



## MERGING MODERN

location: San Francisco, California  
architecture: Tai Ikagami; Camille Cladouhos; Feldman Architecture Inc.  
interior by owners  
photography: Paul Dyer

THE NEW HOME OF A DURBAN-EDUCATED DESIGNER AND HER IRISH-AMERICAN HUSBAND, IS ONE OF THE OLDEST HOUSES IN SAN FRANCISCO'S BERNAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBOURHOOD. AN 1860'S COTTAGE, IT SAT IN DISREPAIR FOR YEARS AND, AT ONE POINT, WAS CLOSE TO BEING CONDEMNED. ►



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The contemporary glass-enclosed tower is juxtaposed against the original cottage structure. The fluid lines of the two Le Klint pendants above the rustic dining table soften their stark aesthetic; Philippe Starck 'ghost' chairs aid spatially while earthy redwood side panels on the workstation provide a warm contrast to the slate floor tiles.



right:

Lower office studio at garden level features a white lacquered Parsons table / desk.



Says architect Camille Cladouhos: 'We were faced with a challenge of expanding the original 149m<sup>2</sup>. San Francisco house to accommodate a young family, plus two-off street parking bays. The house is built on an unusually shallow stand, located in a neighborhood with unique zoning restrictions including a very vocal neighbourhood organisation. Our challenge was to repair, expand, and modernise this small dark house, while maintaining

the rustic charm of the original building. To accomplish this, we kept the façade and envelope of the existing structure and added a contemporary, but unobtrusive addition; a narrow, three metre-wide wing that contains a garage, bedroom suite and studio office spaces on two levels. These open studio offices are complemented by a two-story library equipped with a sliding ladder, here large corner window walls create a connection with the back garden. ►



these pages:

The central staircase divides the kitchen area from the sitting room where a mix of cushions add vibrancy to the contemporary low-profile sofa; original abstract painting by Engel-Pak.



‘Within the existing volume, we cut away the roof and upper floor in the centre to create a central light core that washes a new stone wall and illuminates the kitchen and living room. Partially cantilevered oak stair treads appear to be anchored against this feature wall, while the same wall provides a durable backsplash to the kitchen counter on the opposite side. ▶







**opposite:**

*The second-floor studio is a loft space overlooking the ground floor studio. Tall bookcases, accessed by a sliding library ladder, serve both levels.*

'To take advantage of the gentle fall of land, the floor of the dining room and the studio office were lowered to achieve a higher ceiling, more volume and easy connection to the garden. New aluminum windows at the rear of the house give the otherwise traditional existing volume a modern update; and an over-sized wood sliding door was introduced in the dining room both as a design accent and to open up the room to the deck and the landscape beyond.'

Careful mixing of rough stone and wood, with clear glass panels and metal, breathes new life into the once-neglected structure. The





*this page:*

*Main bedroom overlooks the garden and what was once a proposed walk-in wardrobe for the adjacent guest bedroom is now a slate-lined steam shower in the spacious, light-filled master suite.*

rustic charm of the original house is re-introduced via the use of a restored vintage stove, while salvaged redwood cladding was re-used as interior paneling. Exposed joists over the dining room and the studio office remain as rugged contrasts to the contemporary materiality of the new finishes and fixtures. Here, the eclectic tastes of the clients – both artists and designers – has added yet another layer of interest to the modern architectural interventions applied to this old wooden cottage. ■