

LV Home

Rocio Romero

The LV Home is a home away from home. It is a vacation house meant to be a contrast from the hustle and bustle of city life. It is a retreat where one can fully connect with nature. The LV Home is a minimal, functional, low-maintenance, and inexpensive second home. The design inspiration came out of the gorgeous virgin Chilean coastline; it became clear to me that the home needed to blur the spatial relationship between interior and exterior.

Consequently, the LV Home is a very elongated building with high ceilings and many windows, allowing every room to have a completely seamless view of the Pacific Ocean. The northern facade is made up of sliding doors, so one can open the house from all of the rooms and let the ocean breeze and eucalyptus tree smells become part of the interior landscape. In contrast to the spatial relationship, the Zinalume exterior materials were chosen to accentuate the difference between inside and out; it is also a low-maintenance solution.

The LV Home is a good example of one of the many vacation houses that exist in Chile. Located in Laguna Verde, it is only a 2½-hour drive from Santiago, the capital of Chile. On the weekends and holidays, Santiago, like most densely-populated cosmopolitan centers, becomes completely vacated. The hectic day-to-day city lifestyle encourages many to seek a stark tranquil contrast. Most everyone, from



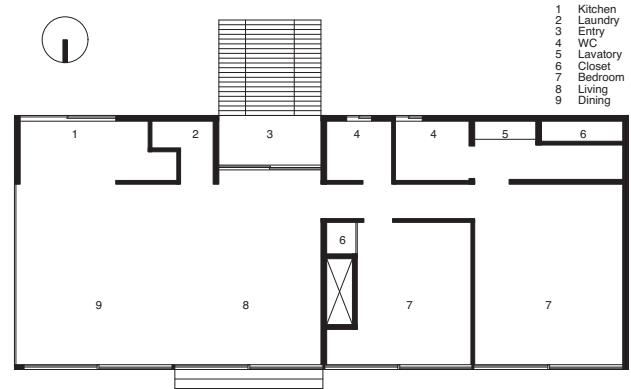
the lower-middle to upper classes, partake in this tradition. Consequently, the Chilean coast has an interesting variety of towns, ranging from very posh resorts for the Chilean elite to picturesque, poor fishing villages where many of the lower to middle classes vacation.

Not only is owning a vacation home a trend occurring for those that live in cosmopolitan centers, such as New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, Santiago,

etc., but now, many are opting for owning a vacation home over vacationing as a tourist for numerous and varied reasons.

Firstly, vacationing as a tourist has lost much of its charm and mystique, since tourism is very lucrative, many places have become oversaturated with tourist traps. Consequently it is difficult to travel in authentic environments. Secondly, it's very stressful to travel as a tourist, and therefore one gets more quality

vacation time in owning a vacation home. One doesn't have to worry about packing everything or unpredictable hotel conditions. Thirdly, it is much less expensive—hotel and dining expenses do add up. Fourthly, it is a great investment that in many cases makes one money. Fifthly, and most importantly, it inevitably becomes one's single most meaningful place primarily because one associates relaxation and vacation with this home as well as some of the best family memories.



The demand for the LV Home as a vacation house solution is tremendous. So large, that I will begin manufacturing LV Homes as a kit-of-parts to be shipped nationwide in the United States by summer of 2003. The prefabrication techniques employed will not only reduce the cost of the dwelling, but will also make the LV Home a better product—one that is factory-made with more precise tolerances than a regular stick-built home. Since the LV Home is a user-friendly kit of parts, it can be a Do-It-Yourself project or, if the homeowner prefers, a local contractor can be hired to assemble it for them. This will give everyone the opportunity to own an affordable, modern vacation home.

