



21st Century Architecture

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DESIGNER HOUSES

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Feldman Architecture

PACIFIC HEIGHTS TOWNHOUSE

San Francisco, California, USA

The Pacific Heights Townhouse is an update and reconfiguration of a 1906 stucco-clad Victorian house. The owners wanted to maintain the building's traditional feel, but also to infuse some modern elements, so the house would be both more livable and reflective of their personalities. They also wanted a light-filled house that would incorporate sustainable elements. Furthermore, the original house took up nearly the entire length of its lot and the clients wanted a garden that would be accessible from the main living spaces.

To achieve these goals, the architects placed the living areas on the top floor, where the light would be best and where, by removing a large portion of the rear space, a roof garden could be created. Most of the walls were removed from this floor to create spaces that are visually connected, yet functionally separate.

The building is set off the south property line, which allowed the addition of numerous large windows along the length of the house. New skylights on the north side flood the interior of the top floor and the long hallway on the second floor with natural light. Open-riser stairs, a light well, and interior windows also allow light to filter down to the second floor hall.

Photography Paul Dyer

Throughout the house modern elements are combined with the traditional in an unexpected manner. For example, a steel and glass staircase and garden wall, modern lighting, wallpaper, tile and cabinetry are set against traditional wainscoting, trim, and rustic wooden floorboards.

Significant sustainable elements were also incorporated into the design, including a solar-powered radiant heat system and a large photovoltaic roof array.





Second floor



First floor



Ground floor

- 1 Side entry
- 2 Garage
- 3 Side yard
- 4 Lobby
- 5 Guest suite
- 6 Living area
- 7 Rear yard
- 8 Entry
- 9 Play room
- 10 Bathroom
- 11 Bedroom
- 12 Master bathroom
- 13 Master bedroom
- 14 Living
- 15 Dining
- 16 Kitchen
- 17 Family room
- 18 Roof garden
- 19 Spa



