

FORM

PIONEERING DESIGN LIVING SPACES



U.S. \$6.95 / CANADA \$8.95



A PUBLICATION OF BALCONY MEDIA, INC.



RMW and SpecCeramics
win best commercial
installation at the
Ceramic Tiles of Italy
Design Competition 2011
in Las Vegas during
Coverings 2011

*True luxury is knowing
you're doing something good.*



SPEC CERAMICS, INC.
PORCELAIN - TILE - STONE - QUARTZ

The Architect's Choice

F U L L E R T O N • S A N T A M O N I C A • S A



BROCADE
Corporate Office

architect: RMW architecture
& interiors
San Francisco
Office

product: Caesar
Porcelain Stone

series: More

color: Iridium

sizes: 24" x 48" • 36" x 36"
12" x 48"

The Benefit of Experience

For 25 years, we've had our finger on the pulse of innovation in the hard surface industry bringing inspired new shapes, sizes and finishes to you. Call us today for an appointment to view the thousands of choices in glass, tile, porcelain, quartz, recycled materials and more.

Corporate Office

800-449-7732

Santa Monica Design Library

310-450-7732

San Francisco Design Library

415-701-0500

San Diego Design Library

619-518-7847

specceramics.com | ecospecceramics.com | speccvener.com



Paper-thin

The New LED 3D monitor for Samsung



STUDIO BACKS

FORM

PIONEERING DESIGN

JULY/AUGUST 2011

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 EVENTS**
- 8 EDITOR'S NOTE**
- 10 SHOWROOM**
Sun-kissed furnishings
- 12 BOOKS**
Steven Ehrlich's residential design
- 14 GREEN WORKS**
Poon Design redefines development in Palm Springs
- 18 WORKBOOK**
The way we live
- 40 UNBUILT**
Your Building Here reimagines a 1930s house



FEATURES

- 28 HIGH DRAMA**
XTEN Architecture transforms an old chalet into a black-and-white showpiece
PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE KING
TEXT BY MICHAEL WEBB
- 32 MODERN FAMILY**
Designer Jamie Bush and Osborn Architects create an open house for a tight-knit family
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURA HULL
TEXT BY CAREN KURLANDER
- 36 TALL TALES**
Small, urban lots become proving grounds for innovative housing designs
BY DANNY KING

UCLA Extension

Turn a space into a place

With UCLA Extension's Landscape Architecture Program

Learn how to blend the aesthetic with the functional—with beautiful and eco-friendly results.

Our 4-year curriculum offers:

- Convenient evening and weekend courses
- Top instruction from working professionals
- Classes in green and sustainable design
- Education requirements for licensure in California



Enroll in fall classes starting Aug 3.

Learn more about courses and certificate candidacy at uclaextension.edu/landarch or call (310) 825-9414.

View an exhibit of current student work
Aug 13–Sep 10
Westwood: 1010 Westwood Center

FORM

PIONEERING DESIGN

CEO/Publisher Ann Gray, FAIA LEED AP

Editor in Chief Caren Kurlander
caren@formmag.net

Advertising Sales Dee Kaplan
dee.kaplan@gmail.com
818.956.5313 or 310.821.0746

Marketing and Promotion Dafna Zilafro
daphna@zmpn.net
310.245.0287

Art Direction + Design studiofuse.biz

Office Manager Sheila Mendes-Coleman
sheila@formmag.net

Interns Alison Furuto
Taylor Griggs
Lisa Kraege
Flora Pereira

Contributing Writers Danny King
Michael Webb

Printing Navigator Cross-media

Reprints Peter Shamray
Navigator Cross-media
626.222.5646
peter@navcm.com



FORM magazine



FORMmag



FORM: pioneering design

512 E. Wilson Avenue, Suite 213, Glendale, California 91206
818.956.5313 | FORMmag.net

FORM (ISSN 0885-7377) is published bimonthly by Balcony Media, Inc. Principal Office: Balcony Media, Inc., 512 E. Wilson Avenue, Suite 213, Glendale, California 91206. © Balcony Media, Inc. 2011. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. FORM and the FORM logotype design are protected through trademark registration in the United States. Printed in Korea.

SUBSCRIPTION: The basic rate for a one-year subscription to FORM is \$35 (AIA/LA, USGBC-LA, ASID/LA and IIDA So Cal members subscription included in membership). Single copy price \$6.95. Subscribers: If the Postal Service alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless we receive a corrected address within six months. Postmaster: Send address changes to FORM, 512 East Wilson Avenue, Suite 213, Glendale, California 91206. We make a portion of our mailing list available to reputable third parties. For customer service and subscriptions or to request that your name be removed from our mailing list, please visit our website or contact our office in Glendale, CA.

SUBMISSIONS: Unsolicited editorial material, manuscripts, photographs, transparencies and artwork are sent at owner's risk and will be returned only when accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

SUBSCRIBE 818.956.5313
FORMmag.net/newrenew

INDUSTRY PARTNERS/READERSHIP



architecture for humanity
LOS ANGELES





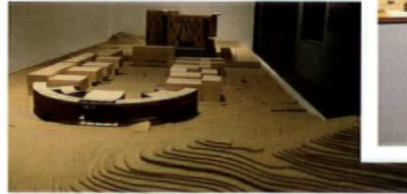
bulthaup
santa monica

Imagining Infrastructure

FORM's event showcases ideas and innovations

The March/April Infrastructure issue inspired a festive and informative gathering at the downtown Los Angeles office of Perkins + Will. Guests were treated to a fascinating panel discussion on the logistics and nuances of creating sustainable and forward-thinking infrastructural designs. Moderated by FORM contributor Jack Skelley of Paolucci Communication Arts, the panel included Leigh Christy of Perkins + Will, Michael Bohn of Studio One Eleven at Perkowitz + Ruth Architects, Cliff Garten of Cliff Garten Studio and Deborah Weintraub of the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering at the City of Los Angeles. Cocktails and other beverages were furnished by sponsors PAMA and IZZE.

Photography courtesy of Carolina Farias/Claudio Farias



FORM ISSUE EVENT

INSIDER TRADING

Designer discounts revealed at FORM's end of summer bash.

Thursday, August 25th, 6:00 - 8:30

Design Within Reach, 332 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica

Join us for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at DWR's Santa Monica showroom. During the evening, our headline sponsors will reveal their deep, unspoken discount programs for architects and designers. Peruse the spectacular furniture and kitchen products on-site, hang out with your colleagues, and celebrate the end of summer in classic FORM style. Special prizes/additional discounts will be awarded at the door.

DESIGN
WITHIN
REACH

Please RSVP to rsvp@FORMmag.net
Include name, title, company, phone and email.

Space is limited.



NOT ON OUR MAILING LIST? Sign up at FORMmag.net





Design Competition Grand Prize Winner



modern fires

This year's winner features SPARK's Linear Burner System Outdoor.
Desco Residence: Designer | Ana Seyffert Photo | Adam Fish.
To view other winners and SPARK's entire design portfolio visit
www.sparkfires.com p.866.938.3846

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dorothy said it best. "There's no place like home." And as we explore the various places people call home in this issue, we see just what a powerful impact design can have on our lives. On a fundamental level, design provides us with shelter. On a higher level, it can help shape our lifestyle, reflect our personal interests and provide a sense of well-being through the skillful organization of form, light and space.

As there are an infinite number of creative solutions to meet those needs, our features offer a few shining examples. XTEN Architecture proves that a minimalist palette and simple gestures can lead to dramatic results (page 28), while designer Jamie Bush and Osborn Architects collaborate on a richly layered environment for a couple and their two sons (page 32). Danny King explores the various ways architects use narrow city lots to their advantage by creating vertical living spaces that are still spacious and light-filled (page 36). In our Green Works column (page 14), Poon Design breaks the mold for tract housing by assuming that the terms *sustainable*, *modern* and *affordable* aren't mutually exclusive. And as single-family houses represent only one type of dwelling, our Workbook section (page 18) highlights a few alternatives, including contemporary mixed-use buildings, a whimsical penthouse apartment and a modern tree house. Although these projects represent forward-thinking living spaces, sometimes it's best to escape to a spot that doesn't involve four walls and a roof. Our Showroom page suggests furnishings to help you do just that (page 10).



Cary Hebert

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caren Kurlander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Caren Kurlander
Editor in Chief

Building Relationships.



5600 Wilshire Mixed-Use

Developer: BRE Properties

Architect: VTBS Architects

MORLEY BUILDERS

The Great Outdoors

Furnishings for alfresco living



Hub Wilson

DEDON

Designed by Daniel Pouzet and Fred Frety, the fantastical **Nestrest** is woven from two strands of oversize Dedon fibers and can be used hanging or standing. Measuring about 13½' tall by 6½' wide, the lounger sells for \$11,200. dedon.de



Courtesy of Dedon

RICHARD SCHULTZ DESIGN

The **Fresh Air** dining chair from Richard Schultz Design updates the lines of the classic Windsor chair with powder-coated sheet aluminum in vibrant hues. The \$920 chair measures 35" h by 26½" w and can be purchased with a matching dining table. richardschultz.com



Courtesy of Brown Jordan

BROWN JORDAN

Drift from the Richard Frinier Collection for Brown Jordan brings classic Danish modern style outdoors. Crafted from plantation grown teak, the designs come in natural or gray finishes. The 24" w by 28" h lounge chair starts at \$2,765. brownjordan.com/frinier



Courtesy of DWR

DESIGN WITHIN REACH

Frank Gehry's **Left Twist Cubes** are now offered in seven bright new colors through Design Within Reach for \$250. The 17¼" h by 18" w pieces, made from hollow-block rotational-molded polymer, function as a sculptural side table or stool. dwr.com

LIVING GREEN
IS JUST THE BEGINNING



WHERE WE DINE
WORK
PRAY
LIVE
GROW
PLAY
HEAL
CURE
STAY

DISCOVER ALL THE WORLDS
OF INTERIOR DESIGN

FIND A PROFESSIONAL
TO HELP YOU CREATE YOURS
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS



CA LOS ANGELES CHAPTER
PACIFIC DESIGN CENTER
8687 MELROSE AVENUE, SUITE B241
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90069

L.A. MART DESIGN CENTER
1933 S. BROADWAY, SUITE 1016
LOS ANGELES, CA 90007

CA PASADENA CHAPTER
1000 E. WALNUT STREET, SUITE 108
PASADENA, CA 91106

asidoffice@asidla.org
(310) 659-4716

asidpasadena@sbcglobal.net
(626) 795-6898

WWW.ASIDLA.ORG
WWW.ASIDPASADENA.ORG

Steven Ehrlich Houses

Steven Ehrlich Houses

By Steven Ehrlich, Text by Nancy Griffin

The Monacelli Press, \$50

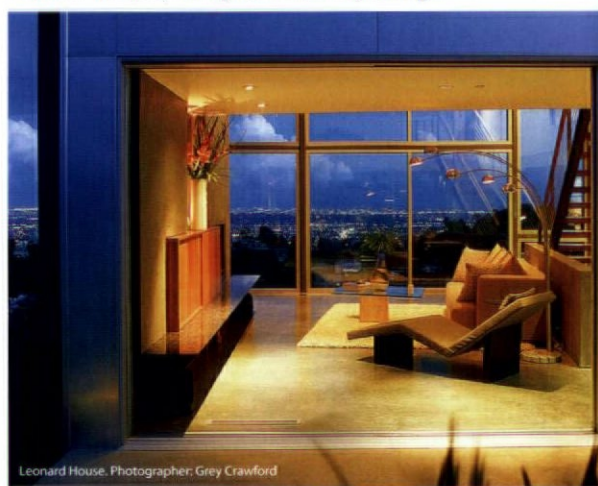
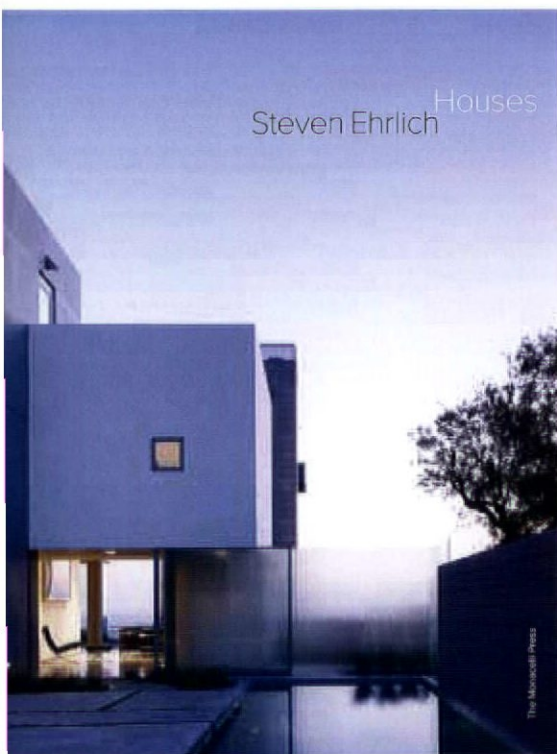
randomhouse.com/monacelli

LOS ANGELES BOASTS A UNIQUE LEGACY OF residential modernism, spanning more than a century, and every generation since that of Irving Gill has made a fresh contribution. Each has responded to the benign climate, varied topography, and casual lifestyle of Southern California. *Steven Ehrlich Houses*, a handsome \$50 monograph from the Monacelli Press, showcases the work of an architect who has worked consistently within that tradition. The fourteen houses and three projects shown here are clearly inspired by those of Schindler and Neutra, in their cubist forms, openness and transparency, and interplay with nature. Their formal rigor is enriched by another tradition: the vernacular buildings of north Africa and Japan, cultures Ehrlich explored as a Peace Corps volunteer and, later, as a practicing architect. At a time when Venturi and other paper-thin post-modernists were learning all the wrong lessons from Las Vegas and the commercial strip, Ehrlich was discovering the beauty and utility of mud architecture. "Multicultural Modernism" was the term he used to describe the fusion of influences from legendary form-givers and humble artisans.

Having written a first book on Ehrlich's houses in 2002, I'm impressed by the way he has stayed true to his principles while expanding the scope and scale of his practice. The one extravagant residence is a 35,000-square-foot family compound for an exceptional client in the United Arab Emirates, and that sybaritic yet restrained project fed into his competition-winning design for the UAE Parliament in Abu Dhabi. He has also designed a ceremonial gateway and cultural center for Abuja, Nigeria's new capital. But the L.A. houses of the past decade continue the firm's exploration of simple forms and earthy materials, the alternation of mass and void, courtyards and layered spaces. They are

sustainable, sensory and refreshingly unpretentious. Each is a collaboration of talents, in and out of the office.

For me, the most satisfying is the house in Venice that Ehrlich designed for himself and his wife, Nancy Griffin, who wrote the text of this book. In contrast to the tacky mega-mansions of Beverly Hills, it indulges all the senses. It's a soaring volume of concrete block and Cor-Ten, with huge glass sliders framing noble trees, galleries and a glass bridge floating in space. In one continuous flow of space it offers a dozen areas in which to cuddle up or entertain friends. The play of light, filtered by foliage



and exterior blinds, is constantly changing, and the house demonstrates how much can be achieved with the simplest of means.

This book is also an exemplary production, and its images bring the houses to life. As Sam Lubell observes in his perceptive introduction, it all comes down to fundamentals. "Refined proportions...and powerful, poetic experiences," he writes. "It's what makes Ehrlich's architecture relevant and timeless."

—Michael Webb



Los Angeles Southwest College
School of Career and Technical Education
School of Arts and Humanities
Targeted for LEED Platinum

About DLR Group WWCOT

DLR Group WWCOT is an interdisciplinary design firm providing architecture, engineering, planning, and interior design from offices coast-to-coast and in China. Our promise is to elevate the human experience through design. This promise inspires sustainable design for a diverse group of public and private sector clients, local communities, and our planet. DLR Group WWCOT fully supports the initiatives and goals of the 2030 Challenge and is an initial signatory to the AIA 2030 Commitment.

Modern for the Masses

Poon Design reinvents tract housing with a Palm Springs development

MODERN, GREEN, AFFORDABLE. IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT these words coincide within the discourse of contemporary architecture, particularly on the subject of planned housing developments. But architect and interior designer Anthony Poon, LEED GA, USGBC, principal of Poon Design Inc., and Andrew Adler, of the residential development agency Alta Verde Group, aim to change that with the Alta Verde Escena development in Palm Springs, California.

Alta Verde Escena will consist of 132 houses available in two- to four-bedroom floor plans. Measuring in size from 2,500 to 3,000 square feet, the houses will sell in a range from \$300,000 to \$400,000. The prices, which are "relatively unheard of in the Southern California real estate market," says Poon, are only one point of departure. "Production tract housing is rarely known for quality design, integrity and merit," he says, explaining that companies "usually pull floor plans out of a drawer and build in cheap Taco Bell and Disneyland styles."

It is exactly this aesthetic that Alta Verde Escena works against. Adler approached Poon Design because of its award-winning, boutique-style repertoire. "We actually have limited experience with production projects for detached single-family residences," Poon

says. "It was a unique opportunity to see if we could design our typically luxurious modern homes on a construction budget one-quarter that of our typical budgets."

Poon drew stylistic inspiration from the natural environment and lifestyle of Southern California, following the tradition of California

with construction teams directly and keeping things standardized and unified.

The green aspect of the homes will be achieved through a combination of elements, including large roof overhangs for passive cooling, thermal mass walls, zero-VOC finishes and adhesives, FSC-certified woods, tankless

"There are design decisions that reflect regional and environmental influences: big overhangs, thick walls, contrasting window walls and native landscapes."

desert modernism pioneered by William Krisel, Albert Frey, A. Quincy Jones and Donald Wexler. "We added our spin to a historically beloved California style of architecture," he says. "There are design decisions that reflect regional and environmental influences: big overhangs, thick walls, contrasting window walls and native landscapes."

The structures will be wood framed with a number of different exterior materials: wood, stone, stucco, concrete block, tile and aluminum window frames. And rather than cutting costs on the overall look of the homes, Poon and Adler kept the prices low by working

water heaters, recycled glass countertops, dual flush toilets and the optional additions of a car charging station and rooftop solar panels.

Poon says that Alta Verde Escena is meant to serve as a model for similar developments in the future. "We are creating a neighborhood, and the impact is local and global," he says. This particular community, which will begin selling at the end of 2011, is the first of ten more currently being planned. "We hope that high-quality modern design can be delivered to a mass audience, not just the wealthy."

-Lisa Kraege



USGBC

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

RECOGNITION
KNOWLEDGE
NETWORKING
RESOURCES



www.usgbc-la.org

HWI

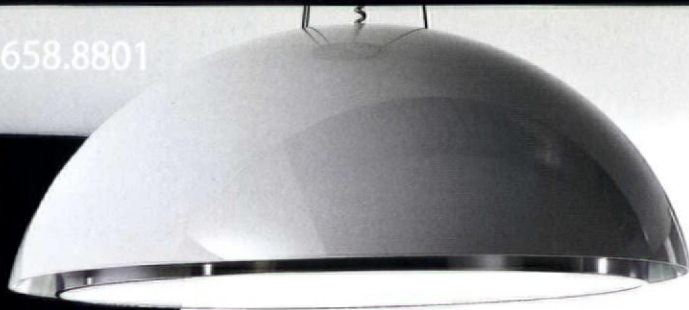
CONSTRUCTION Build. Design. Mill.

HINERFELD WARD, INC.
Los Angeles 310.842.7929
www.hinerfeld-ward.com
BUILDING IMAGINATION

Leasing Inquires
(310) 864-9371

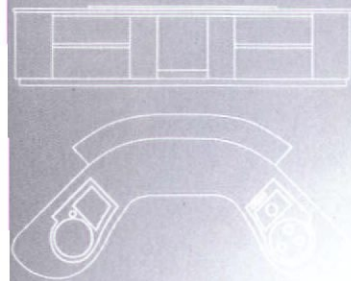
8931 ELLIS AVE
Designed & Built by HWI
Van Dusen Photography

PEDINI
KITCHEN PERFECTION.



dune.

Designed by D. Paolucci



*"It is not the right angle that attracts me,
Nor the straight line, hard and inflexible,
Created by man.
What attracts me are free and sensual curves."
– Oscar Niemeyer, architect*

the kitchen – Evolved.

Experience Pedini kitchen evolution today at our new Los Angeles Showroom – 801 North Fairfax Ave., 90046

WORKBOOK



BRUNNEN

Habitats for Humanity

Shaping the spaces we call home



RR House

Location: São Paulo, Brazil
Designer: Studio Guilherme Torres
Website: guilhermetorres.com

Brazilian interior designer and architect Guilherme Torres has a penchant for creating bold and irreverent interiors. So when his client, a young bachelor who would be living on his own for the first time, gave him a wish list that included a pool table in the living room, Torres didn't flinch.

"We wanted to create a young and sophisticated atmosphere," says Torres, who began the project by bringing down the walls of the 2,600-square-foot penthouse apartment and starting from scratch. He kept the floor plan open downstairs, where the kitchen and living area flow together, and placed the master bedroom and media room on the second floor. Walls and floors were coated with textured grey polymer cement, giving the whole space a cohesive muted feel.

When choosing furnishings, Torres opted for graphic and colorful pieces that would pop against the subdued backdrop. Pink Slow chairs and shiny red Metal Side tables by the Bouroullec brothers for Vitra outfit the living area, which is lined floor to ceiling with custom box-like bookshelves. On the other side of the room, where one might expect to find a dining table, stands a bright blue pool table.

An open staircase leads upstairs, where striped textiles play off the grey walls of the bedroom and media room, and whimsical touches—like an orange Puppy sculpture by Magis and a framed *Lolita* poster—keep things surprising.

Photography by Denilson Machado (MCA Estúdio)



The East Village

Location: Austin, TX
Designer: Bercy Chen Studio LP
Website: bcarc.com

"Our cities are littered with generic projects that make our urban experience bland and uninspiring," says Thomas Bercy, principal of Bercy Chen Studio LP. "Every building should have a distinguishable quality." His firm accomplished that task and more with the new East Village mixed-use project in the East 11th Street neighborhood of Austin, Texas.

The four-story building will house eleven retail stores and offices and, on the top three floors, twenty residential condominiums, measuring between 500 to 1,300 square feet. The entire ground floor is wrapped in floor-to-ceiling glass, and a steel truss, which supports the upper floors across a 65-foot span, creates an open central walkway. "This model fosters a more efficient lifestyle where one can work, shop and live in the same area," says Bercy, who chose painted hardiboard for the exterior walls and Massaranduba hardwood floors inside.

Inspired by the location, the firm punctuated the south and west facades with vibrantly colored powder-coated steel panels. "The corridor on which the project was built is historically an African-American street, which had quite a few jazz venues," says Bercy. "The panels play off an African color palette organized in a recognizable pattern that emulates improvisation in jazz." Each panel, acting as both a shading device and balcony guardrail, represents a note in the score.

The building's eco-conscious design—which includes Low-E glazing, no-VOC paints, recycled materials, R-19 insulated walls and R-30 insulated roofing—earned it a 3-Star Green Building Rating, and landscaped roof decks offer downtown views.

Photography by Ryan Michael

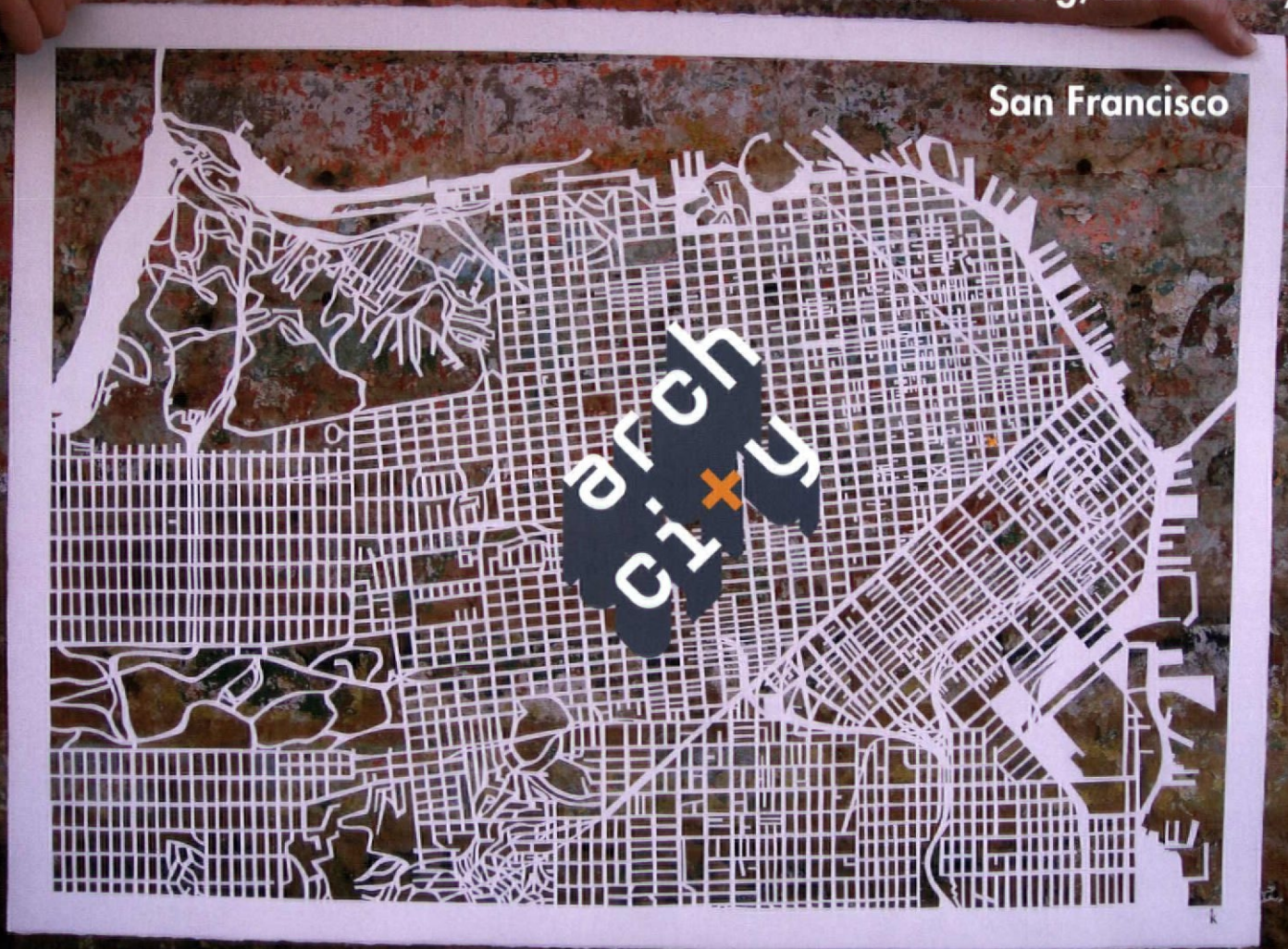


ARCHITECTURE AND THE CITY FESTIVAL

Architecture of Consequence

September 1-30, 2011

www.aia.org/archandcity



Hand cut map by Karen M. O'Leary | www.studiokmo.etsy.com

San Francisco Living: Home Tours

September 17+18, 2011
www.aia.org/hometours



© Bruce Damonte, Edmonds + Lee Architects, 2010 Participant

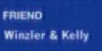
PRESENTERS



FESTIVAL MEDIA SPONSORS



SUSTAINING SPONSORS





Copper Cube

Location: Werder, Germany

Designer: Baumraum

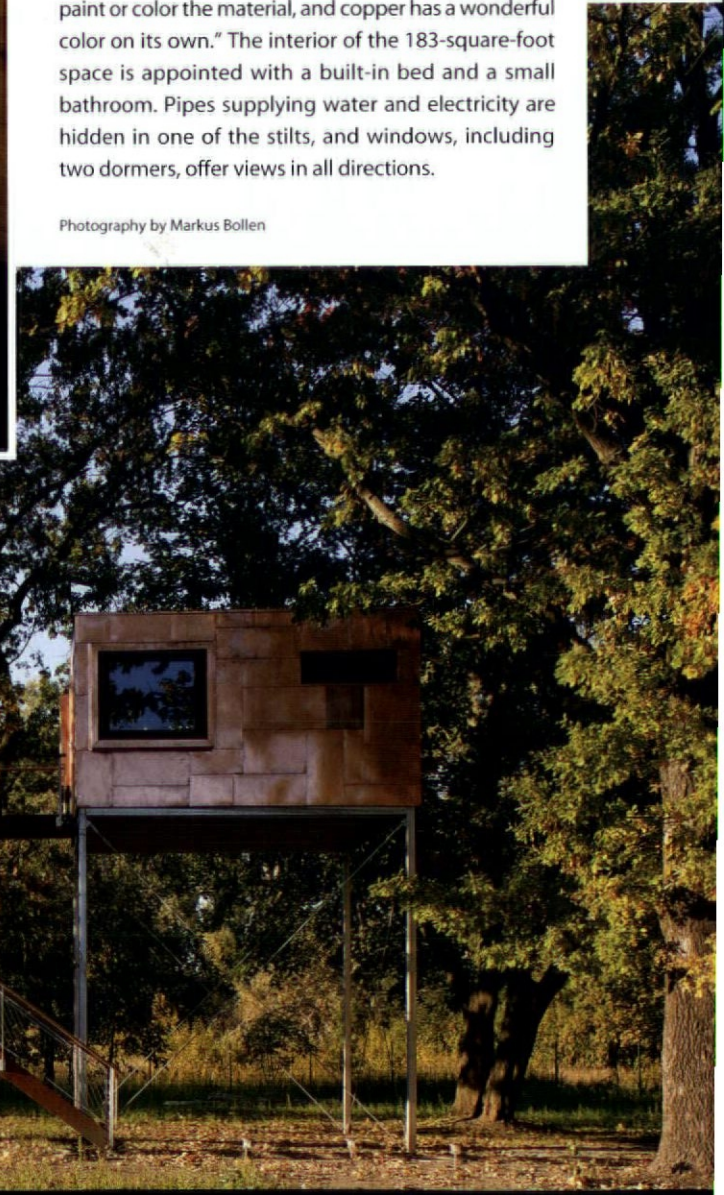
Website: baumraum.de

"Tree houses give us adventure," says architect Andreas Wenning, founder of the German firm Baumraum, which specializes in modern tree house design. "They provide a small concentrated space that brings people close to the natural environment."

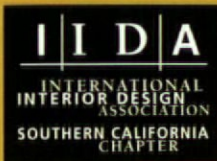
Wenning recently completed a tree house that will serve as a guesthouse for a family near Berlin. The oak-and-plywood cubic form is positioned over 16 feet high between four fir trees and supported by steel stilts. A terrace—13 feet high and wrapped around the trunk of a tree—branches off the structure and is held in place by steel ropes and textile belts fastened to an oak tree.

The contemporary structure creates "an interesting tension between the complex and natural shape of the tree," says Wenning, who clad the façade with copper panels. "We look for materials that can be used in a natural and authentic way. We don't like to paint or color the material, and copper has a wonderful color on its own." The interior of the 183-square-foot space is appointed with a built-in bed and a small bathroom. Pipes supplying water and electricity are hidden in one of the stilts, and windows, including two dormers, offer views in all directions.

Photography by Markus Bollen



SEATTLE
VANCOUVER
NEW YORK
LOS ANGELES
SAN FRANCISCO
DALLAS
CHICAGO
TORONTO



IIDA

LEADERS

BREAKFAST 2011

Back for its 22nd year, featuring speakers, business and design innovators and interior design leaders.

LOS ANGELES

September 23rd, 2011 at the JW Marriott, L.A. LIVE, Los Angeles



Keynote Speaker: Kevin Carroll
Founder of Kevin Carroll Katalyst/LLC

Kevin Carroll is a masterful storyteller with a tremendous gift for reaching an audience and awakening the inspiration that lies within people and within the organizations for which they work.



Honoree: John Peterson, AIA
Founder and President of Public Architecture

Public Architecture is a national nonprofit organization that is mobilizing designers to use their skills and expertise to drive social change.

To purchase tickets and learn more about sponsorship opportunities, visit IIDA Southern California at www.iida-socal.org or call 213.747.2391.

National Benefactors:  **Herman Miller**

**INTERIOR
DESIGN**

Chapter Sponsors:

Bentley Prince Street
Haworth
Tandus
Caesarstone

InterfaceFLOR
Knoll
Teknion/Sidemark
FORM Magazine

Sierra Bonita Apartments

Location: West Hollywood, CA

Designer: Patrick Tighe Architecture

Website: tighearchitecture.com

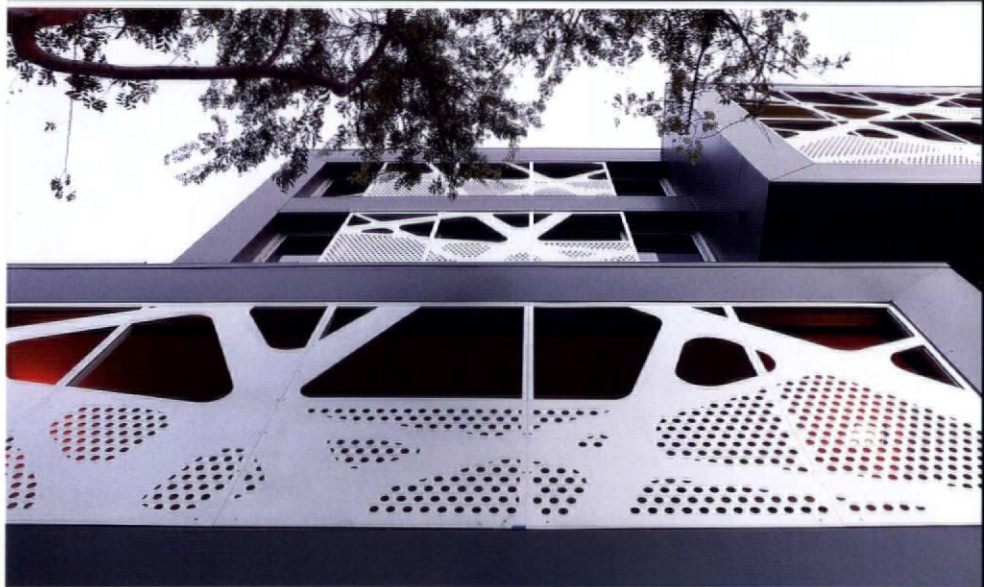
"The design came out of a series of constraints," Patrick Tighe, FAIA, says of the Sierra Bonita mixed-use affordable housing complex he designed for the City of West Hollywood. "We were given a mandate to create a sustainable building that would house as many apartments as we could fit, two levels of subterranean parking, retail space at grade, shared common spaces and outdoor areas—all within a 13,000-square-foot lot."

Tighe delivered on all points. The five-story development—built for less than \$300 per square foot—features 42 one-bedroom units, commercial space along Santa Monica Boulevard, underground parking for residents and a large central courtyard. In addition, the structure met or exceeded all of the city's Green Building Ordinance requirements. "Our scheme was to create an efficient, compact, dense building," says Tighe. "The sustainable components were integrated into the architecture."

Starting with the exterior, web-like screens made from laser-cut sheets of aluminum act as railings and offer privacy, while reducing heat gain and creating a striking facade. Inside, the bamboo-landscaped interior courtyard allows for cross-ventilation and creates a microclimate within the building. "The courtyard is the heart of the project," says Tighe, who designed all of the units to have "front porches" overlooking the outdoor space. "To compensate for the void created within the building, an eccentric braced frame was expressed as a five-story lattice in the garden and encased in pink fiberglass."

The building's location "brings higher density into the urban core of the city," says Tighe, and it ensures the residents—currently a mix of seniors, disabled people and low-income families—"direct access to local businesses and services."

Photography by Art Gray



Join the AIA|LA today and be part of
your community.



Architects design the iconic buildings that make Los Angeles a first class city. Architects build a community.

Be part of **your** community.
The AIA Los Angeles community.

Member benefits include:

- Reduced prices on AIA contract documents
- Discounts on tickets to the AIA|LA Home Tours and Design Awards Party
- AIA|LA job resource center and Work with Architects
- Participation in AIA|LA Chapter Committees
- Reduced registration rates on AIA|LA Continuing Education Courses
- Opportunities to get plugged in to City Hall
- Networking opportunities with the Los Angeles Architecture and Design Community

For more information on how to join today, visit our website at www.aialosangeles.org.



AIA Los Angeles

A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects



Veloz Residence

Location: Glendale, CA

Designer: FormLA Landscaping, Inc.

Website: formlainc.com

Given the temperate climate of Southern California, it's not unusual for people to spend as much time outdoors as they do inside. For a project in Glendale, California, FormLA Landscaping gave their clients even more reason to linger outside by integrating ten distinct living spaces into their hillside lot. "The family has four children of varying ages," says president and cofounder Cassy Aoyagi, LEED AP. "They needed spaces that would allow for play and interaction as well as privacy and relaxation."

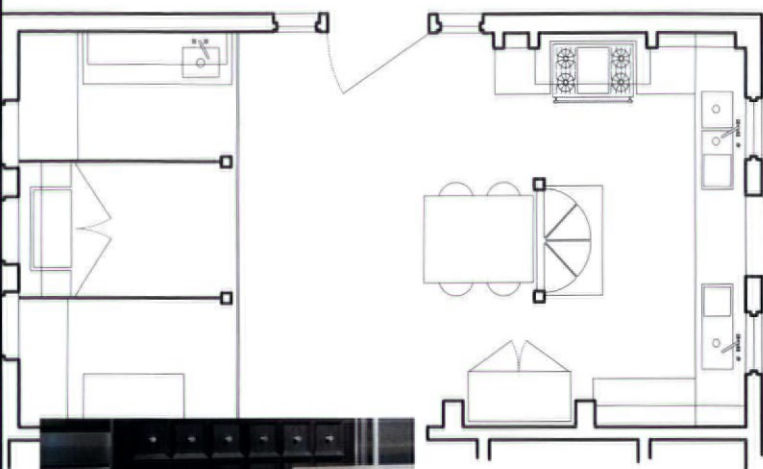
As soon as guests walk through the front door, their focus is pulled outside to a sculptural copper waterfall built into a ledger-stone retaining wall. "The home is so open it was key to orient a spectacular feature to serve as an art piece and draw people into the outdoor spaces," says Aoyagi, who used poured-in-place concrete pavers to lead people through a variety of experiences.

One side of a long patio is anchored with a custom-designed fire pit positioned near a saltwater "spool" for easy interaction. On the other side, a fully equipped kitchen and 8' by 8' wine cellar are built into a retaining wall. The outdoor eating area is appointed with a grill, full sink, beverage cooler and a raised breakfast bar with two stools. Off the kitchen and throughout the garden, poured-in-place concrete benches designed by FormLA offer places to relax. "Moveable furniture can squeeze a space," says Aoyagi, "but built-in pieces keep it open."

Simple timber walls create a network of terraces along the sloping hill for the family's children to explore, and a decomposed-granite patio, furnished with two Adirondack chairs, sits at the top of the property. "In the end," says Aoyagi, "each element should call people to live in it and enjoy it."

Photography by Orly Oliver





New from
Balcony Press
256pp hardcover \$65

www.balconypress.com

Mick De Giulio
with Maria Elena Greco



"KITCHEN CENTRIC

by internationally-known kitchen designer
Mick De Giulio, puts a new spin on the kitchen
design book, offering readers an art book,
a fantasy book, and a bit of field guide."

the power of
color

- Backlit Graphics
- Banners
- Building Wraps
- Dimensional Letters
- Environmental Graphics
- Exhibit & Event Solutions
- Floor Graphics
- Lightboxes
- Murals
- Point Of Purchase
- Pop Up Displays
- Posters
- Adhesive Graphics
- Trade Show Booth Graphics
- Visual Merchandising
- Window Clings

Need something special? Just ask our color consultants.



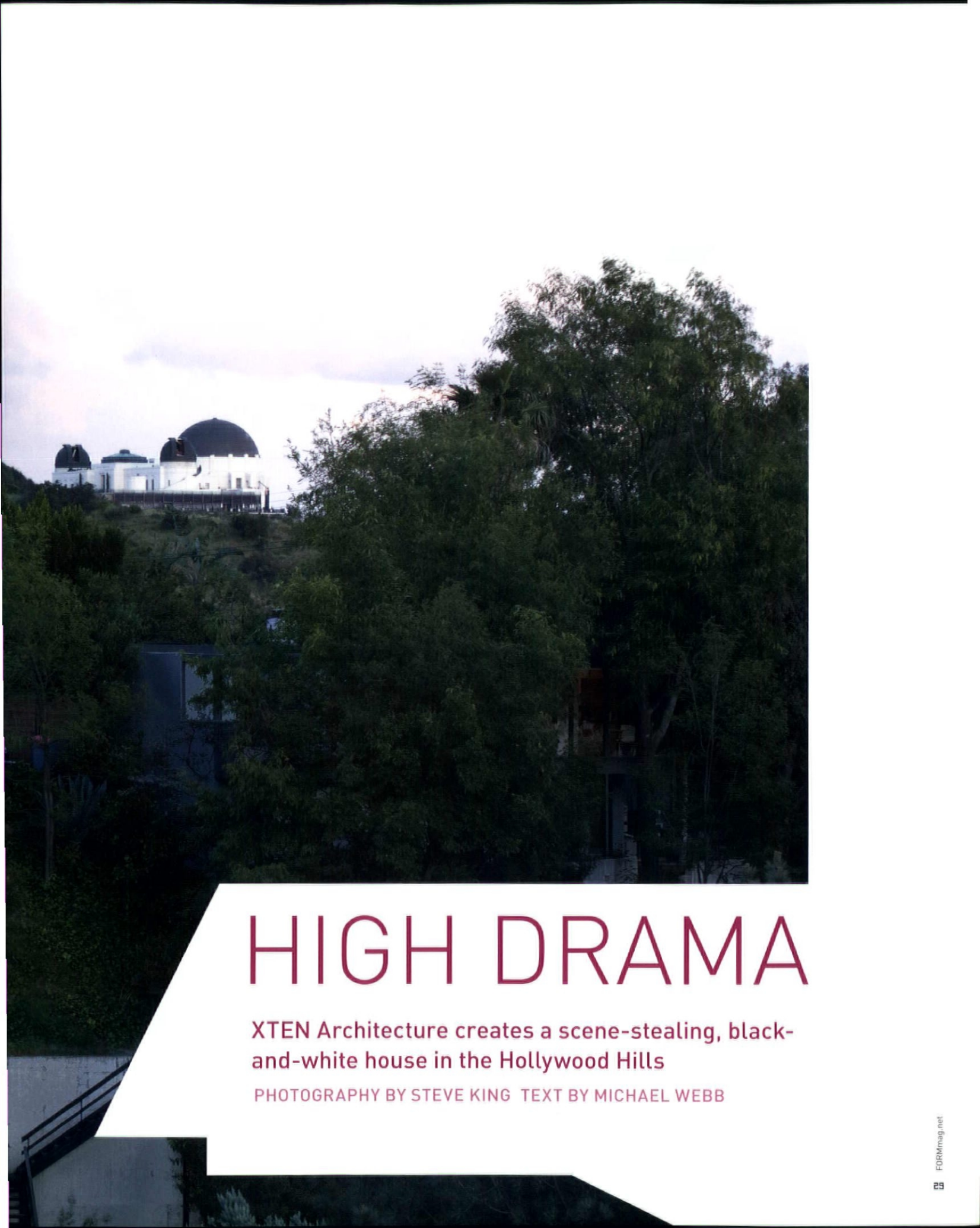
ARC™

Global provider of content-enabled technology solutions
and cloud computing solutions for the architecture,
engineering, and construction industry.

- ▶ On-Site Services
- ▶ Digital Color Printing
- ▶ Document Logistics
- ▶ Enterprise Content Management
- ▶ Print Problem Solvers

www.e-arc.com





HIGH DRAMA

XTEN Architecture creates a scene-stealing, black-and-white house in the Hollywood Hills

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE KING TEXT BY MICHAEL WEBB

IN 1923, WHEN A SIGN PROMOTING THE Hollywoodland subdivision was erected on the hills above Beachwood Canyon, moviemakers were already transforming simple stories into finely crafted illusions, but they worked within tight constraints. There was no spoken dialogue, the screen ratio was fixed at 4:3, and the cinematography was black and white. The best talents turned these limitations to advantage, creating enduring works of art as perfect in their way as a Balanchine-Stravinsky ballet danced in leotards on a bare stage.

XTEN Architecture has pulled off a similar feat, turning a decrepit ski chalet just below the Hollywood sign into a geometric belvedere with a black exterior and all-white interior. The partnership of Austin Kelly, AIA, LEED AP, and Monika Häfelfinger, which alternates between L.A. and Basel, Switzerland, has given this makeover a distinctive mix of Swiss precision and the casual flow of Southern California. Though the house has only 1,800 square feet, it expands to embrace a rugged landscape in which the nearest neighbors are coyotes, hawks and deer.

That posed a challenge, for the constraints—of space, access, and budget—were exacting.

"The old building was chopped into three parts and the only view it offered was downwards—to the roofs of three dingbats on the street below," says Kelly. "But we should be glad it was built, back in the 1960s, for it would be impossible to put up a new house on this site, given the present building regulations for steep slopes." The only addition the architects were allowed to make was a deck that juts out over the canyon. Everything else, from the pitched roof to the reconstructed, steel-reinforced walls, stays within the envelope of the original house and utilizes the original foundations. It would have been prohibitively costly to build beyond, but there was no need to do so.

Modest changes have made everything new, transforming a windowless, divided structure into a multi-level complex of indoor-outdoor spaces. XTEN treated the envelope as a found object, cutting openings to frame the landscape and create diagonal connections within the house. Glass sliders open up to terraces. Steps link the rooms, form a set of bleachers outside, and extend up to a roof deck above the elevated master bedroom. The alternation of fade-resistant black Meoded plaster skin and a dazzling white lining gives the house a cutaway quality.

XTEN have completed a dozen houses since opening their office in 2000, and six more are in development. "Each brings its specific client, program and site, plus the constraints that push us as architects, to create an innovative design," says Kelly. "We are always looking for architectural ideas that we can explore in our residential work and then apply to larger projects." It is easy to imagine this open, multi-level house as the model for a large mixed-use project like the one that the firm is currently developing in a village outside Basel.

As for the palette—the most distinctive feature of the house—it was the choice of the young couple who commissioned the remodel. He is a perfectionist who opted for the black exterior; she grew up in modern houses in Brazil and asked for a serene white interior. They are planning to cover the sloping roof with ultra-thin photovoltaic panels, preserving its stealth character, and are furnishing the house meticulously.

When the sliders are drawn back, you feel you are floating high above the world. The silence is tangible, and it's hard to imagine you are at the center of a vast metropolis. ■



PREVIOUS PAGES: In the hills near the Griffith Observatory, an old ski chalet gets a striking new silhouette by XTEN Architecture. ABOVE: The all-white interiors include high-gloss epoxy concrete floors and lacquered kitchen cabinetry. OPPOSITE TOP: A hot pink felt chair and ottoman from Environment appoint the living room. OPPOSITE BOTTOM: A new deck connects the kitchen and living areas, while a custom steel stairway links a rooftop sundeck.





Modern Family



Clean lines and organic materials deliver carefree living to a Los Angeles family

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURA HULL TEXT BY CAREN KURLANDER

"We look to how people are occupying space as a driver to what architecture should be," says architect Michael Pinto, AIA, design principal with Osborn Architects in Glendale, California, of the approach his firm took in designing a house for Mark and Andrea Meyerhofer and their two sons. "It really springs from understanding how people hope to live and seeing if the architecture can facilitate the life that they want to have in their space." In this case, the couple envisioned an easy lifestyle with frequent interaction between family members and the outdoors.

But before Pinto could implement those ideas, he had to address the existing house.

The Meyerhofers had been living in La Cañada Flintridge in a 1950s post-and-beam structure, which they initially had planned to remodel. However, once construction started, and soil tests were done, it became apparent that the house needed to be rebuilt. "In order not to have to start over with plan check and invalidate everything we'd done, we had to rebuild to the same height, same volume and same footprint," says Pinto, but "the aesthetics did change significantly."

The new structure went up with clean modern lines and rich textured materials. Redwood from the original house was reclaimed to line the walls of the new one, and

above: Osborn Architects and designer Jamie Bush collaborated on a family's house in La Cañada Flintridge. The landscaping was done by Katherine Spitz Associates, Inc. **left:** A sleek leather-covered Poltrona Frau sofa and armchair play off the living area's redwood walls, slate floors and fireplace clad with Arizona fieldstone.



steel-beam framing allows for floor-to-ceiling glass to dissolve the boundaries between inside and out. To address the family's needs, Pinto created an open, flexible floor plan. "We started with the idea of having the kitchen be the pivot point for a number of things," explains the architect, who arranged the main living spaces around it like a pinwheel. Fleetwood sliding doors, opening onto a swimming pool terrace, line one side of the kitchen, while a doorway leading to the living/dining room

architecture and the furnishings and between the furnishings themselves."

Bush began by creating a cohesive material palette—including black slate floor tiles that move seamlessly from inside to out—and then chose furnishings and colors that would balance its organic nature. In the breakfast area near the stainless steel-and-black laminate Bulthaup kitchen, Artifort's Little Tulip chairs are covered with a bright yellow Designtex fabric. "We consciously made a decision to

but contrast enough to read as sculptural as possible." One exception is found in the master bedroom, where a four-poster bed custom-made with an ebonized oak veneer over a steel frame defines the space. "I wanted a canopy bed that was very thin and that was an architectural extension of the house," says Bush.

Though the furnishings act as a perfect complement to the architecture, it was the last layer of decorative elements that made the spaces feel personal. "I don't think something incredibly spare and minimal really lives and breathes," says the designer. And, in this case, it wouldn't reflect the owners. To mix with the vintage furniture, artful lighting and contemporary pieces, Bush brought in antiquities from China, Bolivian textiles, pillows from Uzbekistan and photography books. "These are all things that the owners are interested in," he explains. "They have a bright-eyed excitement about things, and I think this house has that type of optimism." ■

"We try to enhance the intentions of the architecture rather than put our own imprint on something." — JAMIE BUSH

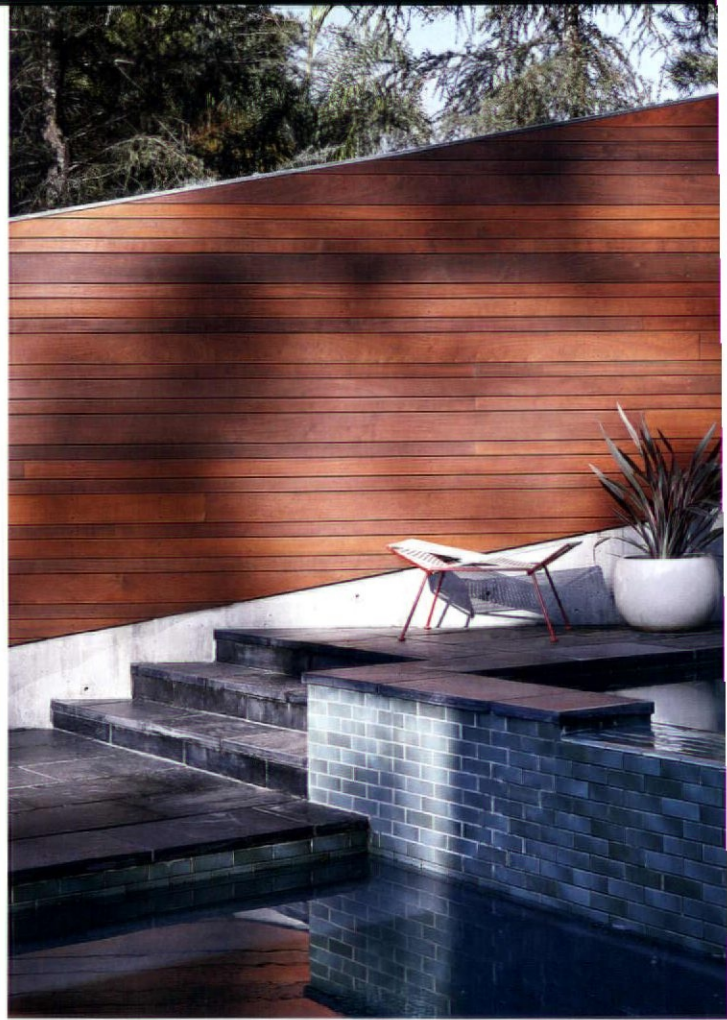
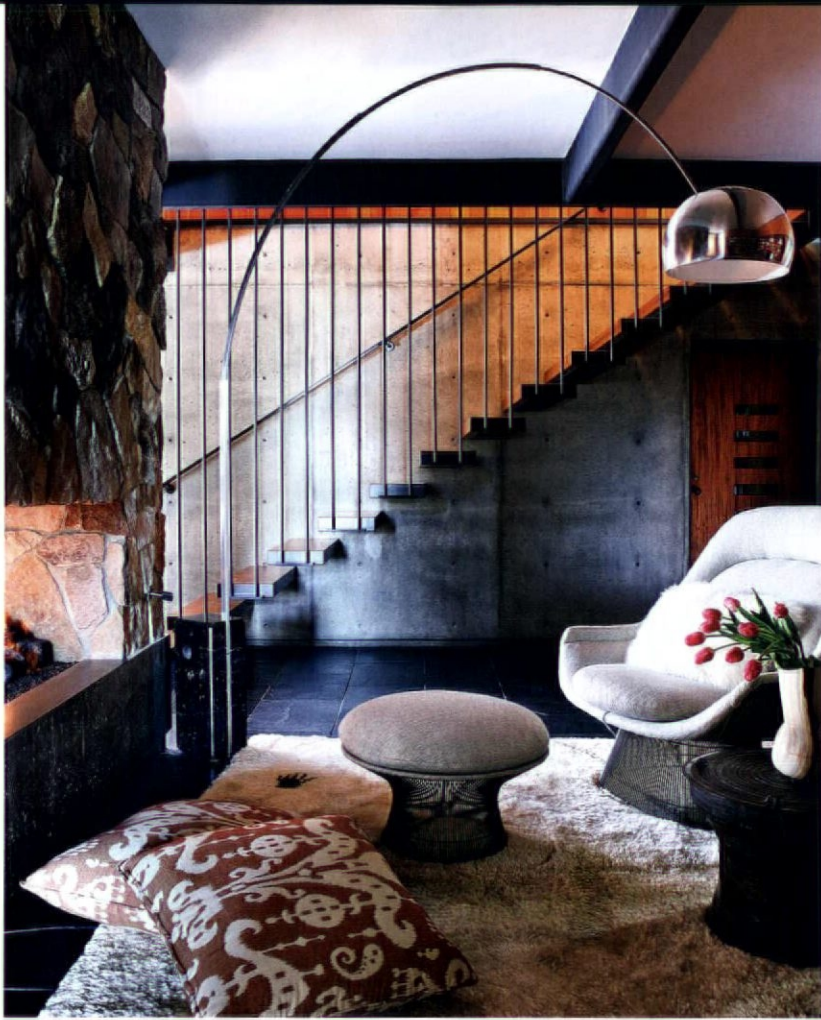
opens on the other. A casual breakfast area and family room lie directly ahead. The master and guest bedrooms occupy the outside corners of the house, and three additional bedrooms comprise the second floor.

The clean lines of the architecture and radiating pattern of the floor plan gave Los Angeles interior designer Jamie Bush a rich starting point. "We try to enhance the intentions of the architecture rather than put our own imprint on something," says Bush, who was trained as an architect and spent time in the offices of Marmol Radziner and Bob Hale before switching gears and opening his own interior design firm, Jamie Bush & Co. "I always like to have a dialogue between the

make that the brightest color since it's the very center of the house," explains the designer. "Everything on the perimeters became a study of neutrals with little pops of color."

Bush anchored one end of the main living/dining room with a long, curved Poltrona Frau sofa upholstered with white leather. "The whole house is very boxy, and I wanted something that felt lighter to contrast with the darker tones on the floor and vertical surfaces." On the opposite end of the room, a dining table by Arthur Espenet Carpenter and vintage Finn Juhl chairs stand beneath two PH Artichoke pendants. "Between the natural material palette and organic forms," says Bush, "the furnishings complement the architecture

ABOVE LEFT: The dining area's vintage furnishings complement the architecture. **ABOVE:** Bright yellow fabric wakes up the breakfast area. **OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** A Moroccan rug and ikat pillows appoint the study. The pool terrace. Stainless steel stools pull up to the Bulthaup kitchen. A 1960s French light fixture illuminates the bathroom.



TALL TALES

Architects go vertical to give houses on narrow lots a broad appeal

BY DANNY KING

SAN FRANCISCO ARCHITECT CRAIG STEELY IS SO skilled at maximizing usable living space within houses on tight, steep lots that when he designed a still-under-construction home near the city's Dolores Park, he actually left some currency—in the form of extra square footage—on the table. "It would've made it an uglier house," Steely says of bumping up against the city-regulated height limit for the neighborhood. "Every room has an insane view. Why do we need to be greedy?"

Steely, who has been designing houses in San Francisco since 2000, has plenty of experience in working the city's infamously narrow lots to his advantage. "Usually the most difficult lots have the best views," Steely explains. "If you want to live in the city, going vertical just gives you more room." The house near Dolores Park is a prime example. The 1,800-square-foot, four-level structure, which sits on a 1,900-square-foot site with a 45-degree slope, has an inverted floor plan, putting the living room, kitchen and adjoining 750-square-foot





courtesy of atelier A5



Paul Dyer



Paul Dyer



Courtesy of Craig Steely



Courtesy of Craig Steely

patio on the top floor and light-filled bedrooms below. By building the house like a tower instead of driving it into the hillside, Steely cut “hundreds of thousands of dollars” in excavation expenses. He also designed ninety floor-to-ceiling louvers made from reclaimed cypress, which will control the natural light flow and offer privacy from the public stairway next door.

Steely is part of a group of architects—including fellow San Franciscan John Maniscalco, AIA, and the Tokyo-based firm atelierA5—who specialize in building relatively spacious and light-filled houses on cramped lots. Maniscalco won acclaim for a 2007 project known as Cube House, a rehabbed single-story Victorian in San Francisco’s Panhandle district, which had a historically protected facade and what the architect calls “a nest of tiny rooms.” Maniscalco added a second and third story to the house, which sits on a 25-foot by 125-foot lot, and then inserted a 12-foot by 12-foot glass-enclosed garden in the center to permeate the structure with light. “The problem with these long, narrow sites is that they end up light starved,” he explains. “Our purpose was a singular gesture, to introduce this second-story garden element that forms its glass cube.”

For a recently completed four-story house in Russian Hill, Maniscalco came up with a different solution. The architect positioned a six-foot by 16-foot top-floor skylight over a multilevel steel-and-glass stairway and a series of catwalks to provide, reflect and magnify sunlight throughout the 5,800-square-foot home.

The fact that Maniscalco and Steely are based in San Francisco is no accident. With about 750,000 residents crammed into 47 square miles, San Francisco has about 16,000 people per square mile, making it the second-most densely populated U.S. city. And while its density is about a third of that of first-place New York, most of San Francisco’s housing is found in buildings that top out at 40 feet or

so. “It’s not a city that’s had success with high-rise living,” said Maniscalco. “The vast majority of housing is based on the three- to four-story precedent and a tight footprint.”

Tokyo, with residents numbering around 12 million, has a similar population density to San Francisco, making the 900-square-foot lot inhabited by atelierA5’s SN.house “typical” of the city’s single-family homes, according to architect Sadahiro Shimizu, one of the firm’s founders. The lot may be typical, but the house is not. A two-story-high screen made of punched metal sheets surrounds the 1,400-square-foot, four-story house, allowing for light while providing privacy. All upper levels are stepped back, creating outdoor areas off the living room, bedrooms and penthouse.

The firm had to go even more minute with its FW.house, a three-level 800-square-foot house on a 500-square-foot lot. The grey-and-white, two-tone facade and asymmetrical, triangulated top floor give off a sense of whimsy, yet its jigsaw puzzle of lofts, skylights and stairwells allow for well-lit living and sleeping quarters to be both integrated and separated when necessary.

Steely, Maniscalco and Shimizu all say that the need to maximize space efficiency by going vertical forces them to focus their work on what Shimizu calls “the primary elements”—walls, floors, ceilings, support structure—and minimize the stylistic touches.

Steely took that approach one step further with an extensive remodel he carried out in San Francisco. He purposely kept the building’s steel exoskeleton, which was used to facilitate a seismic upgrade for the four-story house, fully exposed as a way to keep the “energy and potential” most homes have before the finishing touches are applied. “I’ve had contractors walk up to me and ask, ‘When’s that project going to be done?’ I tell them it’s been done for two years,” says Steely. “Mission accomplished.” ■

FAR LEFT: The SN.house, by Tokyo-based atelierA5, fits 1,400-square-feet on its 900-square-foot lot. LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM: A multi-level residence in Russian Hill by San Francisco architect John Maniscalco. Light spills into a steel-and-glass stairwell from a large skylight. Architect Craig Steely’s design for a house on a sloping San Francisco lot. Floor-to-ceiling louvers will control light and privacy.

AMC

ABINETS INC.

ARCHITECTURAL MILLWORK

DOORS, FRAMES & HARDWARE



239 E. GARDENA BOULEVARD
GARDENA, CA 90248
P: 310-532-1919
F: 310-329-4425
WWW.AMCABINETS.COM



Navigator
Cross-media, Inc.

LARGE-SIZED DIGITAL OUTPUT
FOR CREATIVE PRESENTATIONS

peter@navcm.com
626.222.5646

CREDITS

RR House

SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

ARCHITECTURAL TEAM: Guilherme Torres, Celso Oshiro, Jean Oliveira,
Lais Sanada, Rafael Miliari, Raphael Lima, Vanessa Bercini

The East Village

AUSTIN, TEXAS

ARCHITECTURAL TEAM: Thomas Bercy, Calvin Chen,
Fred Hubnik, Fred Saylor, Brad Purrington, Dan Loe, Tom Tornbjerg,
Ryan Michael, Agustina Rodriguez

INTERIOR DESIGN TEAM: Thomas Bercy,
Calvin Chen, Fred Hubnik

LANDSCAPE TEAM: Thomas Bercy,
Calvin Chen, Fred Hubnik

ENGINEERS/LIGHTING: Structures LLC, Recht Lighting

CONTRACTOR: Bercy Chen Studio LP

CLIENT: 11 Street Neighborhood Partners

MARKETING AND SALES: Blake Shanley

PHOTOGRAPHER: Ryan Michael

Copper Cube

WERDER, GERMANY

ARCHITECTURAL TEAM: Baumraum, Andreas Wenning

INTERIOR DESIGN TEAM: Baumraum, Andreas Wenning

ENGINEERS/LIGHTING: Baumraum, Andreas Wenning

CONTRACTOR: Baumraum, Andreas Wenning

PHOTOGRAPHER: Markus Bollen

Sierra Bonita Apartments

WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA

ARCHITECTURAL TEAM:

TIGHE Architecture: Patrick Tighe FAIA, Risa Tsutsumi, Yosuke
Hoshina, Lisa Little, Jarod Poenisch,
Mike Nesbit, Karla Mueller, Pete Story

MEP / ENVIRONMENTAL: IBE Consulting Engineers

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: Gilsanz Murry Steficek

LANDSCAPE TEAM: Ahbe Landscape Architects

CONTRACTOR: Parker Sarg Industries

CLIENT: The City of West Hollywood / West Hollywood Community
Housing Corporation

PHOTOGRAPHER: Art Gray Photography

Veloz Residence

GLENDALE, CA

LANDSCAPE DESIGN, BUILDING, INSTALLATION:

FormLA Landscaping, Inc.

LIGHTING AND IRRIGATION: FormLA Landscaping, Inc.

NEW at **FORM**
PIONEERING DESIGN

July/August Issue

Partnering with DWR, FORM reveals little-known-to-the-trade buying opportunities

Enhanced Issue Content
at **FORMmag.net**

FORM goes beyond the page.

Video content available online.

SOURCE

Pacific Coast Teak

Beautiful . Durable . Sustainable

- Largest source of teak lumber in North America
- FSC Certified
- Plantation grown in Mexico, Costa Rica & Panama
- Closest teak source to USA & Canada
- Lowest per-board-foot prices anywhere



don@pacificcoastteak.com

Office: 805.237.2100

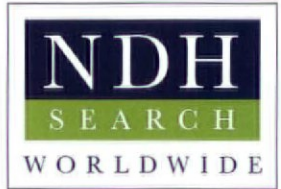
Cell: 805.610.6161

PacificCoastTeak.com



NDH Search Adds Temp to Perm Services

NDH Search now offers part-time professionals to a + d firms who have a need to hire, but are not prepared to make a commitment to or bear the expenses associated with a full-time employee. Firms of all sizes can now take advantage of excellent professionals of all levels and expertise without the overhead—architects, engineers, marketing, finance and administrative professionals.



Nancy Horne, Principal
Nancy@NDHSearch.com
323.464.6494
www.ndhsearch.com

Studio Fuse

Studio Fuse is the award-winning creative team behind *FORM Pioneering Design*. We've spent the last decade meeting design challenges of every shape and size. Beyond creative direction and publication design we're also experts in arts & entertainment marketing, strategic planning, brand development, communication design, and our most lauded service—project management.



jenn@studiofuse.biz
626.584.1272
www.studiofuse.biz

Shade Sails

Shade Sails is a leader in providing design, engineering and fabrication of tensile fabric shade structures. These soaring shade structures can float over eating or play areas. Custom designed for each application, they can be attached to existing structures or to columns.



shadesails@charter.net
562.945.9952
www.shadesails.com

Precision Property Measurements

Precision Property Measurements is the premier provider of As-Built architectural measuring and drafting services in Southern California. We create accurate As-Built plans quickly and affordably, giving architects and designers the critical input they need to make their projects more efficient, predictable and profitable. Accurate and on time. Every time. Choose PPM – A BETTER PLAN



office@ppmco.net
562.621.9100
www.ppmco.net

UCLA Extension's Landscape Architecture Program

We've been green for over 30 years making plans that make a difference!

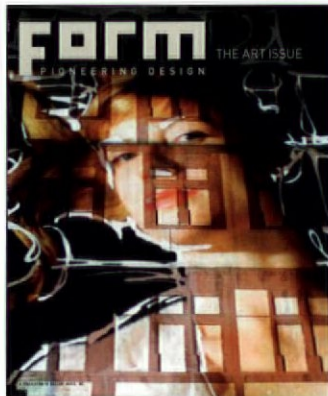
Discover an environmental profession that covers residential, commercial, park and open space design. Certified to meet the education requirement for California licensure, our evening certificate program is perfect for career changers.



landscapearchitecture@uclaextension.edu
310.825.9414
uclaextension.edu/landarch

FORM Source Ads

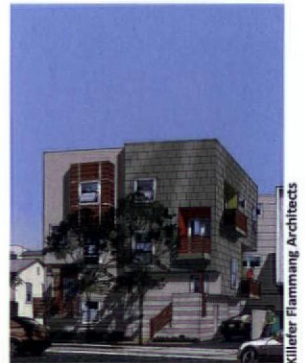
FORM's most affordable advertising solution to reach architects and design professionals. Reserve your space today.



advertising@FORMmag.net
818.956.5313
310.821.0746
www.FORMmag.net

Architectural Illustration

LA based free-lance illustrator, Ernie Marjoram offers a blend of traditional and digital techniques to create concept sketches, finished perspectives as well as rendered plans and elevations for architects and interior designers. With architectural training and more than 10 years experience as an illustrator, Ernie's drawings can help get your design ideas approved by clients, government agencies and public review boards.

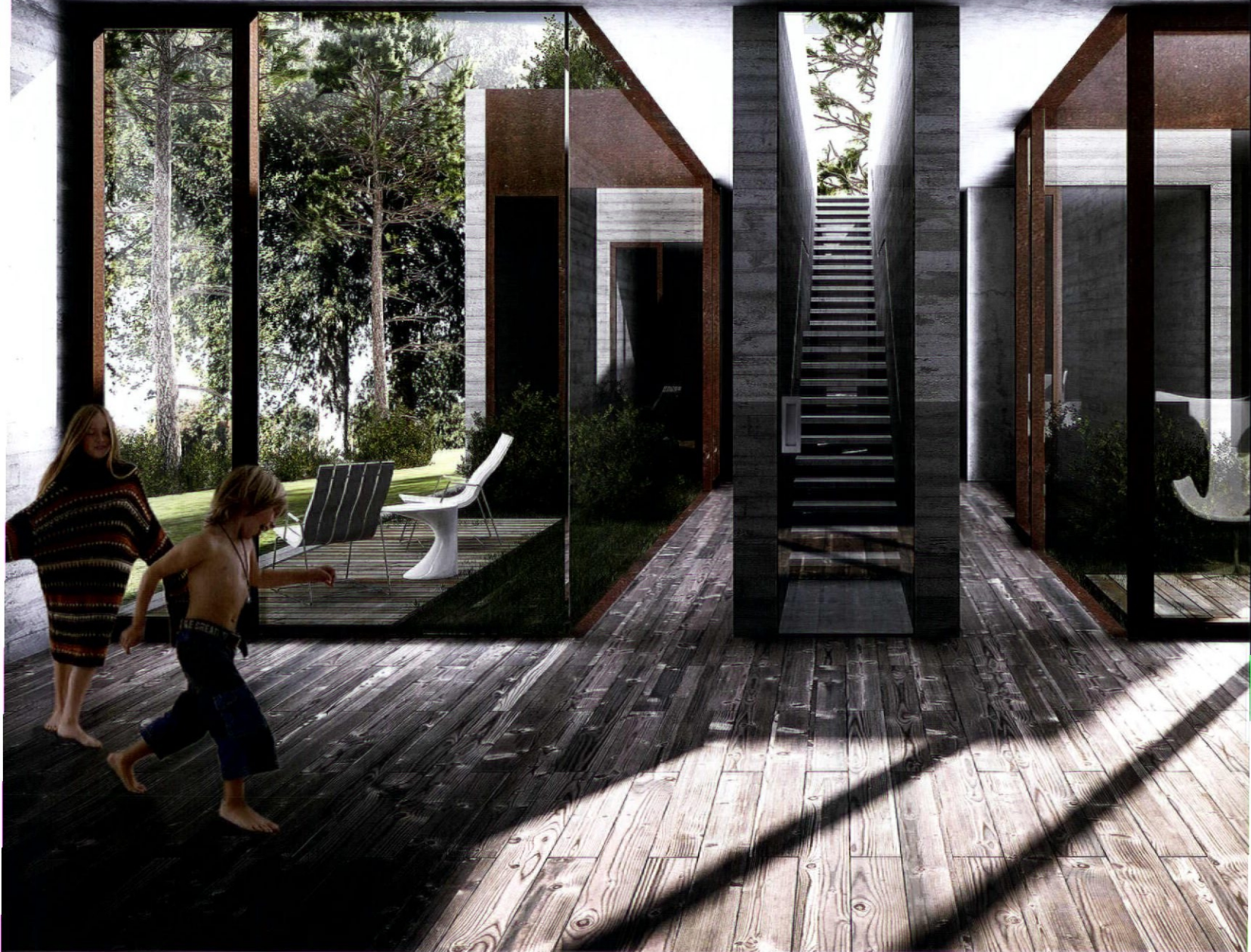


Ernie Marjoram
323.939.7690
www.erniemarjoram.com

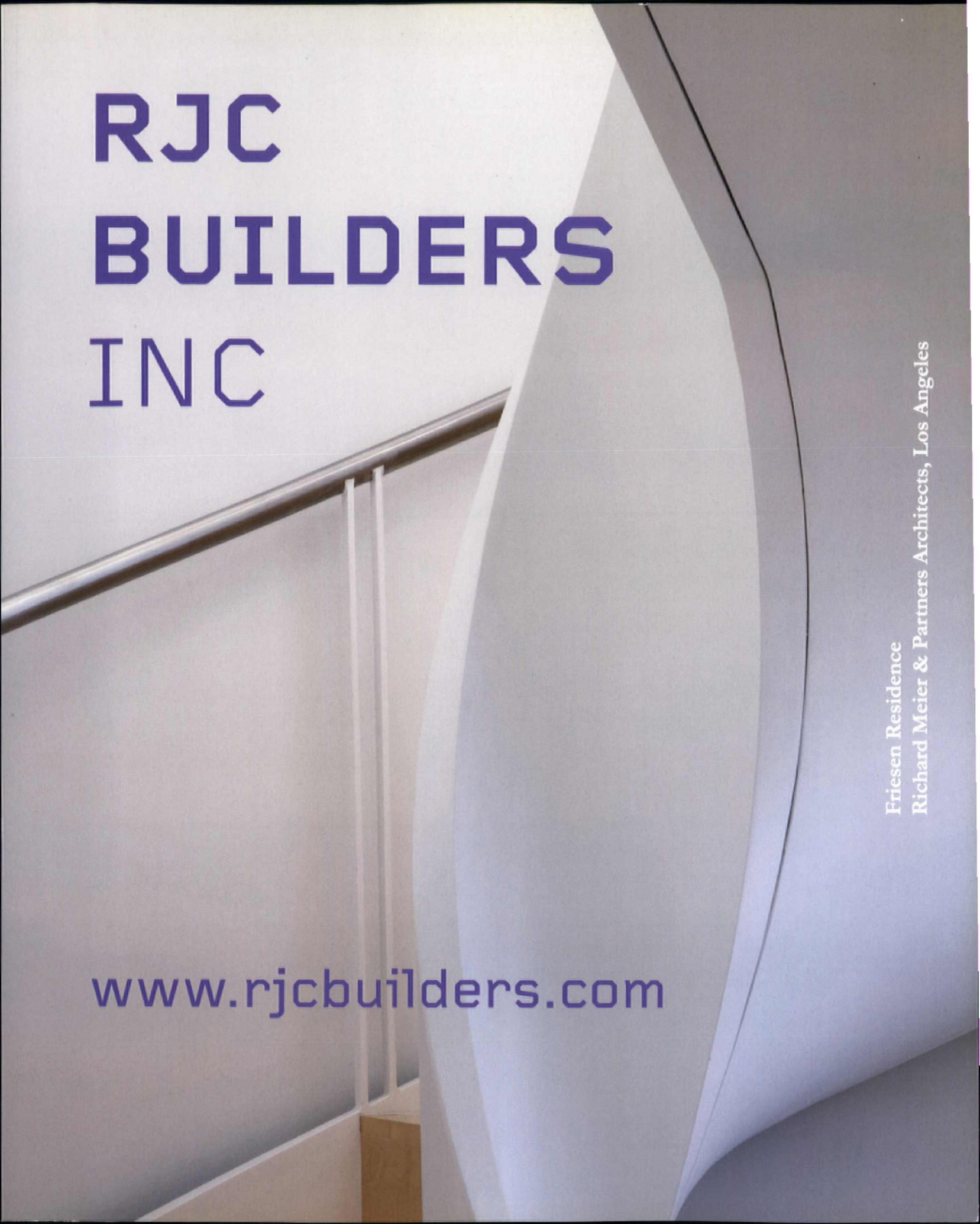
UNBUILT

"We were asked to explore the legacy of a 1931 modernist house by Eleanor Raymond that was to be demolished. The main features of our design are a well, which bisects all the way through, and exterior patios that penetrate the simple box. It's our contemporary response to the same instinct Raymond had in her day, that of rooting her house into the landscape."

—Yianna Bouyioukou, LEED AP
partner



FIRM: Your Building Here | PROJECT: Entry for the AIA Committee on Design Ideas Competition: "Listening to the Past, Looking to the Future: A House for Today" | LOCATION: Belmont, MA | DESIGN TOOLS: AutoCAD, Adobe Illustrator, 3D Studio Max/V-Ray, Adobe Photoshop



RJC BUILDERS INC

Friesen Residence
Richard Meier & Partners Architects, Los Angeles

www.rjcbuilders.com

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING DESIGN + CONSULTING



West Los Angeles College,
Math & Science Building
Culver City, California

*enhancing the quality
of lives through better
engineered structures.*

CIVIC

CORPORATE &
COMMERCIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

EDUCATION

GOVERNMENT &
MILITARY

HEALTHCARE

RESIDENTIAL

SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY

Risha
engineering



For more information visit us at www.risha.com or call 818.729.9777
Risha Engineering is a certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE)