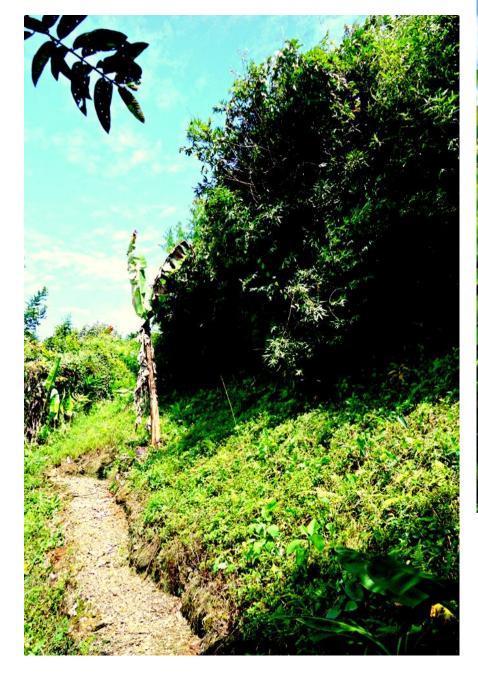


A long strip of bamboo was planted along the edge of our motor court over ten years ago when the pad was graded...



It is thick and fast-growing...





And it has been rapidly encroaching through the crushed stone.



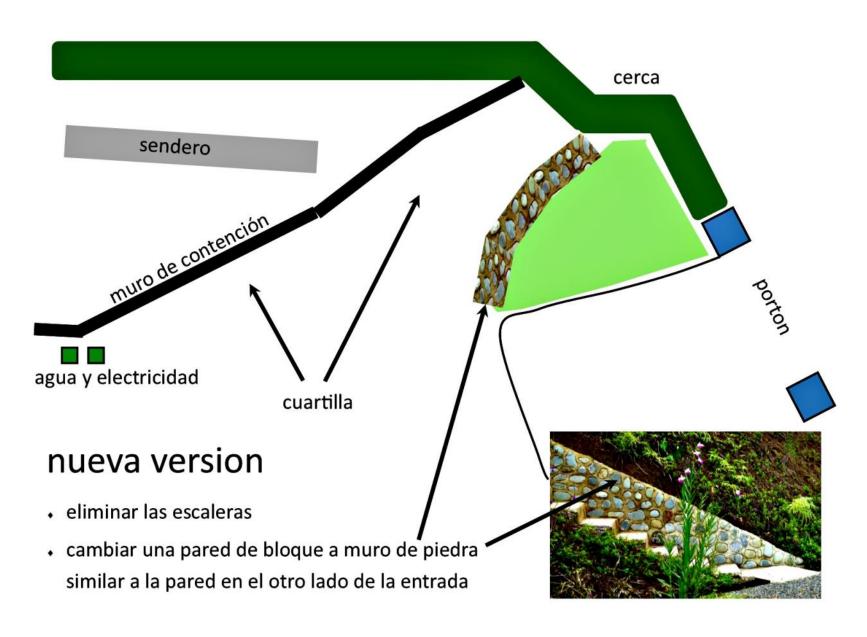
We decide to remove the bamboo and all of the various vines that were entangled within it. But it was looking like too big a task to be handled with a machete.

So we contracted with Marvin to remove the bamboo...

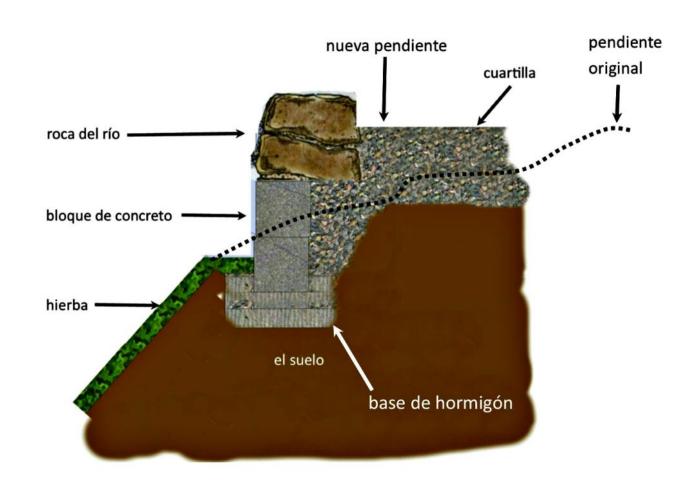




The next step was to build retaining walls around much of the pad on which the house sits. This was to prevent further erosion around the edges and reclaim and expand the usable footprint.



We would be raising the perimeter of the pad substantially in the process and infilling with soil and crushed stone..



My initial cross-section plan had river rock (literally from the river down the hill) protruding on top of the wall, but we opted for a cleaner infinity edge. And the footings needed to be much deeper.



Raising the edge of the pad meant that the stairways would have to have another step added on top. This was a good opportunity to add a standing area.





And also a chance to add a handrail down the steep slope.





The big dig begins



Deep concrete footings were poured over rebar to secure the concrete blocks





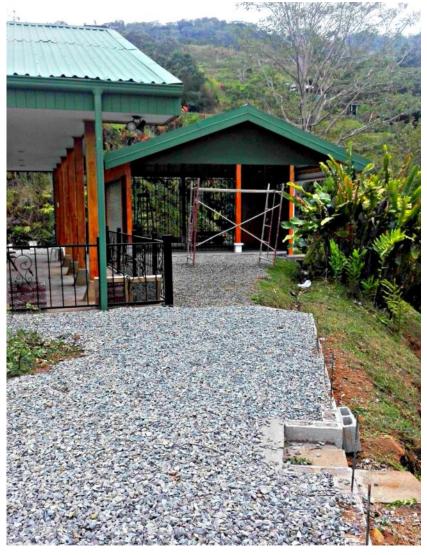
Sixty meters of concrete walls were built, some deeper than others depending on the terrain.



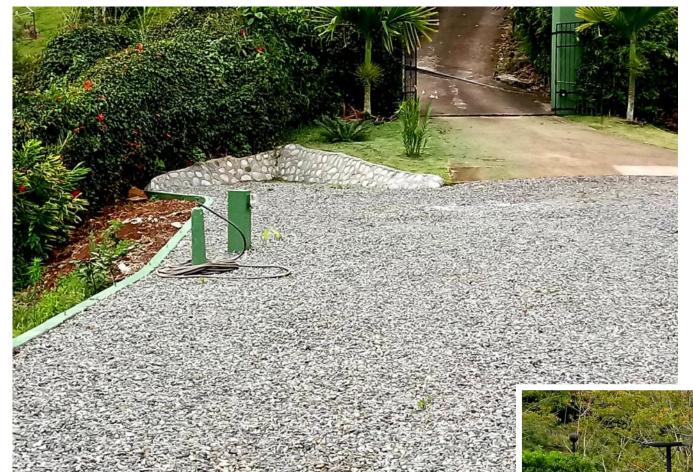








The walls were stuccoed and painted green to camouflage them from below.



The motor court by the front entry to the house was expanded the most. The wall followed the curvature of the land, resulting in many extra feet of space.











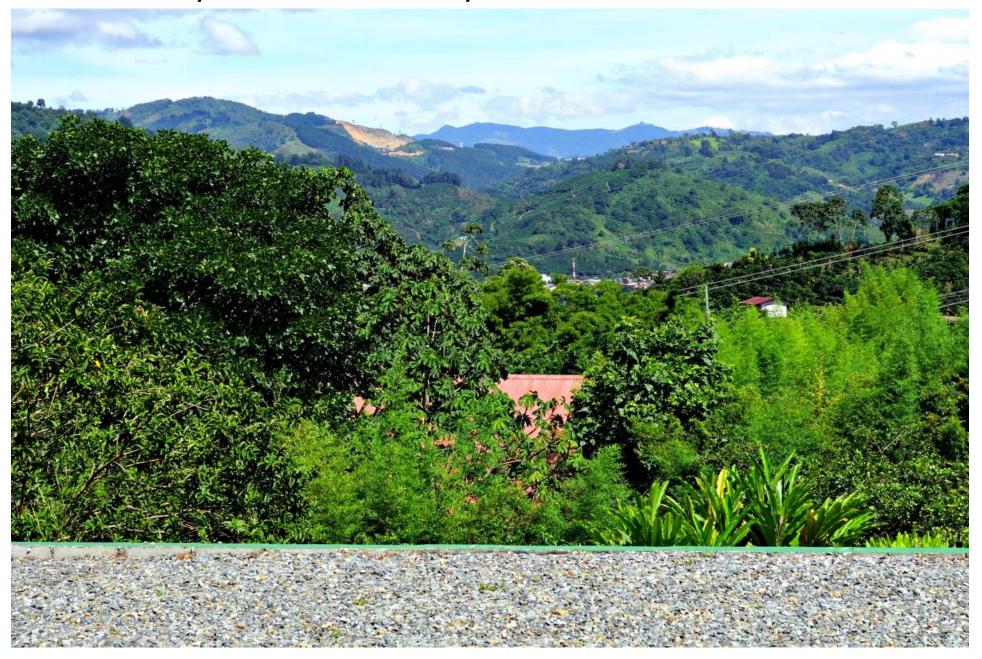
New swimming pool pump house





New landing and handrail

Removal of the bamboo improved our distant view to the north considerably and we can barely see Orosi Town above the trees.



But it also reduced the privacy between us and our neighbors' pool area.



Still to be accomplished: Revegetate to excavated area with colorful shrubbery to visually separate the properties.







Something like these, perhaps. The foliage needs to be the right height to hide the neighbors' pool but not to block the vista beyond.

The possibilities are endless.

