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STINSON BEACH
GARDEN



a
HOME
for **ART**

ARCHITECT HORST NOPPENBERGER AND BUILDER
MICHAEL REEVES OF CORBIN REEVES CONSTRUCTION
CREATE THE DREAM HOME FOR A COLLECTOR

TEXT **HUNTER DROHOJOWSKA-PHILP** | PHOTOGRAPHY **DURSTON SAYLOR**

A large painting by Abstract
Expressionist Joan Mitchell
anchors the great room where the
expanded stairwell leads to the
lower level.



SERIOUS COLLECTORS OF ART have the enjoyable challenge of finding or building the ideal place to appreciate it. Where can one relax and enjoy gazing at that rare abstract painting? One collector decided to build a residence in Los Angeles that would provide such sophisticated yet comfortable surroundings for their collection of paintings and sculptures.

Laguna architect Horst Noppenberger and contractor Michael Reeves of Corbin Reeves Construction worked together with the collector to create a roughly 10,000 square foot, two-level home that integrated modern art with contemporary living spaces. The residence updates the airy, open approach defined by the mid-century modernism of Southern California.

The building took close to 12 years to complete. "It was the most technically complex house we've done in 32 years of business," says Reeves. "Every detail is bespoke: the cabinet finishes, light switches, even the doorbell." The mill work was completed by a firm designing cabinetry since 1841, as well as a vendor in Europe, which also did the handles.

The upper level of the house is living space while the lower is dedicated to the media room and guest quarters. Noppenberger designed a grand leather clad staircase some 20 feet wide for people to enter from the hillside facade of the house and transition easily between the two levels.



OPPOSITE TOP Extensive plantings by landscape architects Olin contribute to the views and outdoor dining areas.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM Textured wall coverings and fabrics on the furnishings soften the interiors.



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Interior corridors with rare wood finishes were designed to bring focus to works of art such as the painting by Sam Francis.



A rare painting by Lucio Fontana echoes of the natural colors of Los Angeles. Chairs and tables are rounded like modern sculptures.

OPPOSITE The oversized Cantilevered roof unifies the indoor/outdoor lifestyle around the lap pool.

To achieve the perfect result, vendors built full scale models of each room, had them completed by their craftsmen in Europe, then shipped them back to Los Angeles to be installed. The method is similar to that used for the interiors of yachts.

The house is defined by a 90-foot lap pool with an infinity edge that flows over an 18-foot black granite waterfall. This aids in the illusion of a being pedestal so the house seems to be floating. "That is an allusion to the pool at the original house and the way it picked up ambient reflections of the sky," say Noppenberger.

The impact is enhanced by hillside landscaping of mature trees and plantings which establish the feeling of a verdant retreat that is still close to urban action. The client specifically wanted the house built of the same Carrera Roman travertine marble blocks used at the Getty Center and had the Italian quarry reopened to acquire it. While the frame of the house is steel, Noppenberger had it finished in a durable brown Kynar 500 to blend more convincingly with the hillside.

Noppenberger worked with the collector to design the dramatic 50-foot cantilevered roof that extends from the great room over the terrace with a window that is 30-feet

wide. The room overlooks the pool and the elevated view of the distant Pacific but it is engineered to disappear into a long slot in the floor for al fresco life in keeping with the city's temperate climate.

Noppenberger arranged the interior spaces with 12-foot ceilings and clerestories to filter the light. "We tried to create long extended passages that would visually lead to a focal point for the art." The client already owned works by many well-known artists and wanted to integrate them rather than arrange them on a single white wall.

The steel, stone and glass of the architecture is softened by cushioned furnishings in the neutral tones of sand and sky.

Casual chairs in the main room and leather dining chairs were selected for their biomorphic proportions and soothing textures. Occasional tables are sculptural. The abundance of natural light is buffered by the rich wood paneling and wall coverings.

The collector was involved in the most minute decisions, seeking a welcoming home while showcasing some of his favorite pieces. "The collector wanted the house itself to be an art piece," says Reeves. [en](#)

The sizeable outdoor sculpture by Isamu Noguchi is complemented by Horst Noppenberger's architectural style.



