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THE STYLE ISSUE



NOE VALLEY
PACIFIC HEIGHTS
SEA CLIFF
THE FILLMORE

**Ascendant
Architecture**
Edmonds + Lee
re-created the
central staircase
with floating treads
and frameless
glass railings. See
Resources.

VISIONARY STYLE

ARCHITECTURE FIRM EDMONDS + LEE RESPECTFULLY

ENLIVENS A JOSEPH ESHERICK HOME

BY LYDIA LEE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOE FLETCHER



International Style (THIS PHOTO AND TOP LEFT) In the living room, a pair of Matteo Grassi chairs and a Living Divani sofa wrap around a coffee table by India Mahdavi. **Artful Entry** (OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM) A Martin Bialas sculpture from Dzine adorns the foyer wall. *See Resources.*



THE BAY AREA loves its midcentury modern homes, from Eichler ranches to Neutra rarities, and these architectural gems are highly sought after by a new generation of homebuyers. So when a stylish French couple recently acquired a 1957 Sea Cliff house designed by iconic architect Joseph Esherick, they lavished it with attention: The homeowners hired San Francisco architecture firm Edmonds + Lee to reinvigorate the 5,000-square-foot home, and worked with interior designer Ina Nouel to style it with a cosmopolitan mix of furnishings. The result is an urbane space that retains the modernist spirit of its influential creator.

The couple who took this early example of California indoor-outdoor living into the present hadn't planned to move—in fact, they were about to embark on a major remodel of their Victorian in Noe Valley. But their real estate agent, knowing their love of midcentury architecture, urged them to take a look at the stunning four-bedroom Esherick. “When we climbed the stairs and saw the view, my legs were shaking,” says the wife, who fell in love after seeing the home’s vertiginous panorama of the swirling waters at the mouth of the Bay and the rugged Marin Headlands.



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The Noe remodel was called off, and the couple asked their architects, Robert Edmonds and Vivian Lee, to tackle the new project for their family. “The architecture has such a strong foundation. We took our cues from it and amplified it,” says Edmonds. Best known as one of the architects of the iconic Sea Ranch development, Esherick originally designed the residence for contractor Arthur Baum. Baum had built several of Esherick’s properties, and commissioned the architect to design his own family home. The Baums lived in the house for more than 50 years, so when it came on the market in 2014, it was truly a time capsule.

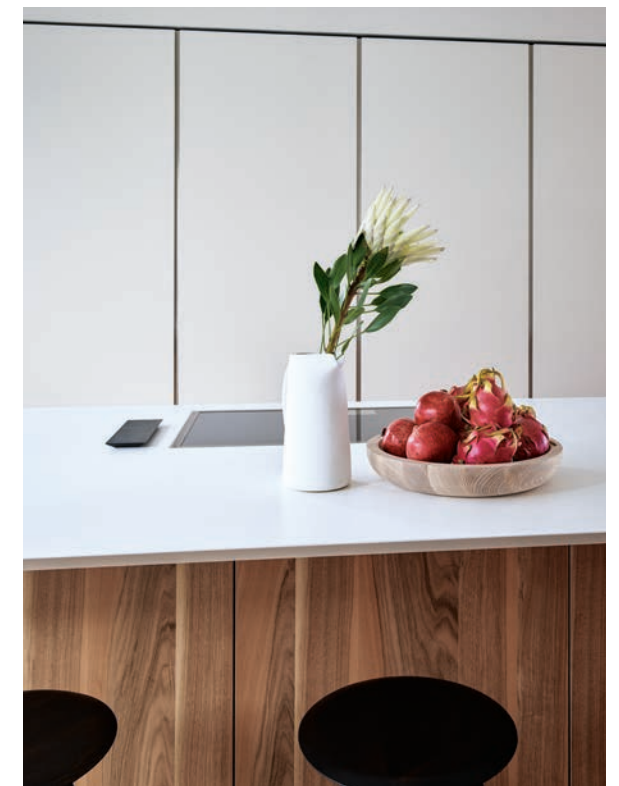
Edmonds and Lee undertook a faithful restoration of the exterior—renewing its white rough-sawn vertical siding and dark gray trim—while thoughtfully modernizing the interiors. They removed dividing walls between the kitchen, living room and dining room to create one large area on the main level, and completely renovated the kitchen and bathrooms. They also couldn’t resist the opportunity to create the “lightest, most perfect stair,” says Edmonds. The dramatic central staircase now has floating treads and frameless glass railings.

As part of the interior upgrade, the architects replaced the drywall with more substantial finishes, giving the rooms a stronger sense of materiality. The foyer features a wall of honed concrete panels from Concreteworks;



Modern Color The dining space (ABOVE) is furnished with a Baxter dining table and peacock-blue chairs from Dzine. A Flodeau muffin lamp (OPPOSITE PAGE) tops an antique Chinese wood bench across from a Porro red lacquer floating sideboard. See *Resources*.

Inspired Eclecticism Antique paddles on custom stands (NEAR RIGHT) are juxtaposed with a gilded antique mirror in the dining area. In the kitchen (FAR RIGHT), Sawkille barstools from March nestle up to the island. See *Resources*.





Iconic Interiors
(THIS PAGE) The master bedroom features a classic Knoll Womb chair and stool. The rear wall is wrapped in an Elitis silk from Donghia, and the matching brass pendants with custom stems are from Miami-based StudioPGRB. Master bath tile is Stone by Claesson Koivisto Rune. See *Resources*.

the main level is now covered in wide-plank oak flooring; and, in a nod to the home's original plywood paneling, the bedroom wing is demarcated by custom millwork by Oakland-based builder and cabinet maker Mueller Nicholls. "Even though they are 'machines for living,' midcentury homes always have an element of craft to them," says Edmonds.

Interior designer Ina Nouel worked closely with the client to choose furnishings with a European sensibility. In the living room, for example, a vintage Charlotte Perriand bench with custom upholstered cushions in a Knoll cotton velvet is paired with a Living Divani sofa. In the adjoining dining and kitchen spaces, a floating sideboard in raspberry lacquer by Italian company Porro and a room divider of copper-colored mirrored glass, are unexpected delights. "The clients don't like clutter, but they do like color," says Nouel. "So the introduction of color and pattern was really important to them. The idea was to have a very eclectic look but focus on simplicity and the quality of materials, showcasing the architecture of the house."

Just recently, the wife gave Baum's daughter a tour of the home. Says the homeowner, "She was very pleased, and said, 'I think my parents would have loved it and Mr. Esherick would have too.'" 🌟



Material Beauty
(THIS PAGE) The stunning second floor hall showcases custom millwork by Mueller Nicholls. The Eos wall mirror by Ben and Aja Blanc is through the Future Perfect. See *Resources*.