

# DesignLA

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HAMMER AND SPEAR / GAJIN FUJITA / BLUESALT  
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KOHLEK STREET COLLECTIVE / MARMOL RADZINER



A CONTEMPORARY HOUSE  
BY KAA DESIGN

Architect Grant Kirkpatrick cantilevered the living-room volume to give Balance Hill a dynamic twist. *Opposite:* A spiral stairway in the entry offsets the house's linear geometries; the painting is by L.A. artist Retna.





Designer Antonia Hutt selected Holly Hunt's Ocean sofa and L.N.A. coffee table for the living room. The sofa's back-cushion fabric is from Donghia. Christian Liaigre loves seat; Mulholland bench from Downtown. Martin Patrick Evan area rug.

**E**nergy. Harmony. Balance. The hillside residence was meant to make a statement by achieving a synchronicity with its location. It was inspired, in part, by the Case Study Houses (the mid-twentieth-century program sponsored by *Art & Architecture* magazine to foster modernist home design), such as Pierre Koenig's iconic Stahl House, where views of Los Angeles shimmer through the windows of a room like a cube of ice jutting out over the hill. Here, too, I cantilevered the living room and twisted it at an angle to create an exhilarating sense of levitation for anyone inside the aeris. Throughout the residence, we incorporated opportunities for this kind of elevated experience.

While the site offered several obvious catalysts for the design—chief among them the desire to maximize the views—the clients also wanted to create a real family home. That meant supporting stylistic bravado with functionality and livability. We faced a challenge: When someone says “family home,” I usually think of nice, flat grounds with sprawling lawns and gently flowing areas on hills that are not the least bit dangerous. Neither of those serene images describes the reality of the original hillside property. The solution was to build a spacious underground level with an expansive lawn on top.



To the right, Hutt created a custom walnut table in the dining room; Holly Hunt's Wren chairs are covered in Edelman leather. French industrial pendants, Hutt designed the custom rug from Martin Patrick Evan. Right: The Quant bar stools in the kitchen are from DDC; Drop pendants, Plug Lighting; Dembracht fixtures.



The pool deck offers expansive views.  
*Opuscula* Muff designed a custom  
 lacquer table for the breakfast room; the  
 Fitzgerald chairs are from Poltrona Frau.  
 Artwork by Patrick Wilson.



*Opposite, clockwise from top left: A lounge area features a Tripod table from Baltus, Poltrona Frau dining chairs, a Zoom suspension lamp from Plug, and an artwork by Dennis Koch; the sculptural spiral staircase defines the entry; the master bath has Dornbracht fixtures.*

*This page In the master bedroom, Huff's choices include a Poltrona Frau bed, swing-arm lamps by Brynn and Gold, an Hermès blanket, a chrome stool from Dragonette and an Eames lounge chair. The custom carpeting is from Martin Patrick Egan. Artwork by Eric Dever (left) and Tim Bavington.*



Kirkpatrick designed the house with an emphasis on transparency and seamless transitions between indoors and out. Right: A spa and fire pit are sheltered by an upper deck.

Easy access to outdoor areas was important for the family, and so we designed a transparent, double-sided living space. When they're all together in the family room, large sliding glass walls allow gatherings to flow outside onto the big lawn. The other side of the room gives way to a private, protected garden. Life moves inside and out with very little effort, as do the elements.

Throughout the home, straight lines, geometric shapes and tight corners abound. I had originally designed the site walls to fit this vernacular as well. But something was missing. The house was predominantly orthogonal, but those walls? They needed to curve. Made of well-crafted board-formed concrete, these sinuous site walls engage the home with the hillside

and help guide the eye. From the entry gate to the front door, these walls suggest motion and procession from outdoors to indoors. Suspended over the arrival court, the section of the home that contains the living area beckons as soon as visitors enter the front gate. Two curving walls then invite the visitor up to the front entry: a simple shaft between volumes that creates a glassed-in foyer.

The idea of natural topography continues inside the house. Here, the moving line is rendered as a sinuous spiral stairway—feminine and sexy, like a stiletto or a ribbon unfurling. And the views of the city and the ocean—the undulating skyline, the water and the hills below—extend the balance and harmony inherent in living with the world at one's feet. •

