

VHLA: Designed for “A Sense of Arrival”

REPORTED BY HEATHER WALLACE



Photos: Structure Home

Tucked neatly between the natural beauty of the Santa Monica Mountains and Santa Monica Bay, the interior lot on Via de la Paz in the Pacific Palisades was an ideal location to build VISION House® Los Angeles.

“We wanted to choose an infill lot to support the redevelopment of the urban core instead of adding to urban sprawl,” says Robert Kleiman of Structure Home. “We chose the Palisades because the people seem to be very environmentally active and there’s a strong sense of community.”

With narrow streets and neighborhood shops, amenities and parks nearby, the location promotes both walking and cycling. The village and the Sunday market are both within a short stroll of the VISION

House® LA location.

The site also is blessed with natural ocean breezes and south-facing exposure. “We took advantage of views, natural light and natural ventilation by orienting the fenestration and entry court to best take advantage of these elements,” says Karen Putman of P2 Design.

Patti Baker, of KAA Design in Los Angeles, says one of the challenges with the house was the sloping lot. The front-to-back and left-to-right natural slopes made it necessary to “open the home up to more than just the front and rear yard,” she says. Ultimately, the final design included outdoor living areas with enhanced “movement” and planning around a central entry courtyard.

“[The design] does a marvelous job of creating a sense of interest in the “arrival”

Vision House® LA, now under construction, is oriented to make the most of natural breezes, views and daylighting.



that is balanced with enhanced privacy and relaxing elements,” notes Green Builder® Media president, Ron Jones. “I think it has worked out quite well. It helps with drainage issues on site and provides a more compatible approach to the landscape design.”



The “Contemporary Californian” style of VISION House® LA incorporates both the inherent Southern California Spanish style and the contemporary aesthetic that was popular in Los Angeles in the 1950s and 1960s.

“One portion of the residence is white plaster with wood windows and wood details,” Putnam explains, “creating a solid base for the home with an embracing warmth. The other half of the residence is light and airy, metal and glass, with windows and spaces creating an open sense that blends the interior and exterior. This is the culmination of California living.”

And while there is no question that the house will be aesthetically pleasing to the eye, the well-thought-out building techniques and green products also make this collaborative effort a learning tool for other builders and developers.**GB**

Built using a combination of traditional stick framing and Boise Cascade’s innovative structural system, the home has a contemporary look, but the technology is well within the reach of any good residential builder.

Care has been taken not to disturb trees and vegetation. It’s clear that the home will fit in with existing homes in this well established Pacific Palisades community.