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## SOMETHING DIFFERENT: Noe Valley Remodel Rooms for the whole family

Mary Jo Bowling, Special to The Chronicle  
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What happens when an architect -- who is a father, a modernist, a novice developer and married to an interior designer -- spots an ugly-duckling house at the end of a cul-de-sac in Noe Valley? He creates a remodel that blends the best of modern design with family-friendly features. Plus, with the absence of clients, he also gets to play a little.

"There were a lot of things I'd been thinking about that I wanted to try," says architect Jonathan Feldman. "When you are working for other people, that's not always possible. Here, I got to do things I've always wanted to do."

When Feldman and his wife, Lisa Lougee, spotted the house at 2 Kronquist Court, it had seen better days. It was a plain, 1950s box with worn fixtures and finishes. Like many San Francisco houses of this era, it had two bedrooms and one bathroom over a garage/basement. But to Feldman, it looked like a blank canvas.

Today, broad, bold, architectural strokes fill that canvas to make a modern dwelling. In every room, there's evidence that this is a home created for a family by a family. The transformation begins on the outside. It's still a box, but in a modernist context and new stucco "clothes," it's chic, not boring. Large metal windows are the first change you notice. They allow you to see through the house, hinting at the fabulous views from the inside.

The entrance, once an open-air stairway, has been enclosed, and a sandblasted glass awning suspended from metal cables hovers over the new front door like a piece of art. The entrance is framed by a stand of dramatic black bamboo, which is another clue about what's to come. This house, which once took no notice of its yard and view, now has a symbiotic connection with the newly landscaped lot and city skyline.

You see it immediately as you step inside. What was once a basement is now a family room with floor-to-ceiling sliding-glass doors looking out onto a patio and garden featuring steel planters and a raised view platform at the back. It is now a room whose walls roll away to make a huge indoor/outdoor space. This level also holds a bathroom and guest room.

The dark-stained stairs lead to one of those breathtaking, fall-in-love-with-San-Francisco-all-over-

again views, overlooking the city, the bay and the Bay Bridge. The windows are even larger on the view side, just short of floor and ceiling. It makes the open-plan living room, dining room and kitchen feel as if they're perched atop the town.

After tearing yourself away from the view, you notice the rest of the space. The fireplace is surrounded by polished concrete and dark-stained cabinets and shelves. The living room flows into the dining room, which has a window that overlooks the cul-de-sac.

But it's the kitchen that gives the view a run for its money. A large prep and eating island separates it from the other areas. The eating side is clad with beautifully grained cherry. Orbitally sanded stainless steel covers the food prep side. The stainless steel is tough and easy to care for, but with a matte finish that doesn't show fingerprints, which will make parents of little ones take notice.

"I imagined that the island would be the command center for the space," says Feldman, standing behind the island as if it were a helm. "You could be working here and watching the television in the living room or interacting with people in the living room and dining room."

Design-ophiles will notice how both materials cover the top and sides of the island, making it look monolithically modern. It's outfitted with and surrounded by storage spaces. Open shelves over the sink allow display and storage for everyday items. Ample cabinets and drawers offer a bounty of storage for food and cooking utensils. There's also room for a small kitchen office/message center niche.

"E-mail and Google are a regular part of family activities, so it makes sense to accommodate them in the center of the house," says Feldman. "This way, because it's at the heart of the house, no one has to leave the room to check e-mails, buy movie tickets or look up the takeout number."

A short hall leads to the private spaces of the home. On one side, a bedroom and a bath could serve as a powder room and child's room. On the other, a Zen-like master suite has the same view as the public spaces. The master bath is a marble and slate-tiled spa-like space that embraces the view with long, cleverly placed windows. You can enjoy the city skyline while reclining in the tub or standing in the shower. But thanks to placement and sandblasting, your neighbors can't enjoy a view of you.

The beauty of the space lies in its simplicity. The main family/living space is all on a single level. "We love this house and seriously thought about moving into it," says Feldman. "I have a toddler, and every time I'm up in the middle of the night carrying her downstairs to the kitchen, I think about how great it would be to have everything on one level."

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Address: 2 Kronquist Court

City: San Francisco

**Architect/developer:** Feldman Architecture LLP

**Price:** \$1,895,000

**Bedrooms:** 3

**Bathrooms:** 3

**Parking:** One-car garage

**Landscape Design:** Gargan Landscape + Design

**Building Construction:** Lara Construction

**Landscape Construction:** Groundbreaking Landscapes

**Listing agent:** Tal Klein, Hill & Co. Real Estate, (415) 321-4289

**Open house hours:** Today, 1-4 p.m.; Tuesday, 12-1:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 4-6 p.m. Also shown by appointment.

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