



MEDIA CONTACT:

Haily Zaki

Secret Agent PR

323.712.0298

haily@secretagentpr.com

A STROLL THROUGH VENEZIA
Presenting the AIA/Los Angeles 2008 Summer Home Tour and Architect's Forum

LOS ANGELES, CA (June 2, 2008) – Come discover (or be reminded) why Los Angeles has long been considered one of the country's seminal cities for residential architecture. On Sunday June 29, AIA/LA takes visitors to Venice, CA. Once known as the wild child of Los Angeles, Venice has matured over the years into a playground where maverick architects go to test their design mettle. Twenty years ago, Gehry, Rotundi, and Mayne designed in Venice. Today, a new generation of architects takes up the mantle, experimenting with volume, space, and form, to create architecture beyond the box. Faced with compact sites and other challenges, the architects respond differently, but in each case, the resulting structure is an expression of efficiency and a testament to what happens when architects design 'outside of the box.' Ranging in scale, the tour will take visitors inside one of the most architecturally diverse communities in Los Angeles for a private viewing of some of its prize gems.

Additionally, AIA/LA will host the free **Architect's Forum** four days prior to the tour offering the public a truly unique opportunity to hear about the creative process behind each project – the challenges and solutions that make each of these beautiful homes exceptional.

Architect's Forum

Wednesday, June 25th

6:30pm to 8:30pm

Hosted by SNAIDERO USA

372 N. Robertson Blvd.

West Hollywood, CA 90048

Free Lecture - RSVP to AIA/LA by Friday, June 20th.

A Stroll Through Venezia - Summer 2008 Home Tour

Sunday, June 29th

11am to 4pm

Self-guided tours

Price per person: \$75.00 (non-members) | \$65.00 (AIA members)

For tickets/information call 213.639.0777 or visit www.aialosangeles.org.

Tickets and driving directions will be mailed out one week prior to the event.

FEATURED HOMES & ARCHITECTS

23 BREEZE HOUSE

David Reddy, AIA (R&D ARCHITECTS)

Located on a Venice Walk street this 3,000 sq ft house consciously reflects and reacts towards its specific site. The first floor and roof function as hybrid public/private spaces allowing the inhabitants to connect with the vibrant energy of Venice Beach. On the second floor the project design utilizes a mirrored plan to create two double-height volumes that open public spaces to light, air & views. One volume faces the beach & boardwalk and the other faces the gritty urban fabric of the city. The private bedrooms on the third floor are cool, quiet retreats from the buzz and heat that radiate from the beach below. A final unifying element is the cement panel facade that provides a colorful canvas that energizes the form and offers public art to the community. Features include solar radiant floors, photovoltaic energy, renewable and recyclable materials, and murals by artist Nancy Monk.

(Photo: Benny Chan, Fotoworks)



CANAL HOUSE

Emily Kovner (EM ARCHITECTS)

The Canal House makes the most of its unusual and immediate relationship to the water. The side of the house facing the canal features an uninterrupted 25' clear opening. A steel and glass NaNa door allows for a more immediate, intimate connection to the canal. The open plan of the first floor furthers this relationship; the courtyard, kitchen, dining room, and living room all have unobstructed views. The residence is organized into two separate structures: a larger main residence and a smaller accessory building for parking, an artist's studio, and a roof deck. A courtyard located between the two structures provides a private outdoor room, and serves as an extension of living space. The two buildings are wrapped with a "second skin" of wood siding that binds the two blocks allowing them to be read as one complex. The wood serves as a finish material and as a translucent screen for balcony railings, guardrails, and a fence to maintain privacy in the courtyard.

(Photo: Tom Bonner)



CUBE

Mark Baez (M)

Mark Baez takes loft living outside the box with Cube. These three-story structures feature 2,000 square feet of livable space with a carport on the ground floor. Each two-story, steel-beamed shell is sheathed in a curtain wall system of insulated fiberglass panels framed in anodized aluminum, which can be opened like windows. Inside, the same featherweight panels act as high-tech shoji screens that can be lifted out of their tracks in the concrete floor to create bedrooms, alcoves, or open space. Building dimensions are based on a strict formula that incorporates both Japanese and imperial units of measure to maintain scale and proportion for inhabitants. The units also feature radiant heat, a solar panel to assist the heating of both the domestic hot water and the radiant system, and photovoltaic cells to generate electricity.

(Photo: BelaTemesvary)



LINNIE HOUSE

Michele Sae (MICHELE SAE STUDIO)

The clients purchased the land from its original owner, an Italian immigrant's son who had bought it directly from Abbot Kinney. They envisioned a house that would feel like an artist's loft but functioned like a traditional home: a place where they could work, play, entertain friends and family, dream and create. Aspiring to transcend the physical limitations of its small lot, as well as the normative space defining elements such as walls, floors and roof planes, the building gestures towards the canal transforming as it moves through harnessing uncertainty as a generator of form. The exterior walls slide and shear responding to the features of the site while accommodating the



functional needs of the program. Within the resulting three-story structure functional spaces are arranged to create a psychology of continuity between the interior spaces and the canal. Opening to the front yard and towards the canal the boundaries of the living area are dissolved in a transparent wall of sliding doors and fixed glass.

(Photo: Marvin Rand)

543 HOUSE

Steven Shortridge, AIA (CALLAS SHORTRIDGE ARCHITECTS)

Designed as a continuous living space through the entire depth of its Venice lot, the 543 House provides a series of adaptable and varying living environments that are closely interrelated with one another and their connection to the outdoors. In this 2,200 sf single-family residence, a seamless relationship and flow of space from south-facing, outdoor living room to kitchen, dining and living, creates a sense of openness, transparency and visual interest as spaces and views on the lower level are unobstructed. The house emerged as a diagram of two discrete living quarters (boxes), suspended above a common living area and shifted in section. The living unit “boxes” are grounded by two large, full building height walls. A collage of materials; cement board, stucco, teak, stainless steel, tempered glass, bamboo panels, and steel troweled integral blue color plaster is used in concert and held within a framework of brightly colored structural steel.

(Photo: Art Gray)



*AIA/LA thanks the following Platinum Sponsors for their support of the 2008 Home Tours series:
DMJM Design; Gensler; Gruen Associates; Pankow; Sharpe Interior Systems, Inc. Drywall Contractors;
SNAIDERO USA*

For more information, contact **Haily Zaki** at 323.712.0298 or haily@secretagentpr.com.

###