Design Art of

VILLA

IV
The origin of the Villa dates back to Roman times when “Villa” referred to an upper class country house. From antiquity through the modern era, Villa implies not just living in the country, but being implicitly removed from the city, on the outskirts, becoming one with nature and the land. Certainly, Villas throughout history have maintained this quality, they spread out and they embrace the land.

Spreading out as they do enables the resident great latitude to accomplish much in the way of features, which one cannot obtain in an urban residence, “Domus”. Villas commonly contain areas that accommodate many sleeping quarters, varied living spaces both indoor and outdoor, and promote leisure activities with amenities such as tennis courts and swimming pools.

In the recent past, Le Corbusier and Mies Van der Rohe, two of the 20th century’s architectural masters, clearly understood these ideals when they titled their early breakthrough modern homes “Villa Savoye” and “Villa Tugenhut”. And though, not specifically titled as such, the compositions of Frank Lloyd Wright’s “Falling Water” and Walter Gropius’s home in Lincoln, Massachusetts, clearly embody the characteristics of the Villa.

It is in this context that the modern homes, or Villas, represented in this book, carry on the traditions. Removed from the city embracing the landscape, spreading their wings, creating vistas to the sea, and openings beyond the common scale of doors and windows. Some Villas anchor to the ground as if to say: “I am here to stay,” “I am one with you”. Others express a sense of soaring and hovering, they float above the landscape respecting its independence. From the interiors to the exteriors, the modern Villas in this book are truly a work of art.

Stuart Narofsky, AIA, LEED AP
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Artpower Creative Space

Artpower, with 10 years' experience in architecture, interior, landscape and graphic design, also the business in the fields such as books' publishing and distribution, cultural / media industry, brand management and artworks market etc., has published more than 100 books, collected about 40,000 outstanding and original works from top design companies and designers all over the world (keep updating).

By launching the magazine Artpower Creative Space (ACS) and the website ACS.CN, Artpower integrates the online resources, and recommends the cutting-edge creative ideas and conceptual design thinking. Besides, Artpower also organizes events and activities on creative design, interweaves the world-renowned designers, presents the works of young and aggressive designers, promotes new works, and offers custom publishing and public publishing services etc. With the connection of international design teams, Artpower has provided a global platform of showcase and exchange for professional designers.

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• Designers' Press Conference
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ACS is a professional magazine specializing in high-end space design. It is color printing, with 168 pages and the size of 245*325mm. Featured in both Chinese and English, ACS is distributed nationwide and overseas, with even a Lebanese version. As the most cutting-edge counseling magazine, ACS provides readers with the latest works of the very best architects and interior designers and leads the new fashion in space design.
Only on a rare occasion, we find a drive-on estate in the Sunset Strip of this scale and capacity, located just seconds from the famed boulevard’s array of world-class restaurants, shopping and nightlife.

To journey beyond the grand gates and soaring pepper tree hedge of this Hagy Belzberg-designed compound estate is to enter a secluded, resort-like sanctuary where three distinct structures — a Main Residence, Wellness Center and Guest House — summon you forward, beckoning you to journey through their space so they can unveil one surprise after another.

Architecturally inspiring, in both appearance and function, 1232 Sunset Plaza radiates a warm, California modern allure draped in sophistication and delight, while...
conveying an unmistakable sense of strength, volume and boldness. Exterior and interior transitional spaces are rich in fluidity so that the capacity to enjoy and entertain is always sensible and effortless.

Sweeping panoramic views of the city, afforded by an endless number of vantage points throughout the estate, are nothing short of breathtaking. Equally stunning are the views of the property itself from within, as architectural and landscape elements serve as artistic expressions and repeatedly delight as one explores the property.
With sweeping, panoramic views of the entire Los Angeles basin, this stunning contemporary architecture is perched on celebrity-studded Oriole Way, in the highly desirable “Bird Streets” above the Sunset Strip.

The brand new estate was meticulously designed to deliver clean lines with wide open spaces, walls of glass and Fleetwood pocket doors throughout that seamlessly fuse the interior and exterior, offering the ultimate California lifestyle. The materials, details and natural light are exquisite.

Owner Sean Sassounian, in close collaboration with top design firm In-Ex, focused intently on the well-curated interior, sparing no expense. The impressive list of European manufacturers includes furniture by Acerbis, Arco, Classicon, Glas Italia, Matteo Grassi and Walter Knoll; custom lighting by Foscarni; closets by Molteni; outdoor furniture by Paola Lenti, Kettal and Roda; and laundry room, kitchen and pantry by DADA. In addition, the art in the house is specially curated by the Michael Kohn Gallery — with notable and emerging artists, many from California.

This is truly a designer home. As such, all furniture is included in the sale price.

Main level offers a spacious grey and white lacquer DADA kitchen that flows to attached sitting/media room, facing out to the pool and lush hills. A massive marble island in the kitchen complements the integrated Miele appliances, and a hidden door leads to an entire catering kitchen behind the main kitchen. Formal living room with high ceilings and spectacular views boasts a full bar and flows to a gorgeous master office with floor-to-ceiling windows. A sophisticated library/media room provides views over West Hollywood and the Sunset Strip.

Resort-style backyard offers an infinity edge pool & spa, outside patios with 270° bird-eye views, complete outdoor kitchen, full bath and a spectacular dining and entertaining area. Outdoor kitchen has all Viking appliances and stainless steel Viking cabinets. Upper level, enjoy 4 bedrooms with wrap-around windows and automated blackout blinds — you feel like you’re on an island in the hills floating above the city. Hidden TVs drop from the ceiling. Views everywhere, even the master walk-in closet has a large window and amazing view. All bedrooms are en-suite and feature walk-in closets.
Master suite boasts a huge custom master bath with views overlooking the back pool and canyon, dual rainheads, deep soaking tub & spa, a mesmerizing hall of mirrors effect. Master bedroom faces west for incredible sunsets and afternoon light. Enjoy a private balcony overlooking pool and an attached office and wet bar.

Lower level, find a full gym with shower, separate massage room, powder room and full bath; wine cellar with its own bar; screening room with custom-installed marble bar counter; en-suite guest room; and a spacious garage with room for 8 vehicles, plus a carport for 2.

The grand entrance of the home features lush grounds, a fountain, custom blended grey terrazzo floors, and a massive American oak door behind double gates. This is a truly chic, one-of-a-kind home on one of the best streets in Los Angeles.
The residence started out as an idea to accommodate 3 generations of the same family. So it took its form, that the private spaces surrounded a great public space, which is the 2-storey central living, dining, entry and lounge space, a sort of indoor court yard. With its large glazed areas this space as others in this home feel very attached to the outdoors. There is great continuity from indoor to outdoor also reinforced by using the same materials inside and out.

The house is mostly clad in a unique material, which is a 3 mm Slimtech porcelain panel manufactured by Lea Ceramiche from Italy. These panels, some as large as 1m x 3m are mounted rain screen fashion (ventilated facade), on vertical insulated furring strips. The entry and the surfaces surrounding the main courtyard are clad in Zinc. All the roofs are green and are all accessible as usable as outdoor terraces.
The house is slated to receive a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for homes Silver as we incorporated many sustainable systems, such as: geothermal heating and cooling (fossil fuel is only used for cooking); LED lighting; water reclaim; super insulation (the entire house is foamed); steel frame (no wood was used); no maintenance materials like the Slimtech and zinc; as well as radiant heat throughout.

Other elements in the house are an indoor/outdoor pool area, with retractable doors for use in the warm weather seasons; an indoor squash/multi court; golf simulator/theater room; two kitchens (one for cooking Indian food and isolate the space odors); 7 full bedroom suites; billiard room, family room and a 5 car garage.

It all sits on 1.2 hectares on Long Island’s North Shore, right on the Long Island Sound with beach access.
Sited on an exceptionally steep piece of land on the bluff above BI Beach in Plettenberg Bay, the challenge with this project was always going to be how to make a beach house “live” across a vertically driven program. As a wonderful counterpoint to the challenges faced by the extreme topography, it was the steepness the site that offered the extensive, uninterrupted, panoramic views that extend beyond 180° vistas from Robberg Reserve in the south right around to Keurbooms lagoon in the north, the trick was how we balanced the two.

The program was unpacked in such a way that the living area filled the widest of the vertical platforms that was created so that kitchen, dining and living rooms as well as a guest bedroom could open onto a generous, partially covered terrace that made the most of the panorama described above. Pergolas, braai area, canopies level changes and the swimming pool offer a variety of “zones” that can be occupied in various manners depending on whether the terrace is used for a quiet spot of lounging or entertaining friends and family.
The ground floor plays home to garages, staff quarters and a timber and stone clad entrance volume and stairwell, an intermediate level houses 2 other bedrooms and a small TV lounge whilst the top floor plays host to the master bedroom suite that completes the program.

Whilst unashamedly contemporary in the architectural language and interior detailing, a palette of timber and natural stone temper the building both inside and out. The materials are intended to weather into a series of greys and driftwood tones intended to ground the house in its coastal context.

Not only grey though, the house plays host to "green" components as well; the systems of the house are complemented by a series of sustainable features such as rainwater harvesting, PV panels with batteries amongst others.
LV House

A-cero presents a new single-family house located in the north of Spain. This house with an approximate built-up area of 1,000 m² is divided in three floors. The project is characterized by its simplicity and its blend of classic style with modern flair. The property is located on a large landscaped garden and a swimming pool with organic shapes.

With a different aesthetic criteria that characterize the studio managed by architects Joaquín Torres and Rafael Llamazares. This house designed by A-cero is provided outdoors and indoors with high standard quality materials and furniture. When people get into the house through the distributor hall they get surprised by the amazing staircase that connects the three floors. Downstairs, in the ground floor they find the public areas like dining and living rooms as well as the kitchen and the service area. All the rooms have been designed with wide windows. All the rooms are in connection with the garden through the porches.
The top floor is reserved for the bedrooms. There is a master bedroom with bathroom and dressing room and 4 other bedrooms also with its own bathroom.

In the basement they find the garage, an entertainment area, which is perfect to meet people and also the indoor pool with gym. The property also has an elevator to connect the different floors.

The interior design and the furniture chosen by the client have different origins. There are several Ipe Cavalli furniture designs as well as A-cero IN designs. Vondom firms the outdoor furniture. The decoration is completed with different objects from the client and also furniture from A-cero IN like sculptures designed by the architectural studio and objects from antique shops or stores like Anmoder and Lou & Hernandez.
San Vicente Residence

The new residence is located on a large flat lot adjacent to a busy street. The designers’ goal was to design a beautiful family home while minimizing street noise. It is essential that the outside world be left behind and their idea focused on creating a zone of decompression as you enter the property. The street is heavily screened with landscaping and high walls. The driveway is separated from the entry courtyard by a glass screen wall. The landscaped courtyard contains a water element to further screen noise and provide an attractive focal point. The house is laid out over 2 levels in an “L” shape configuration around the garden. The kitchen family room opens onto a large covered porch which is lit through a glass floor in the deck above. The pool house provides an attractive focal point from the living spaces across the garden. There are 6 bedrooms in the house as well as formal and family living spaces, media and office. The palette of materials is soft contemporary with extensive use of limestone, wood as well as Italian cabinetry and bronze accents. The garden is the focus of the design incorporating the lawn and pool, various outdoor entertaining spaces, ornamental trees and sculpture.

Designer
Paul McClean

Location
Los Angeles, CA

Photography
Jim Bartsch
Sunset Strip Residence

The house occupies a hilly lot in one of the most desirable locations in Los Angeles. It is long and narrow and the primary view was only available from one end of the lot. The designers’ solution was to create a compound of three buildings: the main house, garage and wellness as well as a guest house. Passing through the gate, a landscape hedge leads to the drive court which is centrally located between the three buildings. The garage sits in a spot that enjoys spectacular views of the surrounding canyons so they designed it to be glazed on both sides. All three buildings are connected by a water feature that leads the eye towards the views and entry. The main house is approached along the water feature. The front hallway, glazed and open on three sides, leads to a stairwall where a beautiful chrome and stone stair ascends to the upper level bedrooms.
The main living room is 2-storey tall and enjoys spectacular views of the Los Angeles Basin and the ocean beyond. The room incorporates a bar and glazed wine cellar as well as an elongated see through fireplace that is visible from the family room on the other side. The combined kitchen and family room has a more intimate feeling than the living room and appears to float over the water feature. From here it is possible to look back along the water past the garage all the way to the guest house and beyond. This level of the house is completed by service spaces and an office for the owner. The upper level contains the master with his and her baths and closets as well as 2 secondary bedrooms. 2 further bedrooms are located in the basement as well as the guest house across the drive court. The palette of materials is soft contemporary with extensive use of limestone, wood as well as Italian cabinetry and bronze accents.
In this complete rebuild of a mid-century modern home, the design flows from an analysis of the varied site conditions already present and reinforces key relationships to the site while establishing new ones. From a relocated street level entry, a careful sequence follows the slope and curates the vertical movement through the home from earthbound experience to the open sky and panoramic views. Each level takes on a different purpose first, establishing new ties to the street, then anchoring family spaces to the south-facing garden, turning inwardly focused at the sleeping level, and ultimately dissolving at the top level living spaces and roof deck to reveal panoramic connections to the city and bay.

Butterfly House

Architects
jmA

Principal Architect
John Maniscalco

Project Architect
Kelton Dissel

Project Team
John Maniscalco, Kelton Dissel, Mark Gamberg

Interior Furnishings
Sheelback Design

Location
San Francisco, CA

Area
462 m²

Photography
Joe Fletcher
The ground floor of the house, designed to facilitate seamless indoor and outdoor living and entertainment, is arranged in an "L" shape around the pool, the pool terrace and the garden. The formal living and dining spaces cantilever over the cliff and hang over the Atlantic Ocean enjoying panoramic sea views as well as views back to the house. The kitchen made up of a so called “American” or open kitchen and a separate traditional kitchen as well as the garage and staff facilities run along the east-west axis and along the northern side of the boundary. From the entrance one moves past the sculptural circular stair to the entertainment room and the double volume family lounge which connects up with a floating stair to the upper level pjama lounge. The main and the two children’s bedrooms are placed on this upper level.
"The huge overhanging roof which projects over the upper level and the outdoor living level creates a dramatic double volume outdoor space and gives the entire home a sense of unity," says partner Stefan Antoni.

One of the features of the house is the spiral staircase, clad in stainless steel, while the treads are clad in white granite. To add to the sense of continuity between the levels, the 20 mm in diameter stainless steel rods run from the first floor handrail to the lower ground floor, thus making the stairwell look like a sculptural steel cylinder. A skylight above the stairwell as well as floor to ceiling glazing in the lounges adds to the sense of transparency.

The main bedroom suite opens up onto a large terrace which is the roof of the more formal living wing of the house and the element which projects over to the ocean. The main bathroom opens into a private garden and outdoor shower situated over the garages.

The study/office sits in a separate block and is joined to the main house by a hallway running along the spine of the building. Under the study/office is a separate fully contained guest room, alongside which is a private gym and reflecting pond.
The primary idea driving the design was to create a single living space with a single roof element floating over it that responded to the slope of the site. The roof is set at a sufficiently high level so that it is out of one’s line of sight from the living space, creating the illusion that one is sitting in the landscape rather than in a room looking out into a landscape.

A large triangular cut-out in the roof reinforces a connection with the sky. A very detailed solar analysis was done of the building to try and get direct sun (other than the rising east sun) out of the building. As a result, a midlevel horizontal sunscreen was added to the double height glass facade and the skylight is protected by a timber screen that hangs into the space to mitigate the scale of the double volume space. Care was also taken in selecting performance-glass that would minimise the impact of direct sun.

Cove 3

Architects
SAOTA

Architects Project Team
Greg Truen & Roxanne Kaye

Interior Design
Antoni Associates

Interior Design Team
Mark Reddy & Tavia Pharaoh

Building Area
1,005 m²

Location
The Cove, Pezula Estate, Knysna

Photography
SAOTA, John Devonport, Adam Letch
The building is approached from the north west at the top of the site. The choice of materials, off-shutter concrete, Rheinzink roofing, timber cladding, stone and exposed aggregate will allow the building to fade into the landscape as it ages. The building is orientated towards the view; one enters at the upper level of the double volume looking towards the ocean. The contrast with the external approach is very powerful. A grand stair pulls on onto the living level which holds the kitchen, dining room and living room. To the right the landscaping is pulled into the building, blurring the distinction between the inside and the outside.

A spiral stair connects the living level to a private lounge and the master bedroom on a mezzanine level. This stair was conceived as a sculptural element in the large volume to again mitigate the scale of this space. This spiral drops through the floor to a lower level which houses a guest bedroom, a home theatre and a living room. An “L” shaped extension to the south west houses the two children’s bedrooms. The bedrooms have curved curtain tracks that create very intimate sleeping spaces at night which contrast with the very open daytime character.

Water is a critical issue in this part of the world and a huge underground cistern was created under the garden terrace to harvest rainwater to minimise the houses’ reliance on the municipal water system. A heat pump and water based under floor heating system uses less energy than would ordinarily be required for a house of this magnitude. The concept behind the landscaping was to reinstate the fynbos and let the building float over this restored surface.
The clients acquired a steeply sloping site on Head Road and wanted to capitalize on the property in line with their lifestyle. Their focus was predominantly on a home that lived well on the site, with one great master suite, a number of guest rooms as well as ancillary rooms.

Whilst the site enjoyed great views to the ocean and back up to the mountain, Head Road has its own unique zoning which prescribed a large lateral boundary set back, and a height restriction aligned to the steep slope of the road. In addition to these restrictions, both lateral neighbours had built very large dwellings which towered over the narrow property. Fortunately due to the steep slope of the site, there was no negative influence on the house's outlook.

Effort was put into capitalising on views to the rear onto Lion's Head as well as across sea point and the Atlantic Seaboard. Such interesting dynamics impacted on the placement of accommodation, with the required levels of privacy. There is a clear vertical distinction between the living and bedroom accommodation. The upper-most level accommodates the master bedroom; a generous open-plan space inclusive of a dressing area and en-suite bathroom, which enjoys bidirectional views (i.e. a sea-facing terrace and raised clear storey views towards Lion's Head).

From the entrance, a timber staircase accesses the primary living and entertainment area through a double volume space. This open-plan arrangement of dining, lounge, kitchen and breakfast area offers seamless connection to the terraces, garden and pool. The various functions within this versatile space are subtly defined through the ceiling plane, sliding doors which open dramatically.

The language of the house reflects bold contemporary lines and extended. Challenges were turned into opportunities where screening elements ensuring privacy have become an integral component of the aesthetic. The juxtaposition of solid mass to large expanses of transparency is heightened due to the choice of materials and introduction of perforated panels. Emphasis was placed on a modern, contemporary aesthetic with a high level of comfort. The architectural language is bold and muscular with powerful, almost graphic facade layouts with glazed voids and planar walls that open up to create generous ocean views.

The angular nature of the site resulted in a number of complex junctions which were embraced, to emphasise the angularity of certain elements while capitalising on the valuable land. The tactile qualities of timber and the way it is used activate the senses — the sound and smell of the hardwood timber underfoot on the staircase sets a tone on entering the house. This is a remarkable site with amazing views; and it was critical that as large a living area was created with strong connections to the outside living spaces. Such a narrow, steep site often compromises the final outcome but here, with the seamless connection of indoor and outdoor spaces, the heart of the house was successfully extended from boundary to boundary.

The house has a clearly defined upper and lower portion. The upper three levels of the home consists of the living room / terraces level, topped by the entrance / garage level and the upper-most level is the master suite. The lower portion is two storeys, accommodating the pool structure, multiple guest rooms, staff quarters and plant rooms. All levels are connected by a lift.

Landscaping plays a key part of the design, with the landscaping undertaken by Franchesca Watson and characterised by architectural, robust planting. The scale of the various planted areas is varied through the scaling device of an interesting aluminium pergola. Planted areas add softness to the entrance area, and the pool terrace, as well as contribute to screening houses on the lateral boundaries as the house terraces down the property.
This spectacular new estate sits behind private gates on a lush property in Holmby Hills, Bel-Air, one of the most sought-after addresses in the world. Framed on all sides by mature trees and greenery, the contemporary 3-level, glass-encased compound boasts panoramic views of the Hollywood Hills, exquisite amenities and wonderful indoor-outdoor flow throughout.

The scale and proportions of this home are breathtaking. Secluded and utterly private, the 1,486 m² home was designed and built by renowned, London-based Quinn Architects and Estate Four, with a sophisticated sense of space. The main entrance is dramatic, offering an immense motor court and impressive 6.10 m high canopy. This leads you to the luxuriously spacious living room, with its earth-toned color scheme, floor to ceiling glass, and soaring 6.10 m high ceiling, tailor-made for displaying large-scale artwork.
The home’s interiors feature the highest quality materials throughout, from a marble-clad stairwell to custom recessed lighting to the American black walnut flooring. You’ll enjoy an abundance of natural light and high ceilings in every room. Each space feels like a suite unto itself, and almost every room boasts its own outdoor patio or balcony with views. As you travel between rooms, dramatic vistas unfold. Transparent facades and sliding doors fuse indoor and outdoor living to exhilarating effect.

Off the 22.86 m central gallery — ideal for an art collector — the second living area boasts a 4.3 m high ceiling and direct access to the outdoor terrace and pool. An ultra-spacious kitchen features a state-of-the-art Molteni design with integrated lighting, Dada/Miele appliances and direct access to the terraces and custom-tiled infinity pool. The resort-like grounds are ideal for relaxing and entertaining, with 604 m² of terrace space in addition to the pool, landscaped gardens, outdoor kitchen, flat lower lawn and a gorgeous astro-turf tennis court with floodlights. Mature trees provide a natural border of the property, and together with the tiered pool and gardens, it feels as if you are on a luxurious island looking out over your own private park.

Upstairs, the wide-open master suite combines a sophisticated master bedroom, huge master bath, 3 private walk-closets, powder room and separate offices. The master also boasts an extensive balcony looking out over the pool and tennis court.

The 3-level home also features 6 other elegantly appointed bedroom suites, 3 living rooms, formal dining room, 2 libraries/studies, double-height gallery, spacious fitness center, home theater, catering kitchen, elevator and wine cellar. The estate integrates a cutting-edge audio-visual system that uses an iPad interface, everything automated and with maximum security. This is truly an estate for the ages.
The clients’ brief was to ensure that when they occupied the house on their own that it was not too big and empty, however at the same time it also had to allow for the whole family and grandchildren should they decide to stay over. The decision was made to keep all the entertainment spaces as well as the master bedroom on the ground floor, with three additional guest suites on the first level. As the De Zalze design regulations only permitted a single story, the guests’ suites were accommodated in the roof attics.

Two important criteria for the clients were that the project had to include a central courtyard and that the main living areas were to have double volume. At the front of the plot the concept of a traditional “Cape Dutch Langhuis” was conceptualized. This part of the house was designed to contain the formal lounge & dining, informal lounge & braai room as well as the master bedroom and en-suite, giving all these areas direct access to the front pool terrace with spectacular views to the surrounding vineyards and mountains. In the “Langhuis” open trusses were used to give all the rooms a larger volume. To the rear of the “Langhuis”, the two side wings and a linking lobby create a sheltered central courtyard which also visually links the kitchen to the family TV lounge. Identical feature stair link to the guest bedroom suites located in the roof lofts of these back wings.

The owners of this home love to entertain and wanted the house to reflect their lifestyle. Key features of this include the bespoke wine cellar. Here the design team created a spectacular glass wine wall. The oak timber cabinetry encases frameless glass shelving which can house more than 400 bottles which are perfectly temperature controlled with concealed refrigeration. The wine wall also functions as a visual screen between the formal and informal family spaces. A dramatic double volume stone clad fireplace in the formal lounge is mirrored by a built-in braai in the informal lounge. These areas of the house flow out onto the outdoor entertainment deck and infinity pool. Linked to the terrace is a sunken outdoor boma (a typical South African outdoor enclosure). Here casual seating is arranged around an open fire.

For the interior architecture the design approach by Mark Rielly and Jon Case was to focus on the use of natural organic materials such as timber and stone. Limed oak flooring paired with honey coloured stone walls contrast with black charcoals and chalky white finishes. These tactile materials add a sense of homeliness and warmth to the contemporary architecture. A number of elemental forces are captured in the use of water features and fireplaces. Werf walls and a pergola covered walkway lead to the front entrance which opens into the courtyard lobby overlooking the reflective pond and greenery. Glass pocket doors create separate entrances and lead into the side wings. Focal features of the entrances are the floating sculpture ledges. Here Angus Taylor sculptures are reflected in the fractured mirror wall.
cladding. The same fractured pattern is again used in the smoky mirror cladding of
the stairways. Limed oak cantilevered treads, timber cladding with white stone ledges
and frameless glass balustrading add to the transparency and airiness of these
spaces. Clear blown glass globes by David Reade are suspended and reflected in the
double volume stairwells adding interest.

A combination of bold and discreet lighting was used to create a “wow” factor and
the layering of lighting set various moods. Subtle lighting has been incorporated in all
recesses and feature bulkheads to give a warm glow to peripheral edges. Concealed
lighting has also been used to highlight and accentuate the organic natural finishes.
In the dining room a customized crystal chandelier by Martin Doller is suspended
from the ceiling rafters. Other feature lighting includes a custom designed “ring”
light by AA Interiors, over the informal braai room and a signature Willow Lamp in the
main bedroom.

The interior furniture and décor were designed by Mark Reilly and Sarika Jacobs
of AA Interiors. The furniture is modern and complementary to the experience of
the home. Tactile finishes including timber, textured leathers and raw linens add
a sophisticated sense of understated luxury. The clients’ love for colour has been
introduced with injections of bold prints and vibrant fabrics. Bespoke furniture from
OKHA Interiors is featured throughout.
Contemporary, timeless and spreading over three levels with a sparkling infinity edge pool to its elevated corner block, this Apple cross abode commands attention from first glimpse and allows its family of four to live the lifestyle they had always dreamed about.

The client had lived for years in the older house on the block. When the chance arose to buy the house next door they took advantage of it to knock down both residences and build their dream home with Urbane. Now they have their ‘forever’ home with a level of luxury finishes and a custom design that does justice to its market riverside location and makes the most of the site’s panoramic river views.

A 3 m tall ebony-stained jarrah door opens onto the entrance foyer. A wall of

Expressing Views

Designer & Builder
Urbane Projects Pty Ltd.

Location
Perth, Western Australia

Photography
Joel Barbitta of D-Max Photography
windows overlooks a reflection pond, mature frangipani tree and sculpture set against a backdrop of a glass face rendered wall. In the entry is one of the home’s most spectacular features — the staircase. A feat of engineering, the staircase runs through all three stories and features a suspended steel structure with oak treads stained a rich Japan black that complement the honed limestone floors.

The clients wanted the design to have longevity and to cater for their teenage daughter and son for years to come. 5 bedrooms and 7 bathrooms encompass separate zones for the teenage children, as well as guest bedrooms for friends to stay over. A games room as well as a home theatre offer spaces for the children to entertain their friends, while parents have an upstairs bar and lounge, as well as a fully enclosable alfresco lounge and dining with its own bar, all set against river views. The hotel-like parents’ retreat has a wraparound balcony and views from the bed and ensuite that stretch across the neighbourhood to the river and city beyond.
The open-plan kitchen, lounge and dining can also be opened up to the outdoors for effortless indoor-outdoor living and entertaining. The landscaped gardens include an infinity edge pool tiled in iridescent Bisazza mosaics that visually link the gardens to the sparkling Swan River beyond.

The clients said they were thrilled with Steve’s work and loved the Urbane approach, encompassing everything from conception to the design of the custom-built cabinetry and selection of furniture. “Everything Steve picked, we loved,” they said.
One aesthetic idea driving the creation of Laurel Way was that each room or space should be a jewel box, an individually conceived, precisely functional and dramatic sensory experience with its own depth of architecture.

Central to the composition are many of Marc Whipple’s signature elements, one being the use of texture; smooth next to rough stone, rich wooden panels against glass, and glass reflecting water. The immediate experience upon entering the house is its inherent weightlessness — the sense that the walls appear to float as panels and you are always connected to the outdoors. This is achieved with adherence to precise symmetry of beams, support panels, tiles, and sightlines, and also that walls do not meet the ceilings — a 1.3 cm gap is left that helps achieve the effect.

These elements play up the horizontals and verticals of the house while movement and curves come from the 3 tiers of greenery and 2 water channels that surround the house giving it the look of an island floating against the blue California sky. The mist-like water surrounding it is more than a successful artistic inspiration; it adds the feeling of a protective boundary without obstructing the views in any way. It also provided an innovative water feature visible from the interior while adding a highly dramatic dynamic to the entire design.

The front entry steps lead to a 4.3 m wood pivot door flanked entirely by glass, and then into the main floor foyer. To the left, a section of glass flooring reveals a wine room below with storage for 1,000 bottles, and cantilevered wenge wood stairs float upward to the bedrooms.

The living and dining areas are a study in chocolate and creamy whites carried through to the exterior surfaces achieved with Texston’s Lime based plaster, offset by rough split faced stone and dark wenge wood. Lift and Slide German made Schuco windows and doors are state of the art offering dependable operation and drainage as well as thermal efficiency summer and winter. Glossy kitchen cabinets were custom designed and imported from Italy.

“Zero edge” and “floating” themes are echoed in the smallest details; kitchen cooktop venting is flush to ceiling. With no use of molding all lines are visible, every element must be perfectly square and aligned. Minotti, Maxalto and B&B Italia furniture was selected or custom made for each living space. The main powder room’s motorized sliding glass door opens up to a vanity and white glass rectangular column — the sink. A wall of small, mirrored black tiles, reflect a single chrome vertical water pipe suspended over custom made sink.
The River House is essentially a home that integrates an informed assembly of clean lines, warm textured materials and daring structure on a difficult site.

The inhabitants now have a bespoke living vessel to live, work, and play within, and it has arguably created spaces that allow the members of the family to better congregate. The design allows the family and visiting guests to comfortably integrate or disperse for privacy as required. The house does not appear as a very big house through careful manipulation of the massing. The visual program is split into distinct objects which further breakdown the overall massing. Internally it has a series of clever buffers that separate distinct zones.
The house takes on a schizophrenic nature by virtue of its conservative, and private streetscape versus the more wild and open, cantilevered living zone. The streetscape adopts textures, colours and materials from the locality, specifically shingle, sandstone, and painted brick.

The functional performance of the design is wholly based on the client’s brief busy lifestyles. The functions are split to 4 levels through the site being from top to bottom: parent’s retreat, living/guest/work level, children’s sleeping playing level and the pool/backyard level. The latter being newly constructed some 4.5 m above the existing yard, to eliminate an existing inaccessible space and better connect the “fun” parts of the design to the house proper.

The River House proved itself to be one of our greatest collaborative efforts to date. Between an incredibly enthusiastic and intuitive client, an innovative structural engineer, a master craftsman in a builder and ourselves, the design took shape and pushed everyone’s imagination to their limits. At the end of the day this project would not have been achievable without the “integration” of such “allied disciplines”.

There was a big push to retain a lot of the existing thick basement sandstone walls as they represented the original fabric of the building and a high quality of building stock. The decision to cantilever the main living level naturally increased construction costs however it allowed the design to be maximised on a smaller awkwardly shaped site, and effectively made the most of a smaller site. The abundance of controlled natural light also diminishes the requirement to use artificial lighting when the sun is shining.

Sustainable principles in design include retention of quality building stock like the 600 mm thick lower basement sandstone walls, implementation of a 20,000 L rainwater tank, retractable solar blinds to harness natural light as required, and means to enhance cross ventilation. Laser cut security screens allow the house to breathe in the warmer months whilst providing adequate security, thus reducing the need to use air-conditioning.

The main living levels are constructed using thick concrete slabs creating excellent thermal mass qualities. General orientation of the plan enables best solar access.
Fieldview

Architects
Blaze Makoid Architecture

Located on a flat, one acre flag lot with neighbors close to the front and side yards, this 10,000 m² house is configured of 3 primary volumes arranged in a "C" that frame the expansive, southern view of an adjacent, agricultural reserve. This view serves as a backdrop to an interwoven composition of interior and exterior spaces.

Entry, through a glass void in the northern side of the house, is approached by a raised, stone walk, under an exaggerated uplighted canopy. The entry foyer, at the terminus of the outdoor pool, separates public space to the left and the private, 2-story bedroom wing to the right. An open floor plan contains living room, dining room and kitchen stretches along the length of the central outdoor patio. Large expanses of south facing glass help to dissolve interior/exterior relationships while a more selective glazing strategy locates individual windows in the predominantly solid north, east and west walls that create privacy while modulating temperature.

The arrangement, assisted by a series of pushed and pulled planes maximizes the ability to modulate the various sunlight requirements while creating more intimate indoor and outdoor functions that serve various functions as activities migrate throughout the day — swimming, breakfast, sunshine, lounge, sleeping.
“Wind House” was created as “Resort Space” which was the owner’s preference style regarding the site conditions. As it was located on the edge of the housing estate project’s boundary, it gained the view of big natural green area beside and certainly, the atmosphere of tranquility.

The house planning started from the idea — “How to live comfortably with nature?” Therefore, the building orientation and the space of the house should allow the wind to flow through and allow natural light to shine in without too much heat. At the same time, the users inside could be able to see nice garden view outside as well.

Wind House

Architects
OPENSPACE DESIGN Co., Ltd.
Scope of Works
Architecture and Interior Design

Location
Noble Residence, Bangkok, Thailand

Client
Janphim Sukumaratat

Gross Floor Area
675 m²
The house was designed in “C” shape providing big courtyard on the right side, close to big green area beside, where every function from 3 sides could really share this pleasant courtyard together. The building itself could provide privacy to the users as neighbors would not be able to look into the center of the house. The technique to draw the wind flowing through the house perfectly was to provide some big voids of the building mass aligned to the courtyard which were also used as circulation core, stair and relaxation corner. Moreover, even some details such as doors, fences, sunlight screen patterns, etc. were meticulously designed to utilize the wind more efficiently for ventilation purpose.

One of the most significant design strategies was to create “Seamless Boundary” between building and nature, indoor and outdoor. All of the common area as well as circulation were treated as “Semi-Outdoor” space, under the roof but without walls, connecting to the courtyard harmoniously. In addition, some enclosed functions were still optional to get fresh air sometimes by sliding full-height partitions to the sides. These would enable the house space to look wider, more airy and definitely, to welcome the delightful wind to be “Wind House”.

The 1st Floor Plan:
1. GAP FLOOR
2. FOYER
3. LIVING ROOM
4. POWDER ROOM
5. TIE DOME
6. DINING ROOM
7. POND
8. OUTDOOR LIVING
9. PAVILION
10. WARDROBE
11. GUEST BEDROOM
12. THAI KITCHEN
13. BEDROOM
14. PANTRY
15. WALK-IN CLOSET
16. MASTER BATHROOM
17. MASTER BEDROOM
2nd FLOOR PLAN
1: HOME THEATER
2: WORK ROOM
3: BATHROOM
4: RELAX CORNER
5: TERRACE
6: STORAGE ROOM
7: BATHROOM
8: WALK IN CLOSET
9: BEDROOM
Completed in the Spring of 2014, "Cadence" was designed as a series of pavilions, nestled along the sunny shoreline of Lantzville on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. This stunning home was an award-winner even while it was on the “drawing board.” In 2012 it won a Gold Award for “Best Home Design Concept” at the annual Construction Achievements & Renovations of Excellence Awards. And now that it is built, it is a finalist in 7 prestigious categories in the “CARE Awards” including Best Custom House, Best Contemporary Kitchen, Best Master Suite, Best Interior, Best Millwork, People’s Choice and Project of the Year. Finally, "Cadence" won "Best Custom Home over $1M" at the Vancouver Island CARE Awards. It is also the finalist in four categories in the (provincial) Georgie Awards at the end of February, as well as it has won "Best Custom Home (in Canada) over $1M" at the National SAM Awards.

Architects
Keith Baker, Keith Baker Design Inc.

Builder
Taran Williams, TS Williams Construction

Interior Designer
Ashley Campbell, the Interior Design Group

Photography
Mia Dominguez, Artez Photography
The concept is such that the spaces should read as very open and create a flow without being too grand. The use of scale was very important by keeping the relative forms of a human size, which gives a very comfortable natural and relaxed feeling,” said Keith Baker of Keith Baker Design Inc., the designer of the home. The radiused roof undulations are a subtle reference to the waves and the ocean environment. The light filled home feels very fitting in its location resting comfortably along the sandy shore. The materials reflect a rooted modernism including extensive Douglas Fir clustered columns and grain-matched radius beams, Western Red Cedar siding rendered in both horizontal 2.54 cm x 10.16 cm T&G and the familiar ‘cottagge’ texture of shingles. Concrete is used as a complement and underscore to ground the composition. Its open plan is unusual in that it is not one large great room, but rather a series of open spaces interconnected and articulated between the 2 main pavilions of the kitchen and the living room. An 5.5 m wide 3 panel sliding glass patio door opens the dining room to the entertainment sized lounging patio, the ocean and the evening sunsets. As well the outdoor kitchen is well equipped with a wood burning fireplace, a gas fireplace for gathering around, a pizza oven, concrete countertops and BBQ. One of the many standout features in the post and beam covered breezeway that offers a graceful transition from the triple garage to the mudroom entry and separate guest suite entry. The Porte Coachere lends a protective elegance for guests arriving at the front door. The home also features a master bedroom suite that at once is cocooning and cozy as well is expansive and connected to nature with stunning beach and oceans views. All in all an inviting open and intimate place to call home.
Under the leafy canopy of an immense Albizia Tree nestles Aloe Ridge House, a 300 m² contemporary home in the Eden Rock Estate on Kwa Zulu Natal’s South Coast of South Africa.

The planar estate road (public) facade is intentionally bold, minimalist and austere and hard up against the south western site building line. The result is a visually engaging architecture that makes efficient use of the small site, provides effective privacy to the inhabitants whilst at the same time acting as an efficient barrier to bad weather and prevailing strong winds coming from the south west. In addition a narrow linear plan form, maximizes openness and sheltered private space for living, entertainment and relaxation behind this to the north east, in close proximity to the wild natural bush and looking out towards the view beyond.
The entrance to the house is a carefully considered grand, double volume arrangement of components in glass, timber and concrete and with “wrap around” form making, a signature characteristic of recent Metropole homes. There is a sense of “big-ness” and “wow factor” right from the start. The strong horizontal line created by the roof of the garage structure provides visual axial thrust to the point of entry, into a transparent double volume entrance area and through to the kitchen and living spaces beyond. Internally, at ground floor level, open plan design with a minimum of dividing walls, no internal doors and level thresholds between inside and outside facilitate a user experience of a single large multi-use space that unconfined, uncluttered and weather permitting, is able to open up and connect and extend to the outdoors. High level perimeter strip windows visually lighten the experience of the first floor building mass overhead and enhance the experience of the vertical dimension of the living, dining and entertainment areas at ground floor level. A generous external decked area with plunge pool and open lawn area beyond encourages the inhabitants to indulge in and celebrate an outdoor lifestyle of entertainment, play and relaxation. At first floor level, once again the design focus was to promote a sense of openness with privacy and create a diverse, joyful place in a limited space. Whilst the need for privacy has dictated the use of doors, these doorways are full height at 2.6 m and when open allow continuity of space to be experienced through an uninterrupted ceiling plane. The 3 bedrooms located at this level open out to an elevated balcony which allows distant views over the tree tops to the sea in the east and distant hills and the setting sun to the west. A series of movable Balau timber screens bring in filtered daylight to the clean, modernist interiors, without sacrificing privacy whilst adding a degree of detail and natural colours and texture to the modern facade.

In Aloe Ridge House there is a unity of opposites. The clean, hard and straight lines of the man-made intervention meet the soft flowing irregular line and textures of the natural bush context in a respectful harmony. The palette of natural materials including earthy colour tones, timber screens, decking stone cladding juxtapose with the bold and progressive architectural form making, creating a small home that packs a big punch and that is not only visually and spatially exciting, but also comfortable and intimate.
A one-story private residence in the center of the country. The architectural concept was to create a structure with a continuous, wide space, divided by internal courtyards and movable partitions into smaller spaces used for a variety of different functions. The different spaces and internal courtyards are joined together into one structure by two, ultra-thin roofs supported at one central point so that they seem to float in the air. The two roofs merge, one into the other and extend for 5 m over the building front walls. The entire roof is constructed from lightweight materials and, in order to provide a thin, wispy look at its edges, it is constructed with a moderate slope towards its center.

Architects
Pitsou Kedem Architects

Design Team
Pitsou Kedem, Raz Melamed, Irene Goldberg

Photography
Amit Geron
The structure itself is constructed from a series of spaces that are conceivably internal and conceivably external spaces. The entrance is framed with a wall of wooden slats which constitute what could be considered the initial boundary between the outside and the inside.

When entering the space, we pass through a space resembling an entrance lobby — again, conceivably internal and conceivably external — which embodies the soft seam between the outside and inside areas.

Whilst walking through the entrance lobby space, we cross a transparent pool, studded with large basalt rocks and trees that seem to float on the water. As we enter the entrance lobby, we experience the illusion that the house is floating and being reflected, just as the roof appears to be floating above the structure's walls.

A ribbon window running along the building's facades serves to emphasize the roof floating above the structure walls and cancels out the feeling of mass that its size suggests.

A long, narrow reflection pool follows the structure's walls, reflecting and emphasizing their covering and texture.
The main planning challenge was to combine the two apartments into one. Consequently, the guest area, which occupies about a third part of the total useful floor area, is composed of a combined dining kitchen — drawing room, guest bathroom and a housekeeper room. The rest space is a private area, which is figuratively dimidiated: on the left are rooms of the boys and children’s bathroom, across the corridor are: master bedroom, owner’s bathroom and walk-in closet. On the right of the entrance room is a small laundry room. Herewith, such a matter, as the plenty of structural columns, the designer has met absolutely in a skillful way: now they are completely invisible. On the site of the balconies sprouted vast bathrooms with panoramic windows: sunniness and extent of overlook regulated by venetian blind.

Butternut

Interior Designer  Zimenko Yuriy
Location  Ukraine, Kiev
Area  200 m²
Photography  Andrey Avdeenko
The JHB home of a French businessman with a love of art & fine entertaining. This 5 bedroom house was designed to be a multi-functional home for family, visiting friends and executive guests. The brief was to express an individual ambient character but maintain a calm and uncluttered elegance. Every vase, sculpture, artwork and furniture object is given enough meditative space to allow it to be seen and appreciated. Interiors by Antoni Associates.
This project began with former clients’ wish to move back closer to the city of Beverly Hills. They had found a potential property in Trousdale Estates and showed it to Marc for his advice on its possibilities. The property was in disrepair, had a choppy floor plan, and gabled roofs that did not fit the client’s vision of a modern home.

The goal, of course, was to maximize the views while creating fluid well-lit spaces that would both serve and reflect the lives of the inhabitants. Marc saw a way to stay within the Trousdale Estates’ single storey 4.3 m height restriction and still provide spaciousness and a spectacular view.

The entire core of the house was redesigned to feature an open plan, high ceilings and a sleek flat roof. The front door, flanked by large glass panels opens to a wide entry—a perfect stage for a piano and provides an open sight line across the living area, through 3.7 m high glass walls and 2.4 m high glass sliding pocket doors, to the patio and pool.

The clients do a lot of entertaining and required a kitchen that was open to the living and outdoor spaces. Rooms are minimally defined using tall panels, custom stained in a rich coffee bean brown, that contrast with the light walls, spaces suited to artwork. The warm modernism the clients wanted was achieved with a harmonious use of materials as kitchen, dining, entertaining and living room spaces flow easily into one another. In the living area a large screen television and fireplace are recessed into wall-sized expanses of Portico Slate tile by SOLI. In the kitchen, the island and countertops are Caesar stone in Lagos Blue and cabinets have an acrylic lacquered finish.

Large glass pocket doors open to the outside from both kitchen and living areas, where there is a patio bar, conversation areas and a tabletop fireplace all encircling the pool. The master suite also opens to the pool through large sliding glass panels. To create a vantage point for the best views, a roof terrace was built atop the master suite, accessible from the pool area. The master terrace provides space for entertaining, sunbathing, a game of table tennis, and a view all the way to the Pacific. Below, the master wing offers a library/sitting room, and a home theater.

Next to the bedroom, the master bath continues the use of brown with the tile in the master shower—a basket weave pattern from SOLI. Adjacent is a roomy closet/dressing area. As there is a musician in the family, the clients wanted to find space for a full music studio; Marc found it by digging down and locating the studio beneath the motor court. It includes a separate control room, sound booth for vocal recording, and tracking room, a soundproofed oasis for creation.

Wallace Ridge

Architects
Whipple Russell Architects

Location
Beverly Hills, California

Area
622 m²
The design process, complex due to several defining key issues inherent to the site, ended up taking us through some radically different sketch options before settling on the one that was finally pursued. These key factors together with of course countless smaller factors and decisions along the way shaped the house to what it is. The unusual but elegant roof shape allows sunlight in while still allowing neighbours to enjoy water views over the lower end. The expressive angled concrete wall mirrors the roof shape but in negative, resulting in complex facade geometry along the main face, enhanced by the movement of ever changing shadows over the shapes.

Clovelly House

Architects
Rolf Ockert Design

Location
Sydney, Australia

Client
Private

Builder
Tony Kerle – SL Wilson

Photography
Sharrin Rees
The light void also contains the central circulation, the stairs. These are light and airy without looking or feeling flimsy. To the north are 2 levels, to the south 3, taking advantage of the natural slope of the site. The main living space is on the entry level, connecting it with the northern garden and pool as a very generous central family area. Upstairs are the bedrooms, on the southern lower level several areas for more individual activities, study, studios and library.

As a consequence of the relentless southerly winds the house was designed, unusually and against our original instinct, without any opening windows facing south. Instead large frameless floor-to-ceiling double glazed elements allow uninterrupted views over the Pacific and allows a more intimate visual connection than framed openable glazing elements would have afforded.

An outdoor deck is attached to the side of the living area, allowing outdoor activity on suitable days without interruption of the front row feel the house enjoys. The original southern slope in front of the house was full of building rubble from some previous building incarnation. Once that was all removed several large natural sandstone blocks that had fallen eons ago and stood upright, affording us an unexpected, giant Japanese-style rock garden.

The materials for the house were chosen for a variety of reasons. First of all they had to be suitable for the harsh salt spray environment where everything gets a thick coating of corrosive salt within a few days. They were also desired to be suitable for the location, reminiscent of flotsam, rich but weathered. Finally, the rich natural palette of coastal colours, grey and red in the rocks, blues and greens in ocean and sky, provided already a magnificent canvas of hues and textures dominating large parts of the house. The rich geometry in the house as well as the ever-changing play of light in the interior and exterior spaces also meant that we did not feel the need for strong colour or texture, elements we often love to employ in other settings.

The resulting material palette relies on very few elements, the strong raw concrete, along the outside wall as well as to the living room ceiling. A dark Zinc roof, being allowed to weather. Dark timber in floors and joinery, both offset with white walls and joinery faces. And of course the ubiquitous glass. Both, outside floors and walls as well as interior benches are finished in the same, earthy grey stone. Having these few elements used in a diverse range of applications throughout the house also helped to tie the many different spaces of the house together to a coherent whole.

Environmental concerns also played a big role in the development of the design. The aforementioned central void allows natural light deep into the heart of the house, eliminating the need for artificial lighting during daytime.
This void, supported by the roof shape in combination with the operable skylights, also helps to naturally ventilate the entire house as it allows the rising hot air to escape, drawing cooler air behind. Operable floor vents in the living area allow for the ubiquitous sea breeze to be let into the house in a controlled manner, almost eliminating the need for air conditioning.

High performance insulation and double glazing throughout in combination with the high thermal mass in the house allow for utilisation and storage of the northern solar heat gain in winter, keeping the house warm during the colder months.

Large rainwater storage tanks are sufficient to fill the pool and water the indigenous planting throughout the grounds.

All lights are low wattage LED type, reducing the electricity use significantly.
Nestled between cooled lava flows, the Kona residence situates its axis not with the linearity of the property, but rather with the axiality of predominant views available to the site. Within the dichotomy of natural elements and a geometric hardscape, the residence integrates both the surrounding views of volcanic mountain ranges to the east and ocean horizons westward.

The program is arranged as a series of pods distributed throughout the property, each having its own unique features and view opportunities. The pods are programmatically assigned as 2 sleeping pods with common areas, media room, master suite and main living space. An exterior gallery corridor becomes the organizational and focal feature for the entire house, connecting the two pods along a central axis.

To help maintain the environmental sensitivity of the house, 2 separate arrays of roof mounted photovoltaic panels offset the residence energy usage while the choice of darker lava stone help heat the pool water via solar radiation. Rain water collection and redirection to 3 drywells that replenish the aquifer are implemented throughout the property. Reclaimed teak timber from old barns and train tracks are recycled for the exterior of the home. Coupled with stacked and cut lava rock, the 2 materials form a historically driven medium embedded in Hawaiian tradition. Local basket weaving culture was the inspiration for the entry pavilion which reenacts the traditional gift upon arrival ceremony. Various digitally sculpted wood ceilings and screens, throughout the house, continue the abstract approach to traditional Hawaiian wood carving further infusing traditional elements into the contemporary arrangement.
The client requested a spacious and luxurious four bedroom house with an emphasis placed on the design of the living rooms. Ensuring that the magnificent views were optimized was of utmost importance, the design of this 777 m² house not only responds well to the client’s requirements but also to the context of the site.

Every design decision communicates and reinforces the concept, as can be seen in the selection of materials used and the way the internal spaces relate to the outdoors. With the choice of materials predominately natural materials and earthy colors, it is evident that even the smallest of details make reference to the concept in a very unique way. Initially the site revealed itself as a mound of quartzite rock which was excavated and hand cut for the gabion walls and the stone cladding used throughout the house.

House Boz

Architect Nico van der Meulen Architects
Designer Werner van der Meulen
Location Mooikloof Heights, Pretoria, South Africa
Residence Size 777 m²
The entrance hall positioned between the double garages is distinctively located alongside a partially covered atrium that gently introduces you to several views through the house as you’re welcomed in. The koi pond introduces water as you approach the front door while various podiums add depth and dimension to this space. An elevated sculpture podium and interlocking planters bring this atrium to life. This also makes it possible to sleep with the doors open as it is impossible to get into the atrium once the Mentis grating gate to the driveway is locked.

The double volume entrance hall is framed by a back-lit perforated skin of scaffolding boards bolted to a wall, creating the perfect backdrop for the sculptural looking concrete staircase with steel inlays. Underneath the staircase is a sculpture by Regardt van der Meulen.

The kitchen overlooks the lanai and garden while the frameless folding doors create an invisible threshold between the inside and out. These doors, when completely open, allow for the kitchen and dining room to overflow onto the lanai and bat, making entertaining effortless and enabling adults to keep an eye on children in the pool, a mere meter away.

The lanai with a sunken jacuzzi is snugly positioned between the pool on one side and a stone-cladded wall on the west which screens the afternoon sun to ensure the lanai’s temperature remains moderate. It is these design decisions that truly set this house apart from the rest.

All four en-suite bedrooms are situated on the first floor with all of the bedrooms having their own private balcony. The 3 children’s bedrooms are situated on the western wing of the house while the main bedroom is located on the eastern wing. A suspended walkway with steel sheeting as floor tiles overlooking the atrium links the 2 wings and creates a sense of privacy for the main bedroom.

Phia van der Meulen and the M Square Lifestyle Design team strategically linked spaces through their use of various natural materials in the interior spaces. In situ-concrete, quartzite cladding and rusted mild steel were incorporated into the design.

The interiors feature linear and monolithic forms that complement the architect’s vision for this house. Many of the functional elements were designed to become beautiful features that usually connect the spaces and create links throughout the house rather than remaining purely functional. An example of this would be the way the staircase relates to the aluminum ceiling which features in both the main living room as well as in the main bedroom.

Regardt van der Meulen’s original steel sculptures were chosen for the project, as they fitted perfectly with the steel theme of the project. The selection of furniture pieces once again continued this theme where splashes of orange were used in the living room making reference to the orange seen in the rusted metal cladding. The overall charcoal colour range used in the house complements the shades of grey of the concrete walls.
This project, a 450 m$^2$ villa, is located in the north of the Netherlands. With the owners throwing a housewarming party to welcome everybody in their new home, the villa is now definitely ready. Robert placed a few outstanding eye catchers in the interior. The Maretti “Dream” chandelier designed by Koleník for instance. Situated in the basement are a wellness room and a bar. The master bedroom has a view on the “Dream” chandelier. Simply pushing a button can easily blind that view. Innovative privacy glass makes this possible.
A long and difficult planning process added to the challenge of designing the home. A restrictive height limit plus views from neighboring properties that needed to be preserved on all sides limited the location and size of the upper floor. This resulted in a 3-level home with primary living spaces on the top floor, entry and master bedroom at the ground floor and additional bedrooms below with views out over a steep slope in the rear yard. Because space was limited, the main living area was streamlined into one usable area with the kitchen separating dining from living. The kitchen itself consists of a full height cabinetry wall in white glass with a glacier white marble island with ample seating and cooking space. The room is wrapped in glass on 3 sides to increase the feeling of volume and sliding Fleetwood doors fold back to reveal a large entertainment deck with lounge and BBQ areas.
The entry is approached through a walled off courtyard and leads directly into a family room focused on the courtyard and its water feature. The master bedroom has views to the waves below and a unique combined closet and bath with beautiful Italian closets and fixtures. At the lower level the 3 bedrooms and family area open onto a terrace with views of the garden below. The palette of the house is designed to reflect its beach side location, light walls and soft limestone and oak accented with glass.
We were commissioned to design a contemporary family home on a one-acre site, situated at the end of a spur, in Simbithi Eco-Estate. The clients’ brief called for a home with an overriding sense of simplicity but with a high degree of sophistication.

All the living areas and bedroom suites face onto a panoramic vista, which includes a dense forest down-slope from the house.

The palette of natural materials including timber screens, decking and cladding, off-shutter concrete and stone cladding juxtapose with the aggressive architectural form making, creating a home that is not only visually and spatially exciting, but also comfortable and intimate.

The extensive use of water in the design of the home includes a 25 m lap pool with a glass panel between the water and the basement cinema room, and a shallow but expansive reflective pond on the approach side, which mirrors the building day and night, and evokes a sense of tranquility.

The architectural style of the home is heavily influenced by the “Googie” architecture of the American architect John Lautner. The origin of the name “Googie” dates to 1949, when architect John Lautner designed the West Hollywood coffee shop Googies, which had distinct architectural characteristics.

“Googie” architecture is a form of modern architecture and a subdivision of futurist architecture with stylistic conventions influenced by and representing 50’s American society’s fascination and marketing emphasis on futuristic design, car culture, jets, the Space Age, and the Atomic Age.

“Googie” was also characterized by design forms symbolic of motion, including upswept roofs, curvaceous geometric shapes, and the bold use of glass, steel and neon, the spirit of which is embodied in Albizia House.
Our work focuses on creating total built environments that are a modern reflection of our clients while striving for a timeless product that remains fresh, exciting and inspiring.

The residence Blaze Makoid Architecture created for a father with three children in Sagaponack on the Eastern Shore of Long Island was inspired by the iconic architect Norman Jaffe’s Perlbinder House (1970) and Tod Williams’ Tarlo House (1979) but with his and his firm’s signature of designing residences that have a quiet elegance that are uniquely suited to each client. As in all of Makoid’s work, there is a cohesiveness that unites the architecture with its interiors and the site. The lines between indoors and out blur as they become the greater part of the whole.

Daniel’s Lane Overview

Architects
Blaze Makoid Architecture

The client put his trust in Makoid’s ability to find the property and design a residence devoid of anything extraneous. His only mandate — he wanted a house that wasn’t “busy.”

Sited on a narrow, 4,047 m², oceanfront lot, the design of this house was one of the first projects in the Village of Sagaponack to be affected by the 2010 revision to FEMA flood elevations, requiring a first floor elevation of approximately 5.2 m above sea level with a minimum height allowance of 12.2 m. All construction was required to be located landward of the Coastal Erosion Hazard Line. The location within a high velocity (VE) wind zone added to the planning and structural challenges.

Makoid wanted the structure to appear simple and clean upon arrival. The 2-storey travertine entry facade is highlighted with a single opening accentuated by a cantilevered afromosia stair landing that hovers off the ground. A “cut and fold” in the wall plane bends to allow for one large glass opening, from which an oversized afromosia wood aperture containing the main stair cantilevers. A layer of service spaces run parallel to the wall plane creating a threshold prior to reaching the horizontal expanse of the open plan living room, dining area and kitchen that stretches along the ocean side of the house. 4.6 m wide floor to ceiling glass sliding panels maximize the ocean view and create easy access to the patio and pool beyond.

The second floor is imagined as a travertine and glass “drawer” floating above the glass floor below. 3 identical children’s bedrooms run from west to east, setting a rhythm that is punctuated by a master bedroom with balcony. It is clad in the same afromosia wood as the stair landing. The quiet elegance and clean lines of the house are accentuated by the materials that also include poured-in-place concrete floors, Calcutta marble cladding and afromosia millwork.
The architecture studio A-cero, led by Joaquin Torres and Rafael Llamazares, presents one of its latest projects, Balcony House in Madrid.

This single family house has an area of 947 m² arranged on 3 levels and located on an individual plot of 2100 m² with a moderate slope and a prime location with natural surroundings, just 14 km from the center of the capital.

You access the house by the main door that stands out for its high altitude, settled in black glass and black gloss steel. On the ground floor (entrance floor), you enter through a hall with double height which separates the house in two main parts. On this floor, on the left wing, is located the most public and service area. The kitchen with pantry, living room area and stairs which connect all floors. On the right wing, you can find the master bedroom with dressing room and bathroom, and the guest bedroom.
The living room features a great height that gives a sense of spaciousness. A central wood block runs through the ceiling to the wall and becomes television container with hinged panels in the same finish that ends in a fireplace.

This element also acts as a separator item for the dining room which has 2 tables for 8 people which can be combined into a table for 12. The whole room turns towards the porch and pool area with large glass windows in black with openings, that allows a perfect interior – exterior communication.

The bedroom involves a practical and comfort philosophy and has the particularity that the windows open directly to the outside pool. They have the same views to the extensive wooded area that sets up the environment of the plot.

At the back you will find 2 generous closets open to a bathroom that stands out for its breadth, quality of finishes and elegant elements like the rest of the house.

Upstairs, the same double height foyer extends with a glass walkway that ends up in a bookstore. On one side, there are a study area, office, a cinema room and the two children bedroom suites. The basement is reserved for installation rooms, utility rooms and iron, wine cellar and a large gym with a play area which
connects directly to a porch with sliding windows also connecting this area with the garden. This porch is developed as a dining area, barbecue and outdoor kitchen, visually connecting the inside of the pool with the top floor.

The exterior of the house is designed with a curved sculptural image to add an organic value integrated with the environment, clad in white limestone and black glass. It represents an architecture rich in volumes, flat cuts and other aesthetic solutions which give meaning to the internal layouts and to the abundant light that floods into the house.
A recent example of Eco Chic can be seen in the monumental villa in the south of Holland. The serene atmosphere of materials like wood and leather give a peaceful feeling of coming home. The big living is dominated by a stairway like we know from castles. As a soft tapestry in wood it unfolds itself in the room. In the kitchen area a splendid bar in rock crystal becomes a splendid eye catcher as it is lighted. In the living itself Kolenik designed a special fire that seems to float and which divides the room in a very natural way. The theatrical feeling increases with the stairs, now as a central monument in the room, with bending walls that high above split up in two symmetrical parts. The wooden steps make a very good contrast with the dark tiled floor in leather look. That makes a natural link with the rich leather furniture that invites to sit down. The open fire from Dofine in a crusted finish seems to float. It breaks the space with a look through from a cozy second sofa.
With a long experience in design of professional kitchens Robert Kolenik knew exactly how the cooking area could be practical and beautiful, with most garments behind wooden doors in brush painted nut. There the beautiful lighted bar in smoked pebbles offers the intimacy of a pub without an association with cooking. If the cook is ready for it he or she finds everything in this custom made area. The newest appliances of Miele, an icecrusher, a wine storage and all the luxury to feel guest in your own house. In the cellar this estate did get a second bar where visitors can get a drink in privacy.

Taking the beautiful stairs brings us to the master bedroom and bathroom with stunning make up table. In a former cupboard he integrated the toilet in eucalyptus wood. The door handles in leather underline the soft feeling of the room and of the whole surrounding. Like in nature itself the combination of serene and special effects of lighting makes the owners every day happy as here they never have a dull moment.
This certified LEED Platinum new 4-storey home establishes an understated but dignified urban presence on an atypically wide San Francisco site. A transitional 2-storey glass-walled entry hall draws users to the airy and open living level. An increasingly light stair element transitions from floor to floor ultimately arriving at a roof deck enjoying panoramic views.
The design reflects strong heavy materials which perfectly blend with the landscape that surrounds the house. Steel and stone make an excellent material for decor and design of the property. The pool and terraces make a relaxing environment and adding palm trees to the mix creates a resort like atmosphere. The mezzanine library is a feature Arq. Bernardo Hinojosa likes to encourage, is one of many signature styles he has.
Villa Escarpa is located near the village of Praia da Luz, in the district of Lagos, Algarve, in the south of Portugal.

A condition of the planning permission was that the new house be constructed in the space occupied by a previous building. This had little architectural or technical merit, but was located in an exceptional position on an escarpment overlooking the Algarve coastline and village of Praia de Luz.

The footprint was therefore predetermined: on a very steep slope, and exposed to the prevailing winds. Paradoxically, it is these constraints and difficulties that underpin the conceptual basis of the project.
In an architectural language, pure and contemporary, we created sheltered terraces and courtyards for outside living. These are cut from the horizontal volume which is white and highly transparent. This volume gently sits upon an exposed concrete support giving the appearance of the house floating above the landscape. The touch on the environment, which we want to preserve, is minimized and resolves the difficult balance of the building with its physical support. This ensures a desirable visual lightness.

The house merges with a long water surface which dissects the wide living and kitchen spaces. These spaces are complemented by terraces, open to the sun and impressive views. This is the social area of the house, open and fluid.

4 bedrooms are located in a private area with access from a corridor that runs alongside a central courtyard. In this private courtyard the natural light is filtered, creating an intimate and desirable space.

The lower area provides garaging and technical support.

The roof terrace accentuates the visual lightness of the floating building in its environment.
Oceanique Villas

This project is a small real estate development located in Mui Ne, a seaside holiday destination in Vietnam’s south east coast. The site has a trapezoidal shape 110 m deep between the ocean and the road and 42 m along the beach. The sea front view is amazing and unusual for a private residential project in this area, usually occupied exclusively by resorts and hotels. The idea was to maximize this potential with semi-detached sea front villas and keep a large part of the land as a “buffer” landscaped area to prevent noise from the road.

The construction is composed of 3 units: Two 3 bedrooms villa, and one 4 bedrooms villa, each with a private 10 m x 3 m swimming pool. The construction was raised to 1.8 m from the beach level in order to keep a good privacy from the public beach, maximize the sea view and prevent from site erosion.

Architects
MM++ architects / MIMYA.co

Project Architect
My An PHAM THI

Location
Mui Ne, Phan Thiet, Vietnam

Building Area
1,014 m²

Photographs
Hiroyuki OKI
The interior layout offers a generous sea view for each space:

On the ground floor the kitchen, dining and living rooms are merged in one single space mono-oriented to the beach front while the back has been designed with a patio open to the sky to bring sunlight, natural ventilation and a nice sequence for entrance and staircase with the pond and the interior tropical garden.

Master bedrooms are open to the infinity swimming pool and by extension to the sea. In the back, each bathroom has a private garden with jacuzzi, bringing light, ventilation and strong outdoor/indoor connection.

On the first floor, all bedrooms have a large ocean view with floor to ceiling windows recessed in the concrete structure providing enough shadows. On the front, the flat roof becomes a huge timber decking terrace, extending possibilities to contemplate the ocean.

In the back, are located the bathrooms, naturally ventilated through timber louvers. Elevations are simple, following the layout strategy. The beach front elevation is widely open with large aluminum frame windows while the back elevation has no windows but timber louvers only. Therefore, in addition to the open air patio on the ground floor, it has been possible to limit the air conditioning to the bedrooms only.

The amazing location, so close to the sea, is a dreaming place for living. This project tries to not miss this opportunity to offer to the guests a total and unique “seaside” experience.

In line with our practice, the materials are basic and the design is minimalist, focusing on the quality of each space with no sophistication.
Belzberg Architects is about architectural innovation. Design is a collaborative process, a dialogue between client and architect. From is a merger of conceptual investigation, with production methodology. Practice is flexible, nimble, working and unconventional.

Belzberg Architects

The company, mário martins - atelier de arquitectura ltda, based in Lagos, Algarve, Portugal, has been working in both residential and in urban planning for more than 20 Years. The company consists in a diverse team of professionals, a group of technical experts, who work together in the different areas and specialties of projects. The company has been extremely busy over the past decades, which has resulted in a considerable volume and diversity of projects built and is renowned worldwide for their down to earth, sustainable solutions to take their work to a higher level.

Robert Kolenik is also co-founder of Plastic Soup Foundation Junior, a charity that educates children at a very young age about the dangers of polluting our seas and oceans with plastics and its consequent impact on marine life.

Robert Kolenik (b.1981) is one of the representatives of the new generation of Dutch Designers who are renowned worldwide for their down to earth, sustainable and luxurious total concepts for the hospitality industry. More recently the studio earned a reputation for innovation by designing several landmark buildings and books and design offices at all signature international and timeless allure.

The district and recognizable Kolenik style appeals to a wide international audience. It is best described asinnovative and learned, carefully marrying functionality and aesthetics to create harmony and balance.

Kolenik Eco Chic Design specializes in all kinds of creative and beauty home and restaurants and other hospitality designs are more daring, aiming to fascinate and excite the audience.

The use of materials like luxurious natural stone and even living coral add interest to their spaces and are the hallmark of Robert’s style.

Keith and his team, using state of the art 3D design technology coupled with his thirty years of experience, have been working in local, national and international books and periodicals and featured in websites of comparing Contemporary West Coast and Modern residential design. The company is a part of three person team consisting of two designers and one building contractor. Keith’s work has been recognized over the years with an impressive 22 Gold awards and 47 Silver awards on the local, provincial and national level and for excellence in categories ranging from Project of the Year, Best Custom Home in Canada, Best Custom Home, Best Master Suite, Best Interior Bathrooms, Best Renovation, Best Kitchen and the coveted People’s Choice Award. His work has been widely published in local, national and international books and periodicals and featured in websites of comparing Contemporary West Coast and Modern residential design. 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Over the last fifteen years, MCCLEAN DESIGN has grown into one of the leading contemporary residential and commercial architecture firms in the Los Angeles area committed to excellence in modern architecture. More than 200 projects have been completed on more than twenty large homes across much of Southern California with additional projects in San Francisco, Vancouver and New York.

Our projects reflect an interest in modern living and a desire to connect our clients with the beauty of the surrounding natural environment. We make extensive use of glass systems to maximize views and provide a warm light filled contemporary space. We strive for simplicity and an openness to the surrounding landscape that erodes the artificial architectural designs that are personalized in accordance with the client's lifestyle requirements.

OPENSPACE DESIGN is a Hong Kong based interior design and architecture design firm. The firm was founded in 1988 as a small office and has been led by an experienced international team of architects, designers, engineers and planners. The firm's work focuses on the design of contemporary, high-end residential, commercial and hospitality projects.

We are committed to continually moving, radiating and evolving like a vast living organism. We aim to generate our projects in a timely manner and to the highest standards.

We work with both homeowners and developers. Our staff offers a full range of design skills ensuring that our projects are completed in a timely manner and to the highest standards.

We continue to strive for excellence in design and to push the boundaries of inspiration in creating extraordinary spaces that we hope will provide enjoyment for many years to come.

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As an architectural practice that is involved directly with the African continent, NICO VAN DER MEULEN ARCHITECTS supplies creative solutions that are customized to suit each client without compromising the unique style and all its clients to ensure optimal satisfaction, the practice has accomplished an outstanding success in the design of elegant residential homes. The company’s innovative architectural vision is evident in its ability to continuously move and adapt to the changing needs and desires of its clients.

We strive for simplicity and an openness to the surrounding landscape that erodes the artificial constructs of any considered site.

The practice is committed to achieving a high level of design excellence in each project, and takes a collaborative approach to ensuring the successful completion of projects.

We enjoy using unexpected materials that challenge and sometimes even surprise. We place a strong emphasis on the integration of the building with the surrounding environment.

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We continue to strive for excellence in design and to push the boundaries of inspiration in creating extraordinary spaces that we hope will provide enjoyment for many years to come.
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