

# Custom Home

The Art and Craft of Custom Home Building ■ May/June 2006

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## Custom Home Design Awards



A half-story above sidewalk level, this new suburban house stands at a dignified remove from the public realm, but opens wide to its private side and new gardens.



# Merit Award

Custom Home More Than 5,000 Square Feet  
Beverly Hills, Calif., Residence

Indoor/outdoor living, a voluminous art studio, gallery space, housekeeper's quarters; in an 8,000-square-foot home, one can have it all. Fitting it all into a suburban grid without sacrificing privacy is the trick, and this house makes it look easy. Taking advantage of a generous corner lot, architects Stephen Ehrlich and Takashi Yanai located the garage entrance at the side of the house, and a half-story below street level. That, Ehrlich says, left the entry yard open for sculpture, landscaping, and a meandering walk that "creates an interesting journey to the front door."

Private outdoor spaces, protected by garden walls, occupy the back and side yards. A broad patio crosses the rear of the house, opening the kitchen and family room onto a shaded outdoor cooking-and-dining area and the master bedroom onto its own sundeck. A sculptural fountain pool marks the boundary at the rear of the property, and an intimate Japanese garden turns a narrow side yard into a visual refuge for the main stair hall and home office.

Interiors reflect the owners' interest in art, especially the 2,500-square-foot third floor, which is devoted to a painting studio and viewing room. Main-level spaces, with their broad expanses of unbroken wall surface, constitute a live-in gallery. Both areas presented the challenge of managing natural light for very specific purposes. North-facing glass provides glare-free light at the studio level. High windows, north glazing, and deep overhangs modulate light at the main level without cutting the connection with the outdoors. It was the seamlessness of that connection that most impressed our judges, who called this "a real California house. You can hardly tell whether you're inside or outside."—*B.D.S.*

Entrant/Architect: Stephen Ehrlich Architects, Culver City, Calif.; Builder: Horizon General Contractors, Santa Monica, Calif.; Living space: 8,000 square feet; Site: .46 acre; Construction cost: Withheld; Photographer: Juergen Nogai. ■ For product information, see page 158.



## The products used in this year's winning Custom Home Design Award homes.



### Custom Home of the Year, p.84, Millbrook, N.Y.

Bathroom plumbing fittings: Duravit, Circle 201 and Kohler, Circle 207; Bathroom plumbing fixtures: Hansgrohe, Circle 206; Dishwasher: Sub-Zero, Circle 208; Garbage disposer: In-Sink-Erator, Circle 203; Kitchen plumbing fittings: Elkay, Circle 209; Kitchen plumbing fixtures: Grohe, Circle 210; Lighting fixtures: Alkco, Circle 211, Bega, Circle 212, and Lightolier, Circle 213; Oven: Miele, Circle 214; Paint: Benjamin Moore, Circle 215 and Sherwin Williams, Circle 216; Range: Sub-Zero, Circle 208; Structural lumber: Georgia Pacific, Circle 217.

### Merit Award, p.88 Beverly Hills, Calif.

Bathroom plumbing fittings: Dornbracht, Circle 200; Countertops: Caesarstone, Circle 218; Dishwasher: Miele, Circle 214; Entry doors: Forms & Surfaces, Circle 219; Exterior siding/patio doors:

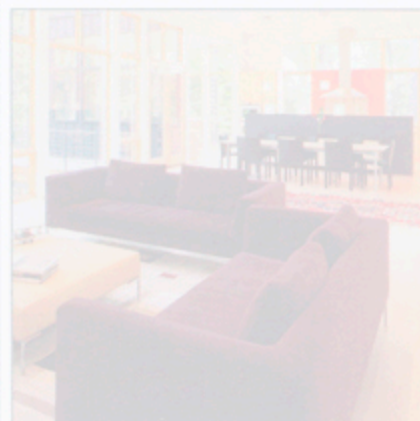
Fleetwood, Circle 220; Fireplace: Majestic, Circle 221; Hardware: FSB, Circle 222; Kitchen cabinets:



Euroconcepts, Circle 223; Kitchen plumbing fittings: Dornbracht, Circle 200; Kitchen plumbing fixtures: Franke, Circle 224; Lighting fixtures: Artemide, Circle 225, Bega, Circle 226, and Lightolier, Circle 213; Oven: Wolf, Circle 227; Paint: Dunn Edwards, Circle 228; Refrigerator: Sub-Zero, Circle 208; Trash compactor: GE, Circle 229.

### Merit Award, p.91 Potomac, Md.

Bathroom plumbing fittings/fixtures: Hansa, Circle 230 and Kohler, Circle 207; Bathroom/kitchen cabinets: Christiana, Circle 231; Dishwasher: Miele, Circle



214; Fireplace: Majestic, Circle 232; Garbage disposer: In-Sink-Erator, Circle 203; Hardware: Omnia, Circle 233; HVAC equipment: Carrier, Circle 234; Insulation: Owens Corning, Circle 235; Kitchen plumbing fixtures: Elkay, Circle 209 and Kohler, Circle 207; Lighting fixtures: Lightolier, Circle 213, Shaper, Circle 236, and Stonco, Circle 237; Oven: Gaggenau, Circle 238; Paints: Benjamin Moore, Circle 215; Patio doors/windows: Pella, Circle 239; Refrigerator: Sub-Zero, Circle 208; Skylights: Velux, Circle 240.

### Merit Award, p.93 Bethesda, Md.

Bathroom plumbing fittings/fixtures: Duravit, Circle 201 and KWC, Circle 241; Garage doors: Capital Doors, Circle 242; Garbage disposer: In-Sink-Erator, Circle 203; Hardware: Hafele, Circle 243



and Omnia, Circle 233; Kitchen plumbing fittings: Blanco, Circle 244; Kitchen plumbing fixtures: KWC, Circle 241; Lighting fixtures: Iris, Circle 245; Oven: Thermador, Circle 246; Paints: Benjamin Moore, Circle 215; Refrigerator: Sub-Zero, Circle 208; Security system: Inter-American Security, Circle 247; Structural lumber: Georgia Pacific, Circle 248; Windows: Parret, Circle 249 and Weathershield, Circle 250.