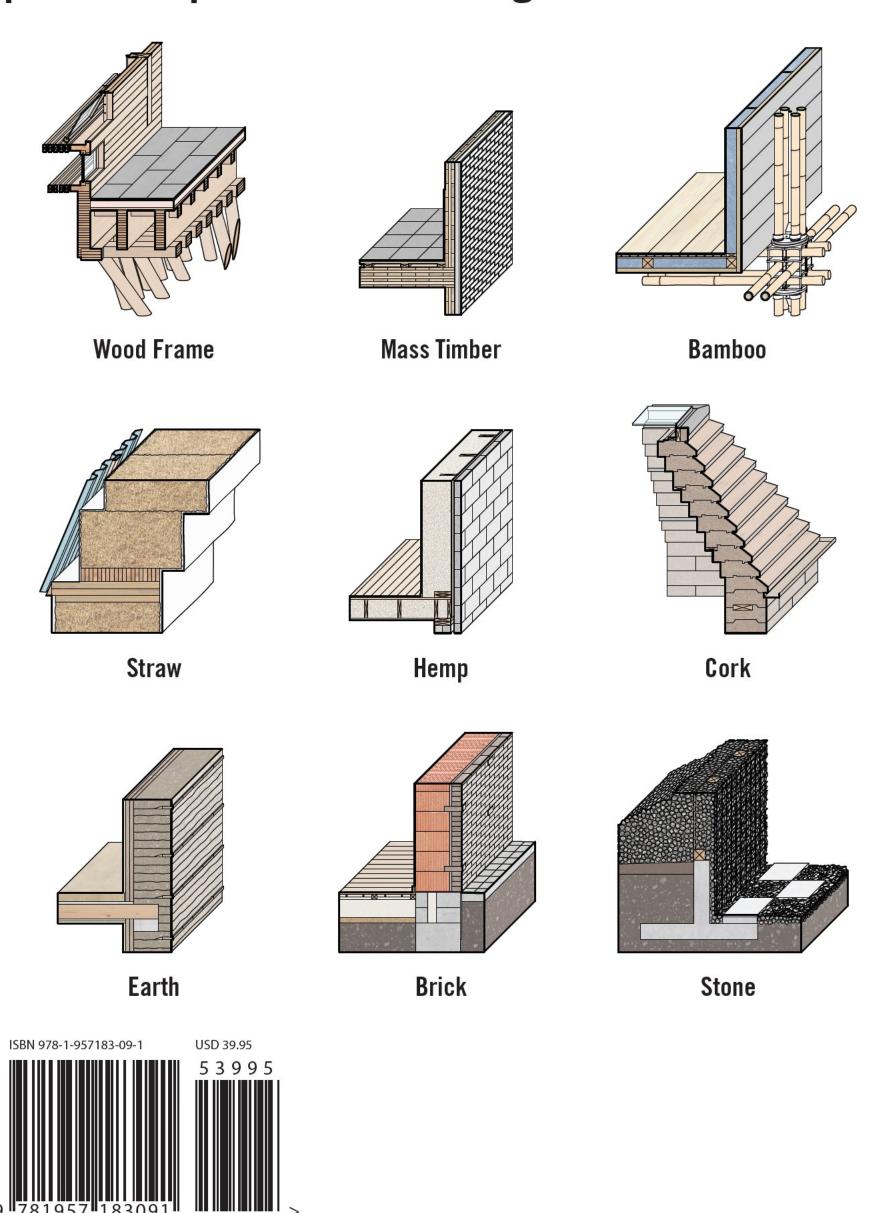
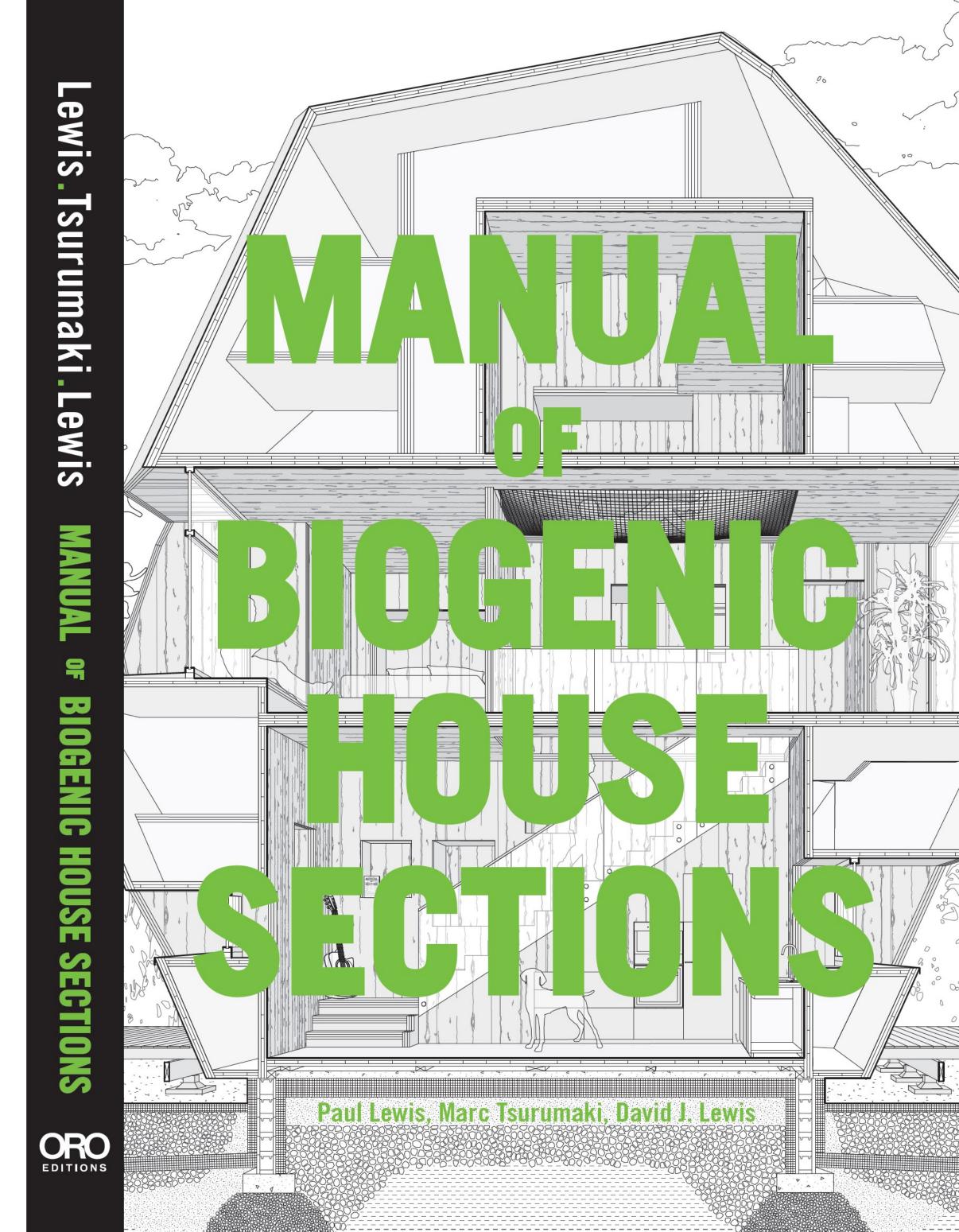
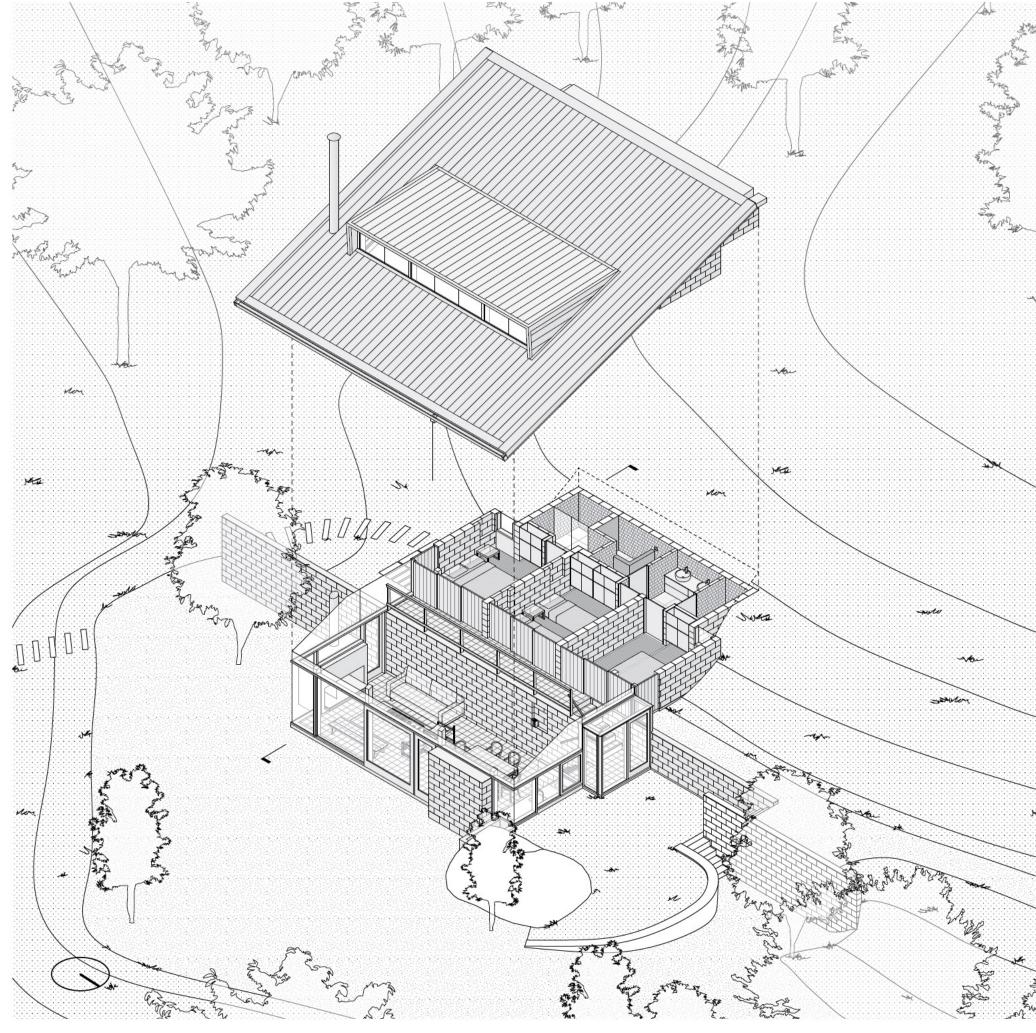
Building on *Manual of Section*, this book articulates how plant-based and low-carbon materials can produce a profound rethinking of section in houses.







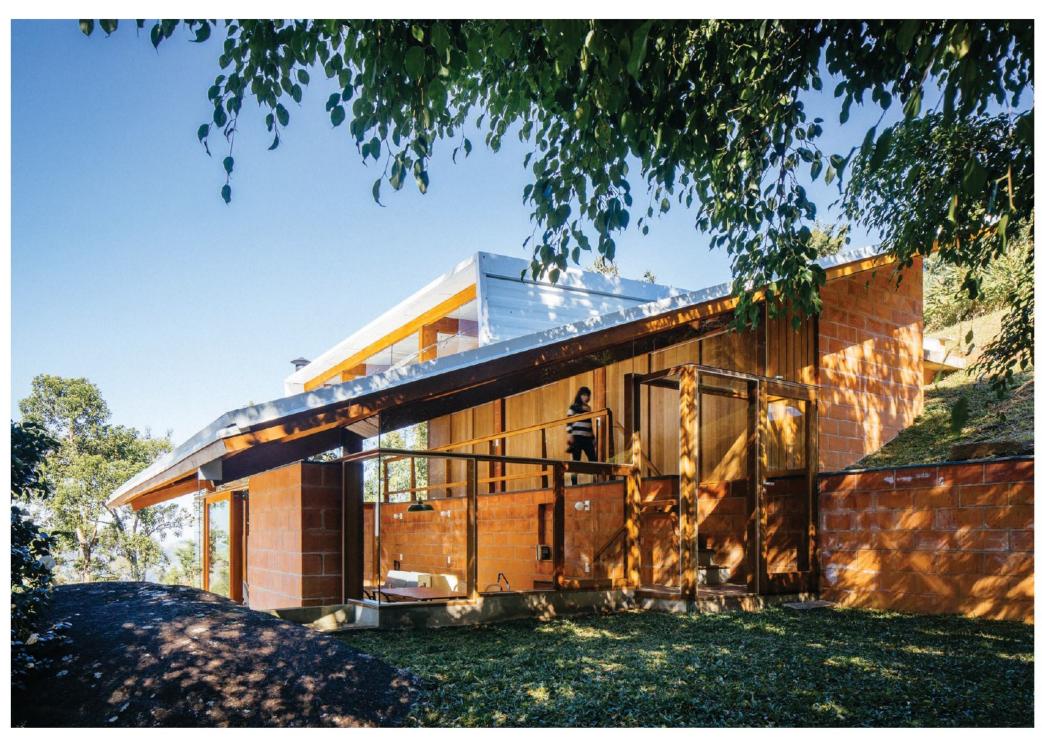


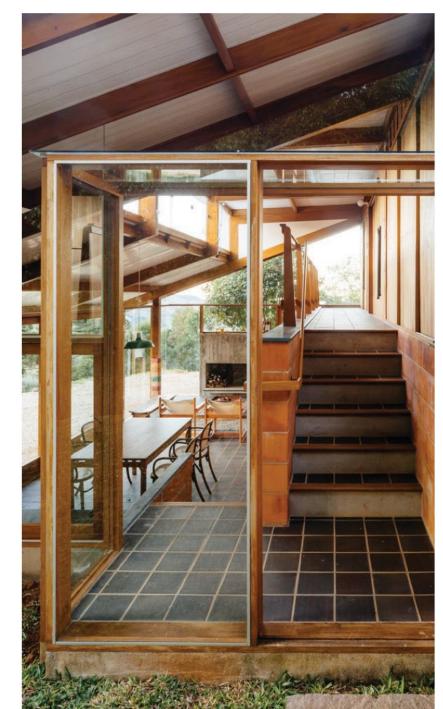




Located in a mountainous area of rural Brazil, this project recycles an existing retaining wall, the remnant of an earlier construction on the sloping site. Rather than fully occupy the artificially leveled land below the wall, the house is positioned so that the retaining wall splits the

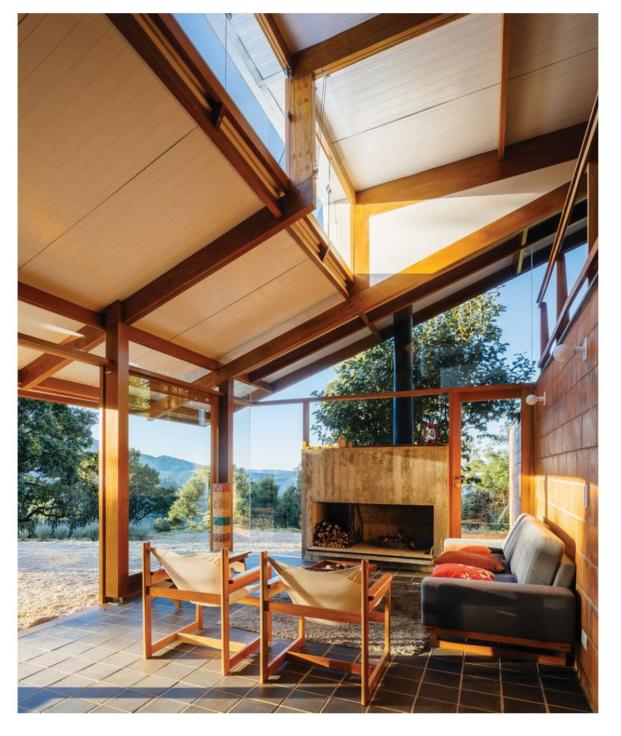
house in two, preserving a portion of the plateau for outdoor activities. Bedrooms and bathrooms are built above the wall, partly embedded in the angled terrain while the main living spaces are located below, against the masonry plane and open out onto the adjacent plateau. The shed-like



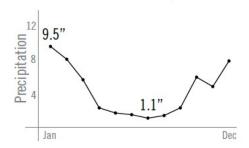


timber roof echoes the slope of the ground, adding to the dialogue between

house and site, human-made terrain, and natural landscape.



São Francisco Xavier, Brazil 2013





## **Half-Slope House**

A new house is constructed around an extant retaining wall on a steeply inclined site. Half the house is located on the level plane established by the now partly internalized retaining wall, while half is located above the wall, creating a vertical shear between the two sections. The upper portion

of the house contains parallel zones of bedrooms and bathrooms with circulation along the top of the original masonry wall. The upper rooms are partially embedded into the hillside, with light provided from clerestories and skylights, and linked to the adjacent site via a gravel path. The lower

portion of the house comprises the main living areas, articulated as a single open room. The extensive glazing and large sliding door ensure continuity between indoor and outdoor spaces while a large site boulder and concrete hearth provide a sense of enclosure. The expansive angled

roof, constructed of local timber, incorporates a counter sloping segment with operable glass panels for natural ventilation. While the sloping roof reflects the landscape, the retaining wall interrupts it, creating productive tensions that build on the original found condition.