

# openHOUSE



## Studio 9one2 Architecture

**HOW OFTEN HAS IT HAPPENED, YOU FINALLY FIND A CLIENT** who talks in clear and concise terms about the contemporary structure they want you to build for them, only to find, months down the line, that your original vision has been chopped into bits and thrown onto a growing pile of compromises. Or your vision is realized with a crisp modern affair—a sleek, impressive example of your creative style—and as you pat yourself on the back, a moving truck arrives with the family's heirloom Victorian furniture (with blue velvet upholstery). If these experiences sound familiar, you may feel a sense of envy for

architect Pat Killen, whose young clients, John and Sherry Anselmo, asked for an 'open loft-style house' and actually meant what they said. With only two doors in the entire three-story home (powder room and children's bathroom), Killen, a twenty-year veteran of beach housing, created an open-ended structure that criss-crosses the family from private to public to private as they navigate their space. One's first impression of the house brings to mind an invigorating leap into the outdoors. Both the Anselmos are avid volleyball players (John plays professionally) and their lives waft between beach and

- FLOOR ONE: CHILDREN  
 FLOOR TWO: MASTER  
 FLOOR THREE: LIVING
- 1) GIRLS' ROOM
  - 2) GIRLS' ROOM
  - 3) GIRLS' ROOM
  - 4) MASTER BEDROOM
  - 5) MASTER BEDROOM
  - 6) MASTER BEDROOM
  - 7) MASTER BATH
  - 8) MASTER SHOWER
  - 9) STAIRWELL
  - 10) DINING AREA
  - 11) KITCHEN
  - 12) KITCHEN/LIVING AREA
  - 13) LAUNDRY + POWDER ROOM
  - 14) LIVING AREA
  - 15) LIVING AREA

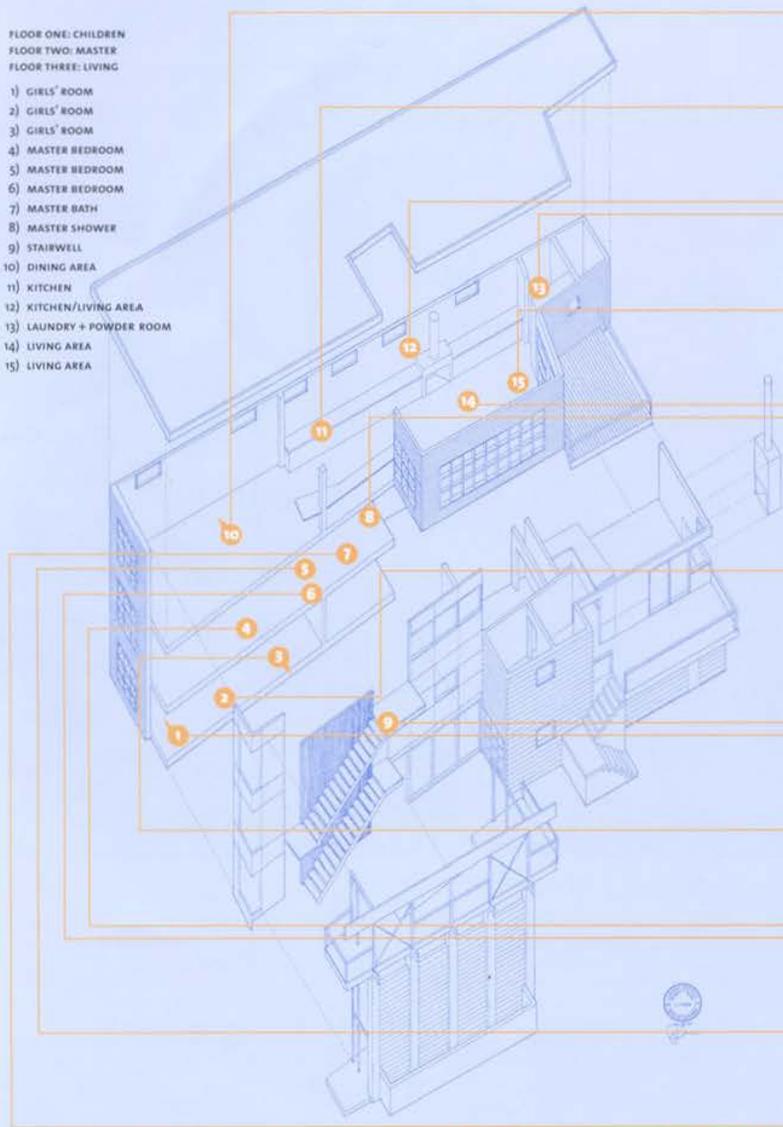


Photo by Dean Pappas; all other photos: null

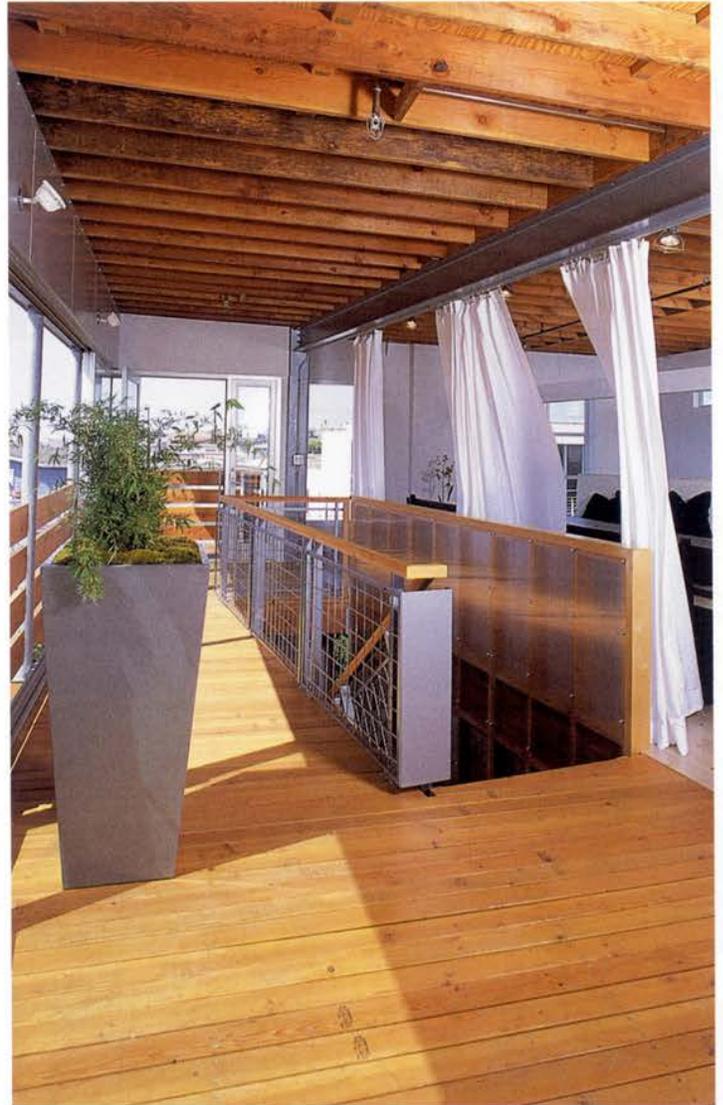
house. During most of the year the home remains wide open, with breezes blowing through the different levels. Located on a walk street in Manhattan Beach, the typical sand lot of 24 X 80 (after set backs) is generously covered by house. The home's facade unveils clues to Killen's philosophy of using very simple, naïve materials that play off one another—hard surfaces of concrete block and stucco are softened by the organic nature of raw wood, and bright blue shingles, thrown into the mix to add color and texture, add a touch of whimsy. By combining traditional, industrial-style windows with corner-joined glass, the home says 'loft' while yielding to ocean views. And, without worrying about hallways and closets, the floor plan is able to accommodate a four-car garage and granny flat/rental without compromising square footage.

An entry courtyard, notching into the home's west side, supplies a light well for upper floors and doubles as a play space for the Anselmo's two young daughters, whose joint room opens to the atrium. This two-story atrium, accessed from the courtyard, launches a stairwell that moves the occupants from the children's ground floor space, up and literally through the master bedroom level and on to the full-length third floor that combines dining room, kitchen, living room/family room and laundry. The garage sits behind the children's rooms and the rental flat behind the master suite.

Since the master suite is part of the stairway circulation, a system of diaphanous white curtains mark private spaces such as the bed and closet areas. Ceiling to floor Lexen panels with partially visible 2x4 cores are used here and in the girls' room to bring light and privacy. At night spotlights aimed at the plastic laminate create a glow that travels the length of the atrium. The open master bath is swathed in white tile, including a podium used to hang the exposed sinks.

With two sets of French doors on either side of the stairwell and a full size industrial garage door exposing a back patio, the third floor becomes a comforting extension of the outdoors. A Miele-decked kitchen with low bulthaup stainless steel units (on castors) and under counter industrial refrigeration makes a sleek statement, but shuts down with curtains when a mess ensues. The dining room table, designed by friend Mark Egerstrom (associate AIA), seats Sherry and John's entire extended family.

For a young family, the openness of Killen's design becomes light-hearted and fun. The couple, who own a clothing company called MonkeyButt, is anything but staid. Their fresh interpretations and fun-loving sense of home, coupled with Mark Egerstrom's design input, gave the project a decidedly personal touch. You can feel the liberation of a home flung open to the free-flowing freshness of salt air—that we could all have such open-minded clients! 🍷



**CLIENT:** John and Sherry Anselmo, Manhattan Beach, CA

**ARCHITECT:** Studio gone2 Architecture, Manhattan Beach, Patrick J. Killen, AIA, principal, Howard Crabtree, project manager, Noel Rival and Aaron Killen, project assistants

**INTERIOR CONSULTANT:** Mark Egerstrom

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:** James C. Orland PE

**CONTRACTOR:** Pete Strouse Construction

**LANDSCAPING:** Artecho, Pamela Palmer, Assisted by Mark Egerstrom

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Dean Pappas Photography

**LOT SIZE:** 30 ft x 90 ft