



Opposites Attract

THIS STRIKING CONTEMPORARY GUEST HOUSE IN LOS ANGELES DRAMATICALLY CONTRASTS THE CLASSIC MAIN HOUSE BESIDE IT

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IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AN IVY-COVERED COTTAGE. When Richard Landry's longtime clients asked the notable architect to craft a new detached guest house beside the existing Mediterranean-style home his firm had built 20 years prior, he initially envisioned something that would blend right in—aged stone, perhaps, with a storybook-like charm. But in the midst of the planning process, his clients mentioned they'd be open to something more modern. Something that, in other words, would really stand out. "That's when the light went on," recalls Landry. "We re-imagined their guest house as art-in-the-garden, a beautiful, sculptural folly as opposed to just another building."

The resulting ultra-contemporary 2,350-square-foot structure is perhaps the meta version of that vision: A sculptural piece of architecture literally pierced by a sculpture. By centering it just beyond the original home's porte-cochère, the marked divergence between the traditional and contemporary buildings is quite spectacularly highlighted. That's an effect Landry loves. "Think of the Louvre when I.M. Pei added the pyramid," he muses. "It doesn't compete with the older building, it's just this contrasting, sculptural, functional statement."

It may seem like a grandiose comparison, but there's more than a touch of museum-like magic and wonder to this



LEFT Malibu-based artist Brad Howe created the vividly colored abstract sculpture centered below the guest house's cantilevered open roof, sizing it so that the pinnacle pierces right through. The sculpture rests upon dual reflective pools of water.

OPPOSITE Architect Richard Landry framed a glimpse of the guest house's contemporary outdoor entertaining pavilion just beyond the main home's traditional porte-cochère, deliberately playing off the architectural contrast.



multipurpose space, too. Led by Suzanne Shepela, Landry Design Group dreamed up what's essentially a glass pavilion topped by a deeply cantilevered roof. Centered below that broad stretch of stone is a colorful contemporary sculpture commissioned from Malibu artist Brad Howe, sized to slice right through the roof's massive skylight. It's the focal point of the covered outdoor gathering space, which doubles in size for entertaining thanks to glass doors that bifold open completely and lead into the glass great room. This is space made

for gatherings, with a kitchenette, wet bar and drop-down projector screen; downstairs lies a private guest suite complete with a wine room and doors out to a quiet garden. A minimalist palette peppered with modern sculptures, mobiles and paintings throughout adds to the gallery-like vibe. As the whole structure is built into a hillside, the lower level guest suite is basically an artfully rendered daylight basement, while the glass upper floor—dramatically cantilevered also—appears to levitate above it. “From a design standpoint, there’s a

BELOW Landry Design Group cleverly utilized the sloped setting's necessary retaining wall as the exterior wall of the lower level guest bedroom, adding glass doors that bifold open to a private patio and garden. Both the guest bathroom's subtle yet striking cube window—designed to jut out from the wall—and the cantilevered glass upper floor above add to the building's sculptural cohesion.

OPPOSITE Unobtrusive stairs—elegantly inlaid with built-in lighting—separate the more public upstairs entertaining space from the downstairs private areas.





ABOVE Designed to make the most of its panoramic hillside views, the main floor is more windows than walls—with floor-to-ceiling glass wrapping two-thirds of the structure. The large colorful sculpture is by artist John Chamberlain.

RIGHT In the bathroom, the built-in vanity's his-and-hers sinks are divided by a rectangular paneless glass window that extends from the wall.

real simplicity to it, it looks easy, effortless and weightless,” says Landry. “And they love and collect art, so to look at their building as art and to integrate so much art into it made it exciting and special.”

By day, the mirrored glass reflects the surrounding pine trees, rendering the building almost invisible. At night it seems nearly transparent. And when it's all lit up, it glows. For the homeowners, it's become much more than a guest house, it's now a transportive, art-filled destination just steps from their home. “It's not just sitting there locked up and awaiting guests,” notes Landry. “They host events, they've had small lectures there, and since the pandemic started, they're out there almost every night watching movies. It's a backyard escape.” **CH**



ABOVE The homeowner's contemporary art collection continues in the airy lower guest bedroom, which features framed paintings by Frank Stella and Wassily Kandinsky and a small bedside sculpture by Robert Graham.



LEFT A custom wooden screen fabricated by Santa Barbara-based Neal Feay Studio acts as a contemporary divider, separating the staircase to the lower level from the dining area. The design continues below the banquette, artistically concealing the ventilation.