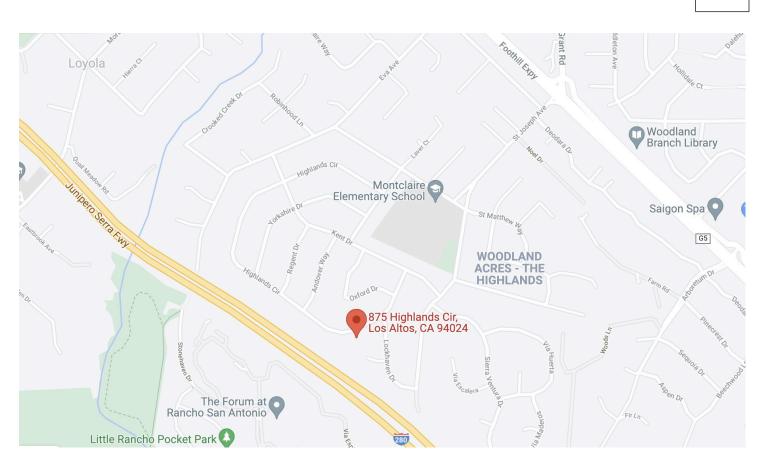
NO CHANGE

NO CHANGE

SQUARE FOOTAGE BREAKDOWN

	Existing	Change in	Total Proposed			
Habitable Living Area	2,162	+ 308	2,470			
Non-Habitable Floor area	709	NO CHANGE	709			
LOT CALCULATIONS						
Net Lot Area:	10,011 SF					
(E) Front Yard Hardscape Area		904 SF NO CHANGE PROPOSED				
Front Yard Area		2,054 SF				
		904/ 2,054 SF = 44 % < 50 %				
Landscaping breakdown			4,389 SF			
			5,470 SF			
	New Softs	cape area:	152 SF			
	Sum of all	three equals the sites net lot area:	10,011 SF			

PROJECT SUMMARY TABLE



VICINITY MAP

PLAN CHECK REV 12/16/ 2021 PLAN CHECK REV 2 01/11/ 2022

COVER SHEET

ARCHITECTURALS: **COVER SHEET EXISTING FLOOR PLAN EXISTING ELEVATIONS**

EXISTING ELEVATIONS

FLOOR AREA CALCULATIONS & 3D VIEWS PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN

PROPOSED ROOF PLAN PROPOSED ELEVATIONS PROPOSED ELEVATIONS **BUILDING SECTIONS**

CIVIL SURVEY

875 HIGHLANDS CIRCLE

shalinidawani@yahoo.com

nareshgopalani@yahoo.com

OCCUPANCY: GROUP R DIVISION 3

Two Story- Left 13'-11"

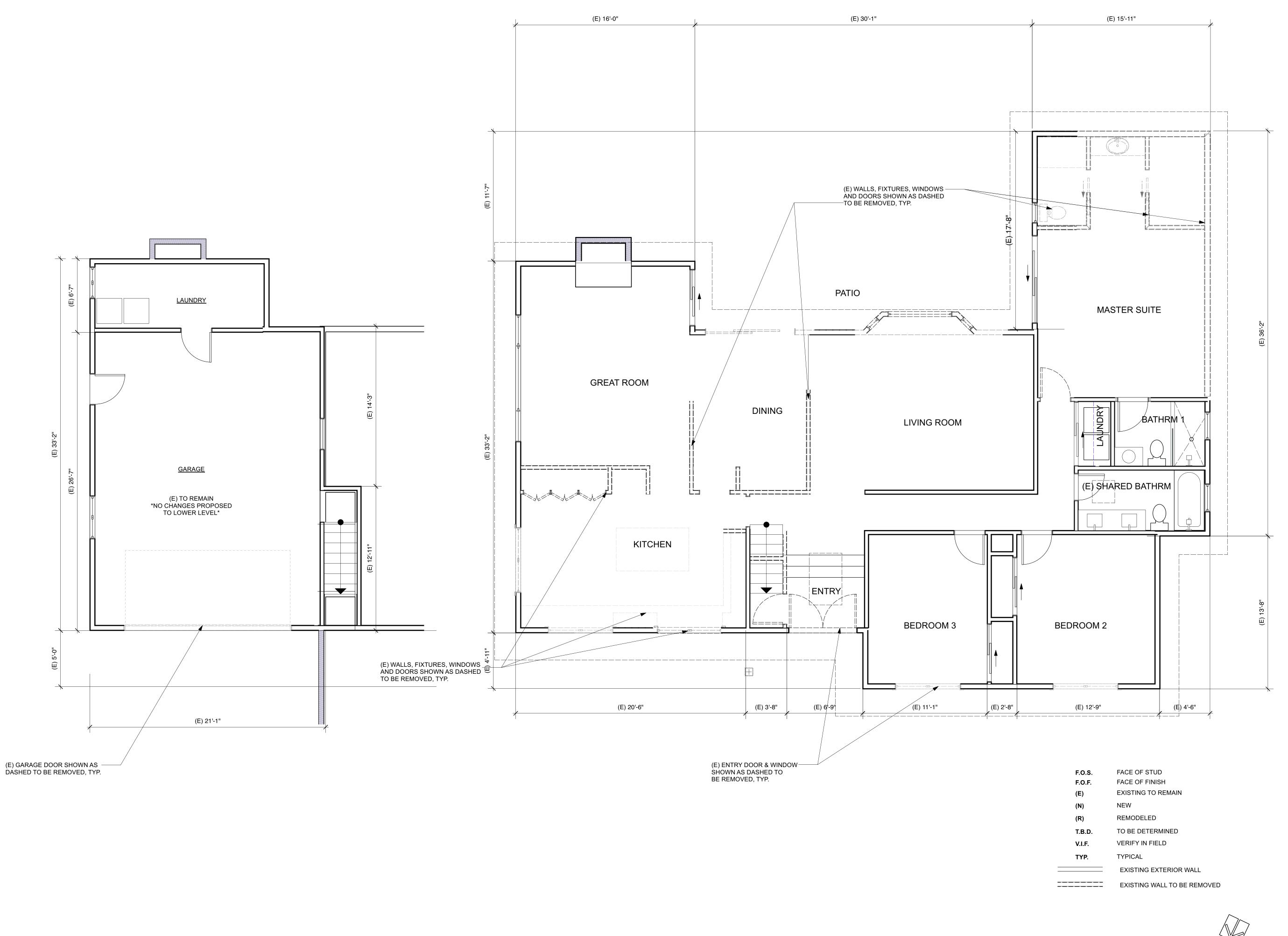
LOS ALTOS, CA 94024

SHALINI DAWANI & NARESH GOPALANI

1491 BEN ROE DRIVE SUNNYVALE, CA 94087 LOS ALTOS, CA 94024 bahi@360designstudio.net 650-360-2905 office

(E) COVERED PORCH: 40 SF

ZONING INFORMATION









PLAN CHECK REV 12/16/ 2021 PLAN CHECK REV 2 01/11/ 2022

> EXISTING GROUND FLOOR PLAN

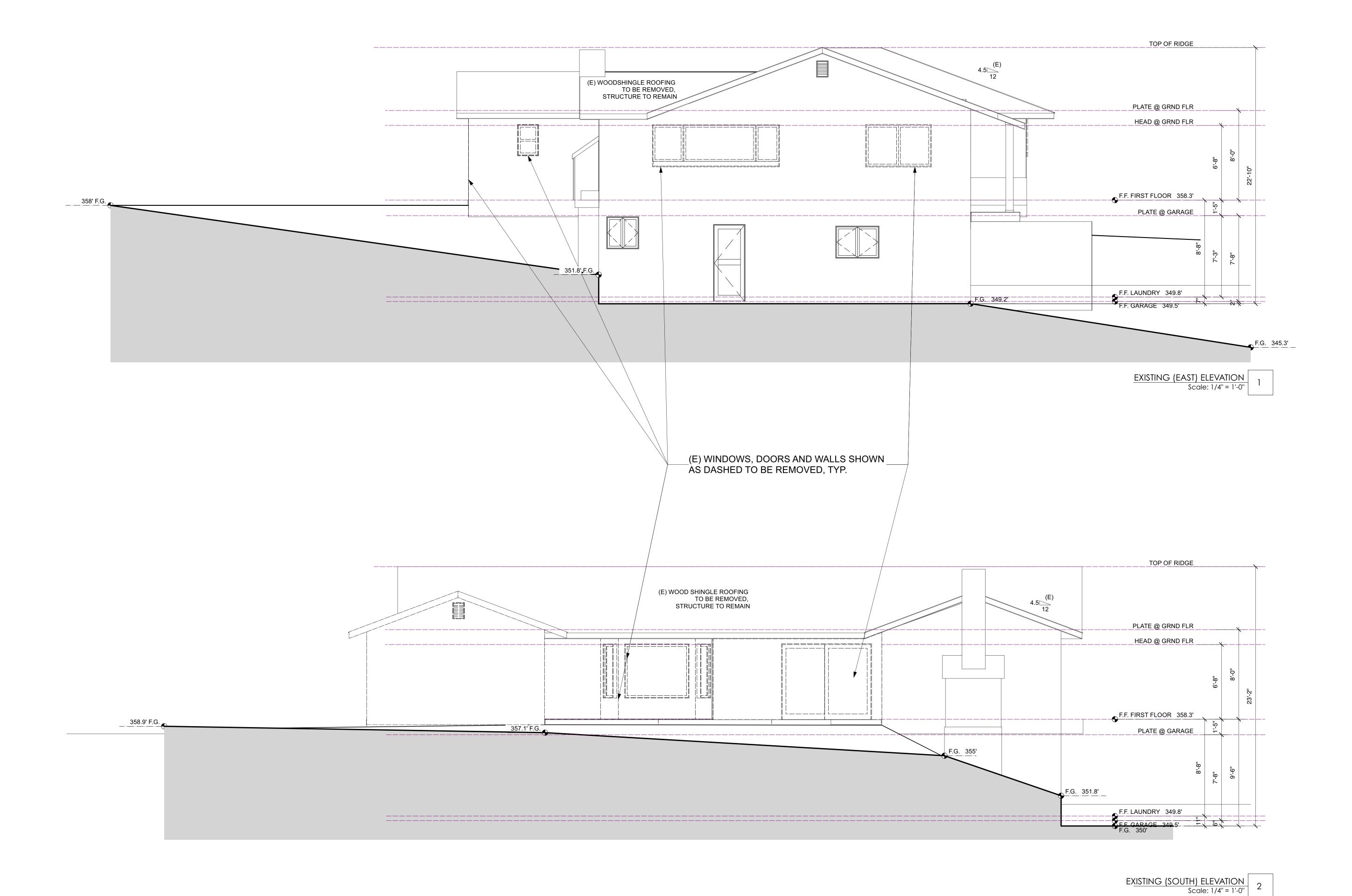
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

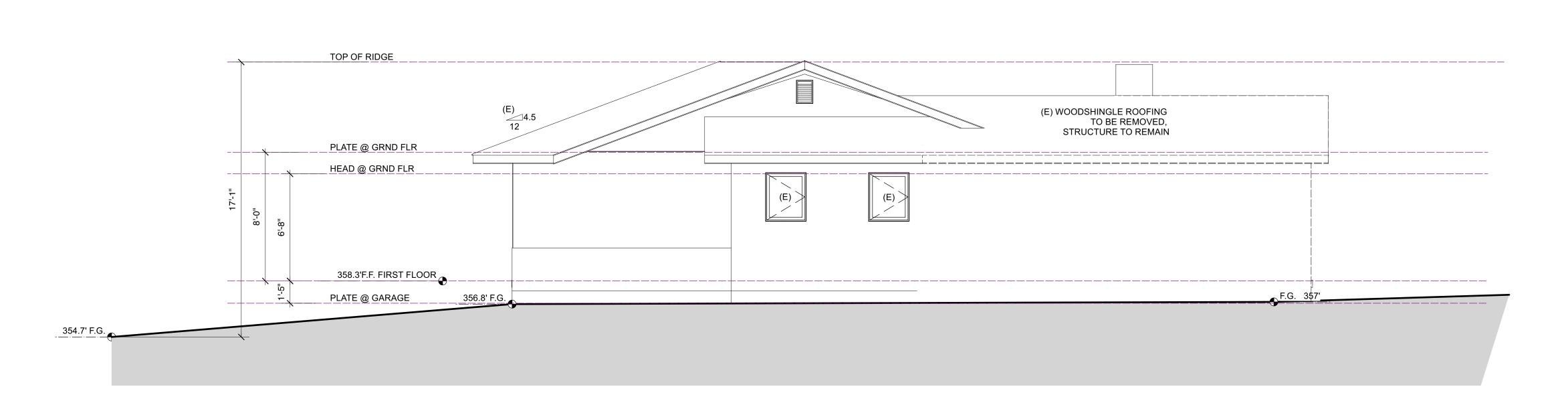
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PLAN CHECK REV 12/16/2021
PLAN CHECK REV 2 01/11/2022

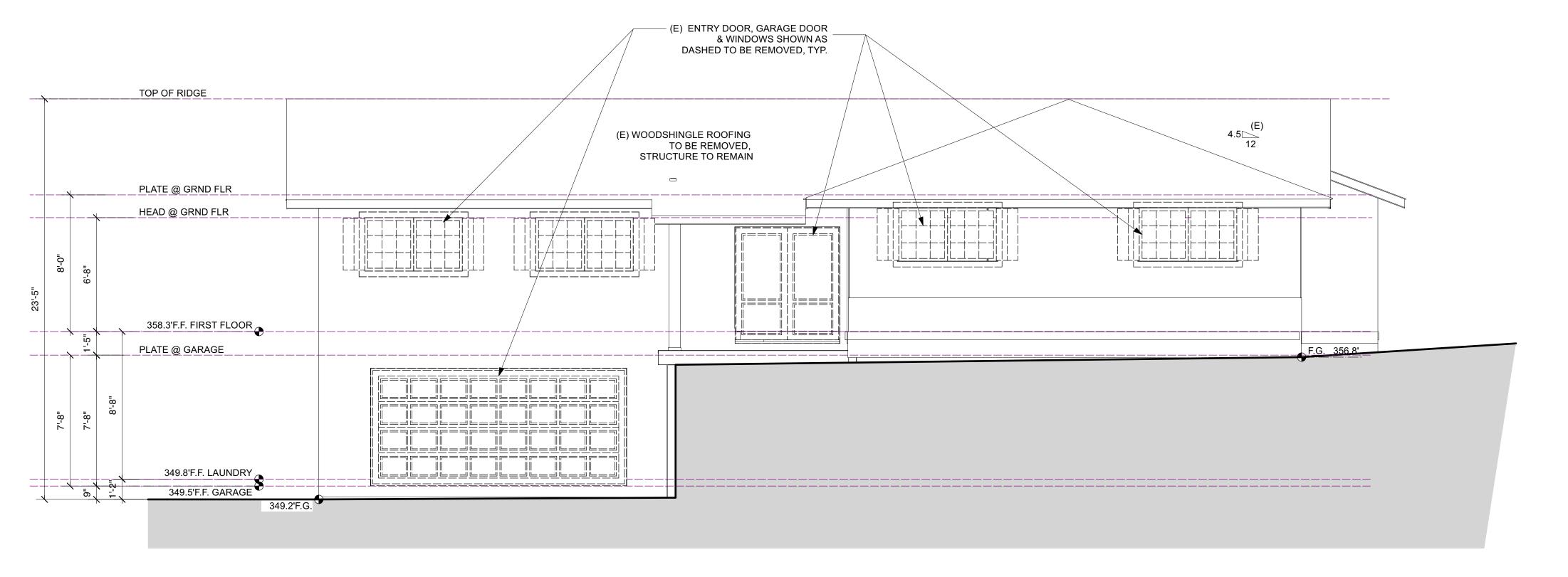
EXISTING **EXTERIOR** ELEVATIONS EC2





EXISTING (WEST) ELEVATION

Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"



EXISTING (NORTH) ELEVATION

Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

2

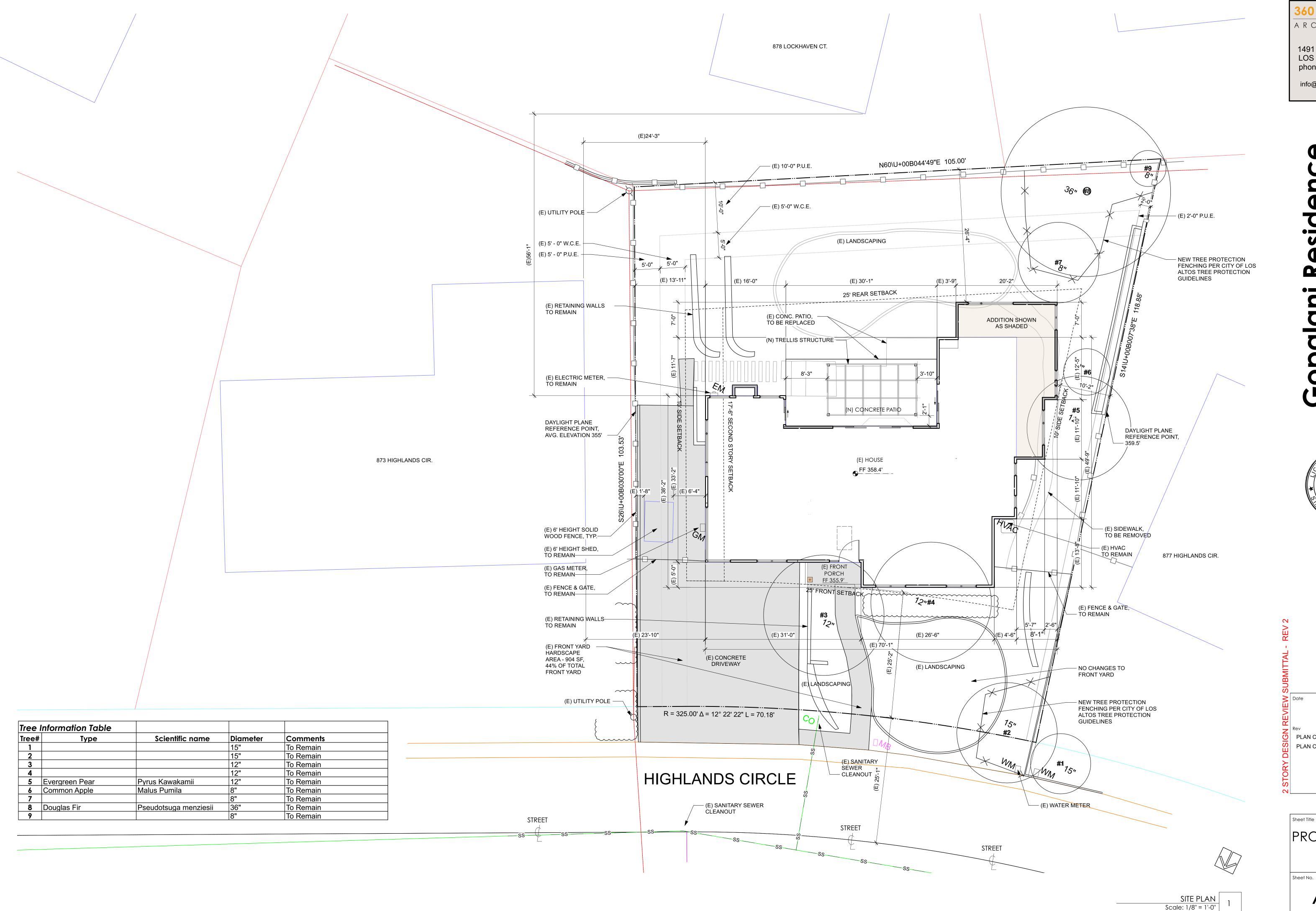


Gopalani Residenc



PLAN CHECK REV 12/16/ 2021
PLAN CHECK REV 2 01/11/ 2022

EXISTING **EXTERIOR** ELEVATIONS EC3



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A R C H I T E C T U R E

1491 BEN ROE DRIVE
LOS ALTOS, CA 94024
phone 650.360.2905
info@360designstudio.net

3opalani Residence

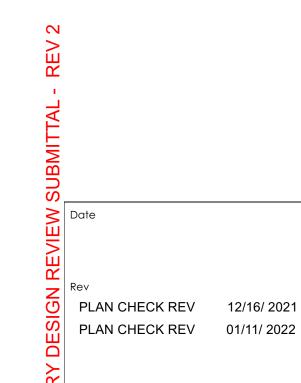
SED ARCH JAREH OPHING 32375 11/30/23 RENEWAL DATE OF CALIFOR

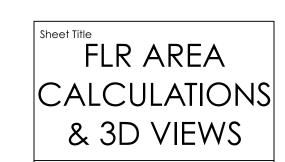
Date

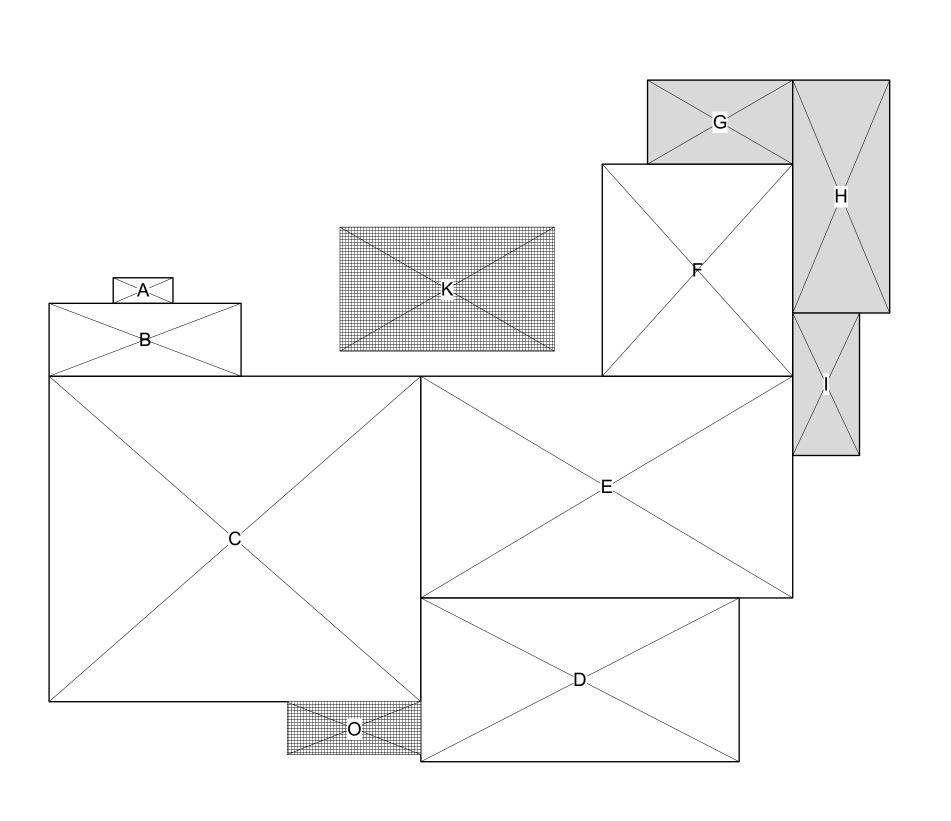
PLAN CHECK REV 12/16/ 2021
PLAN CHECK REV 01/11/ 2022

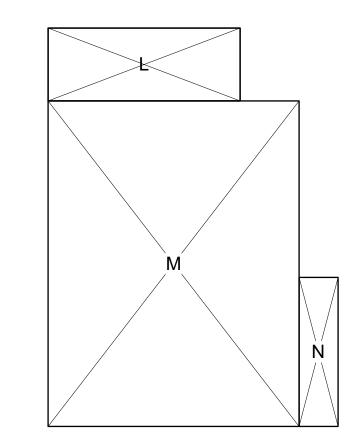
PROPOSED SITE PLAN

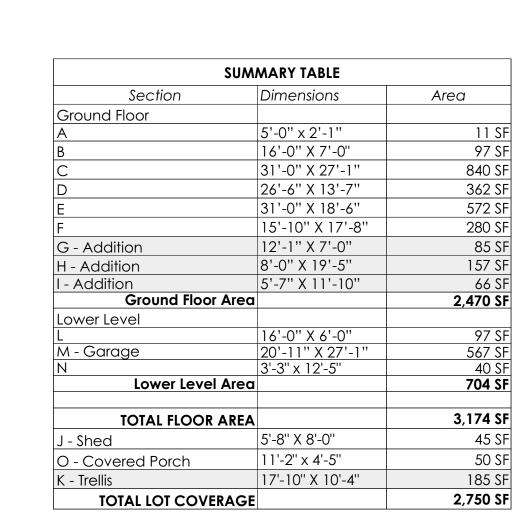
Sheet No.











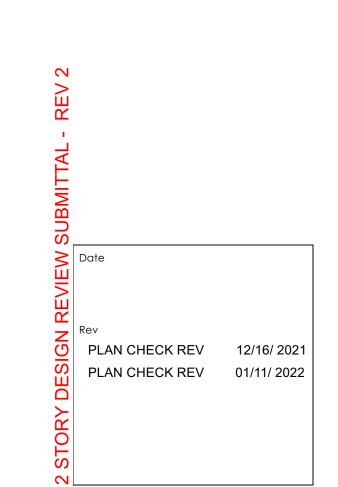
FLOOR AREA CALCULATION DIAGRAM

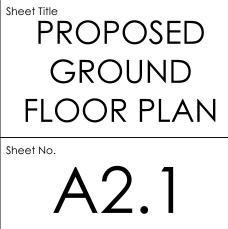
3D VIEW - REAR 4

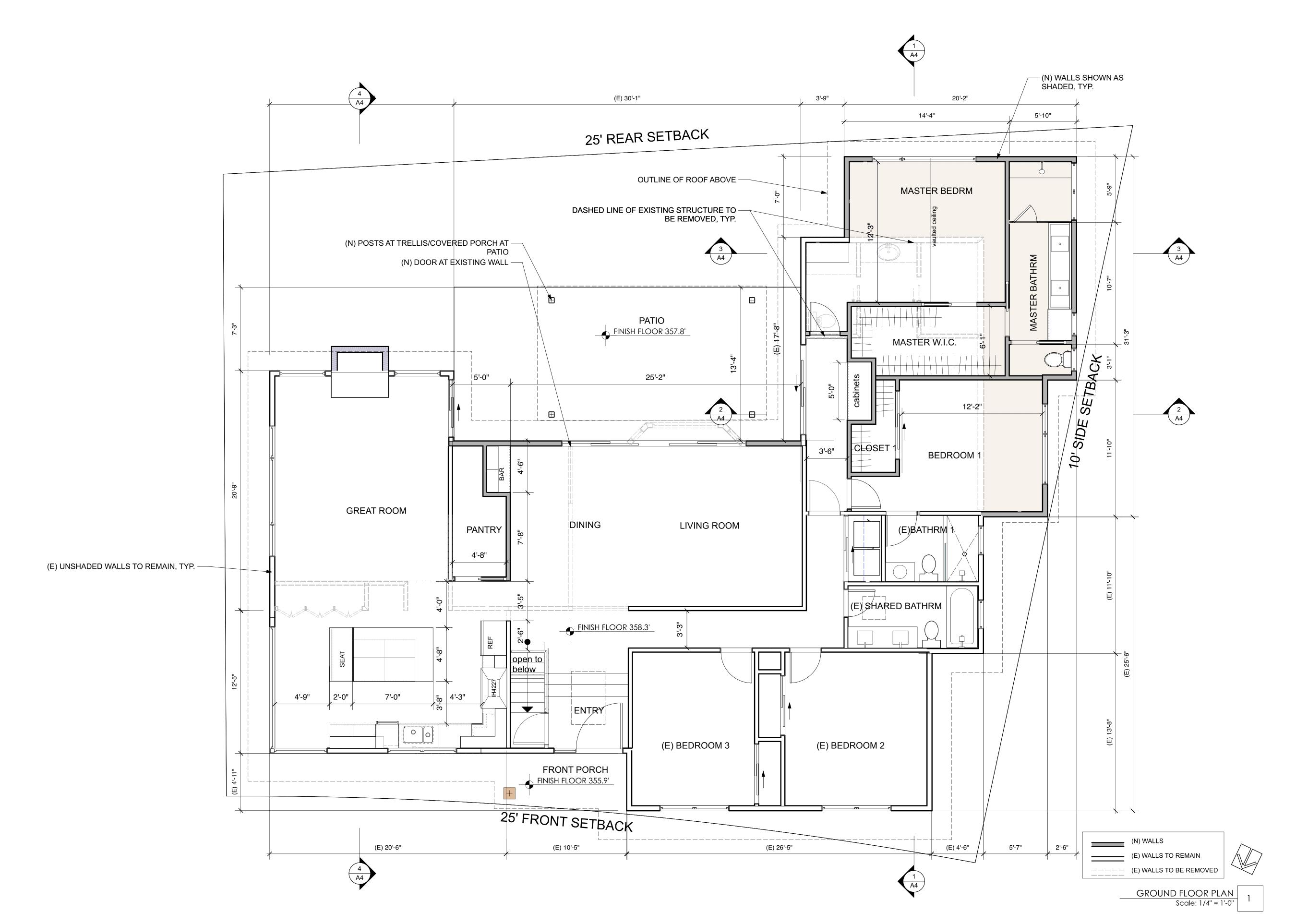
3D VIEW - FRONT

FLOOR AREA CALCULATION TABLE 2



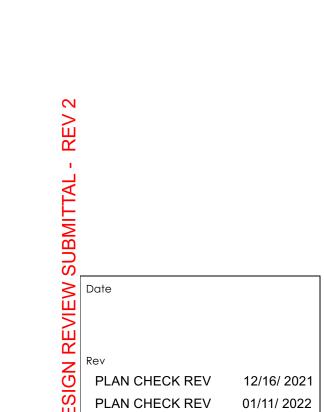






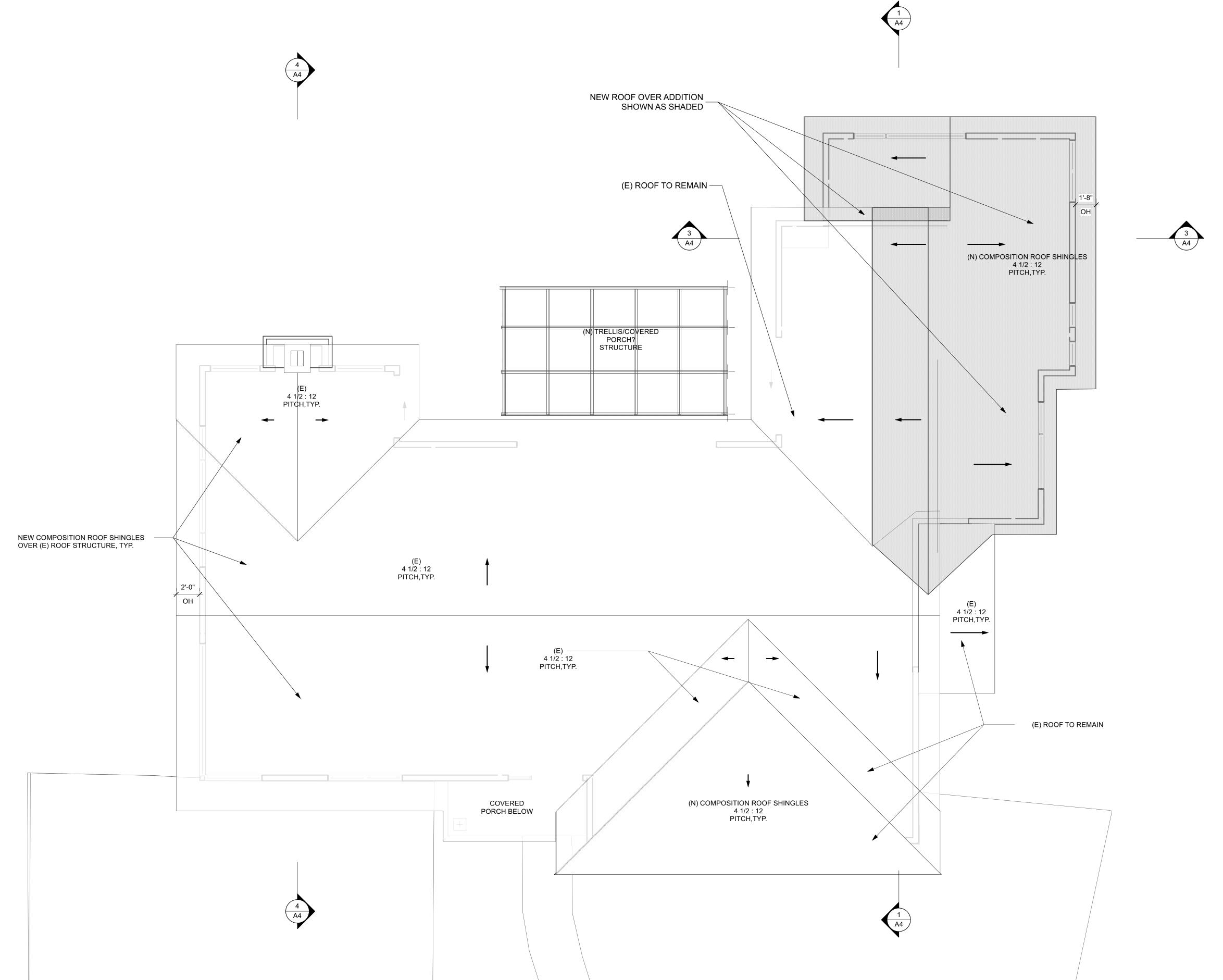






PROPOSED ROOF PLAN

Sheet No. **A2.2**







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ARCHITECTURE

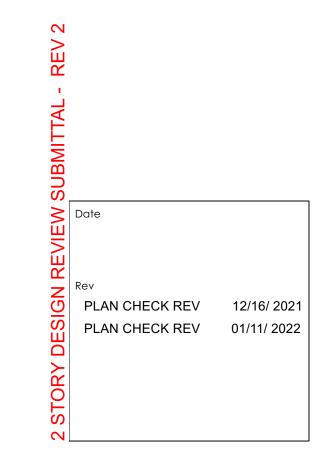
1491 BEN ROE DRIVE

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info@360designstudio.net

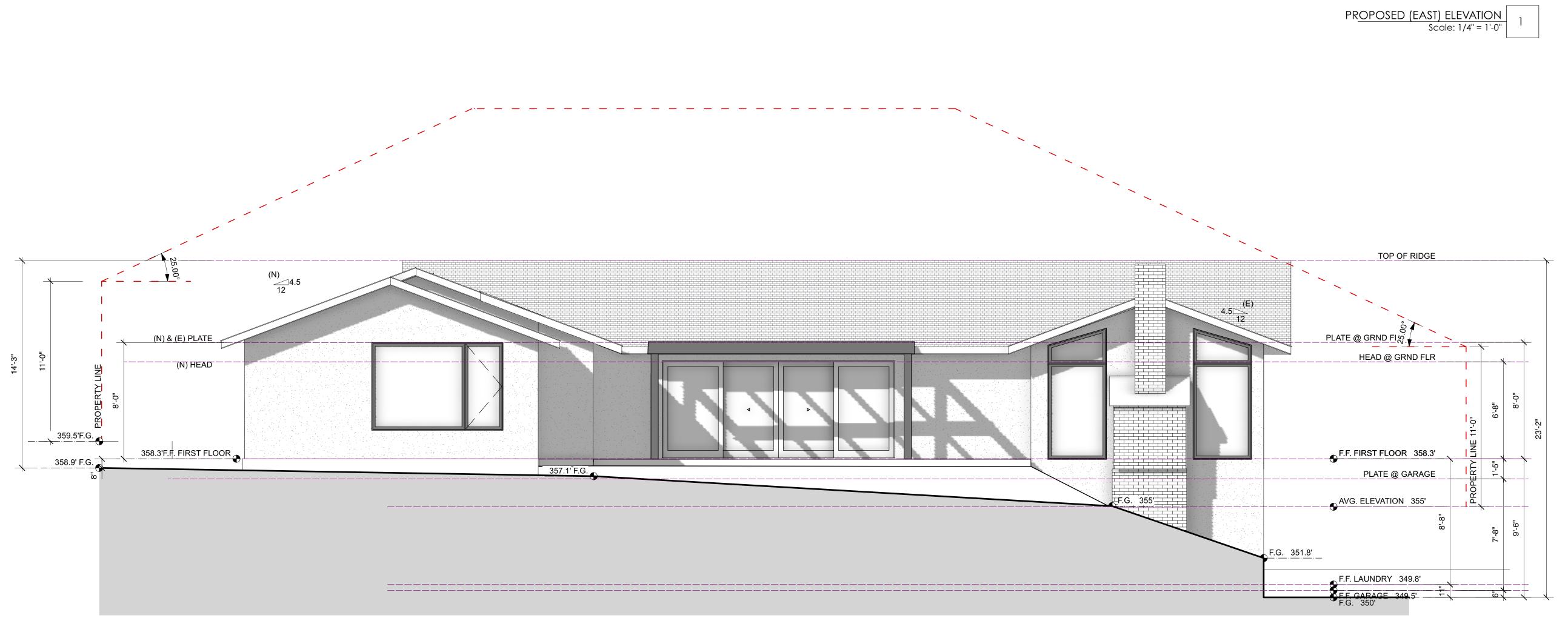
Residenc



PROPOSED EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS A3.1

PROPOSED (SOUTH) ELEVATION

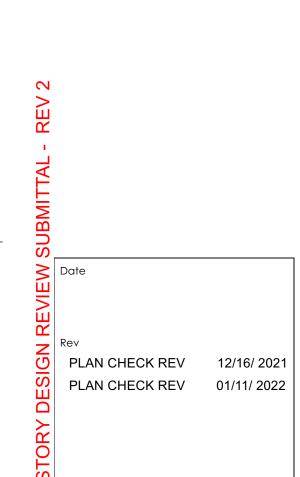
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875 HIGHLANDS CIRCLE

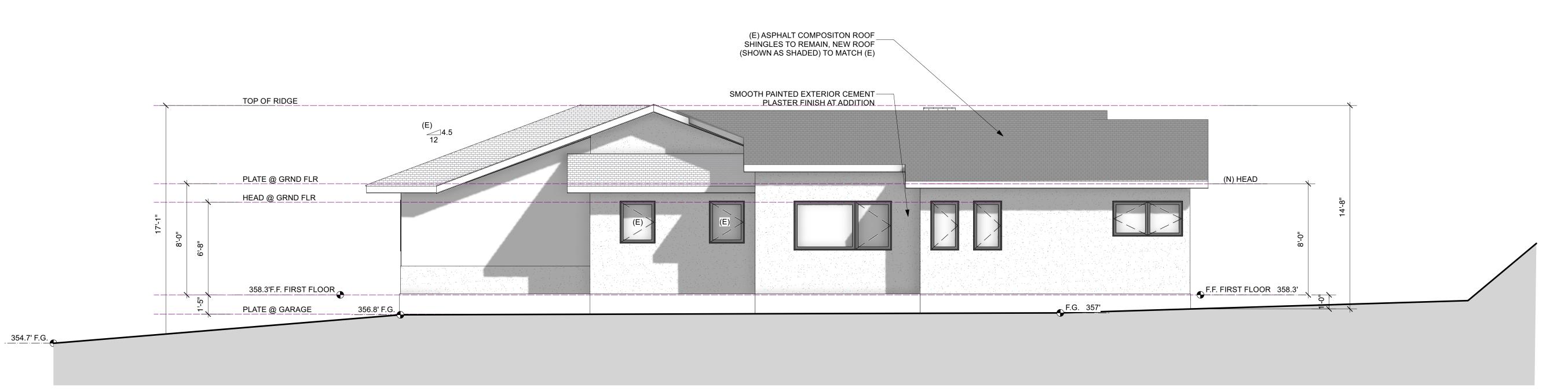
Gopalani Residenc





PROPOSED
EXTERIOR
ELEVATIONS

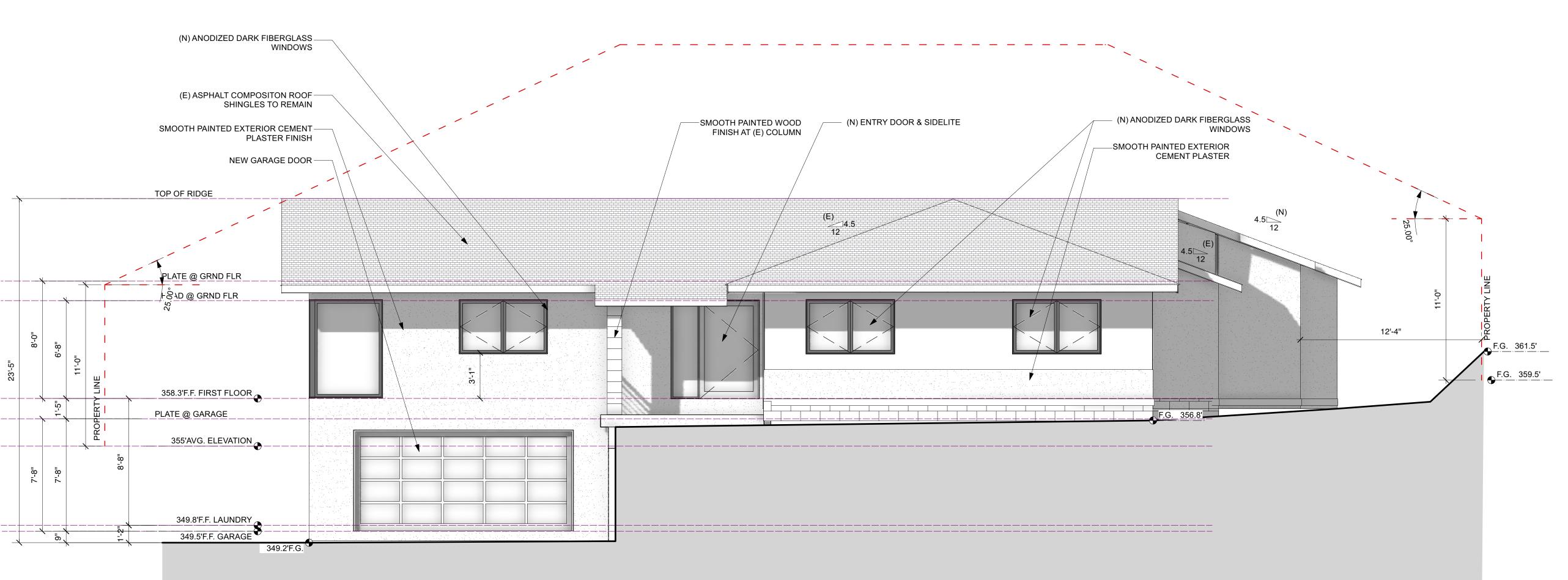
A3.2



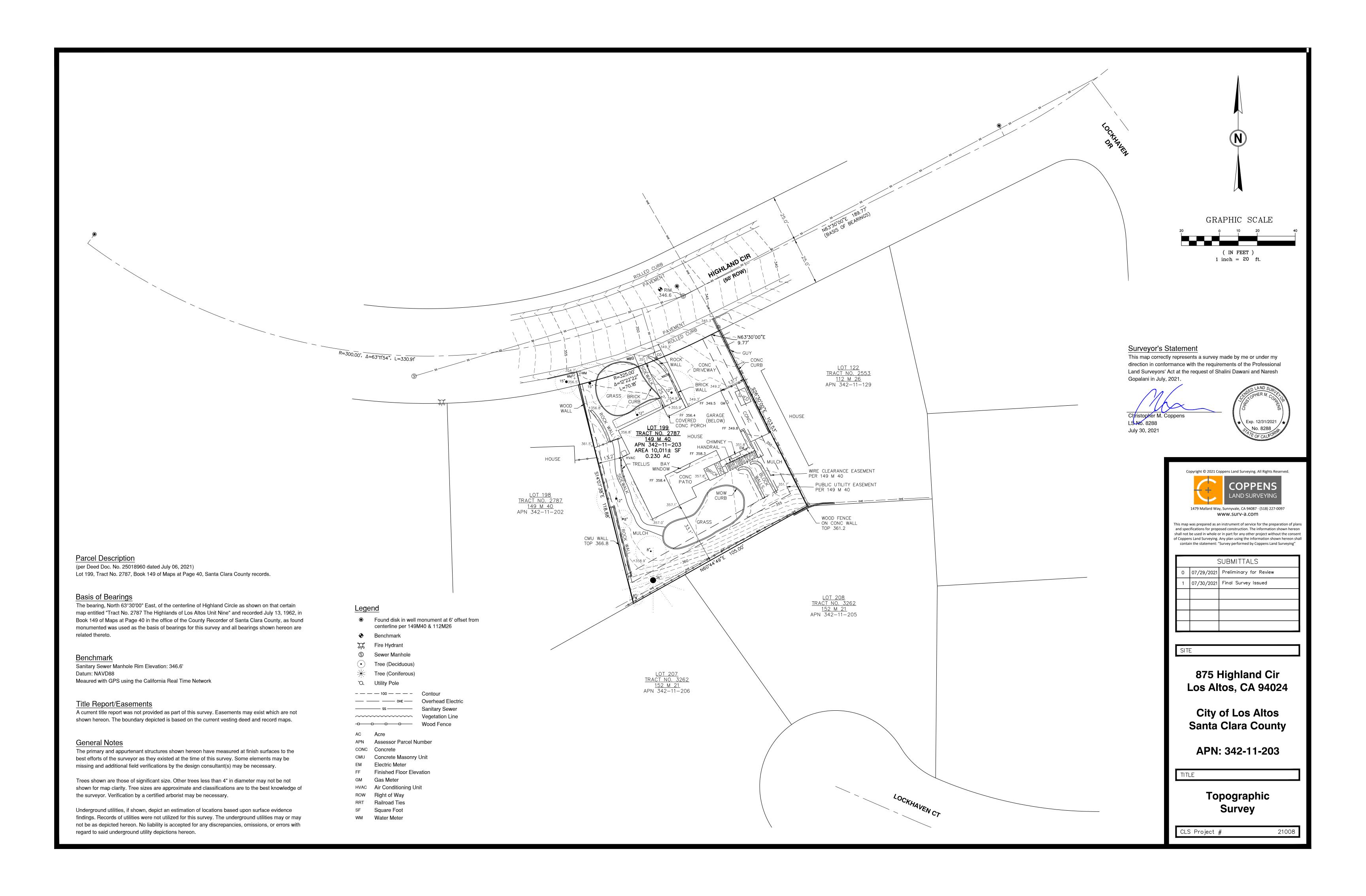
PROPOSED (WEST) ELEVATION

Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

PROPOSED (NORTH) ELEVATION
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"
2







GOPALANI RESIDENCE

MATERIAL PALETTE

875 Highlands Circle Los Altos, CA 94024

ROOF

Composition Roof Shingles to match (E)



WINDOWS Fiberglass



EXTERIOR FINISH

A. Beige Cement Plaster Exterior Wall System Extra Smooth finish

GARAGEGlass & Metal



ATTACHMENT E

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1491 Ben Roe Drive, Los Altos, CA 94024 650-360-2905 || info@360designstudio.net

PATIOSlate Tiles

