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"Having to wear both hats made for some interesting experiences during construction," he says. "In fact, this may have been one of the toughest projects I've ever done."

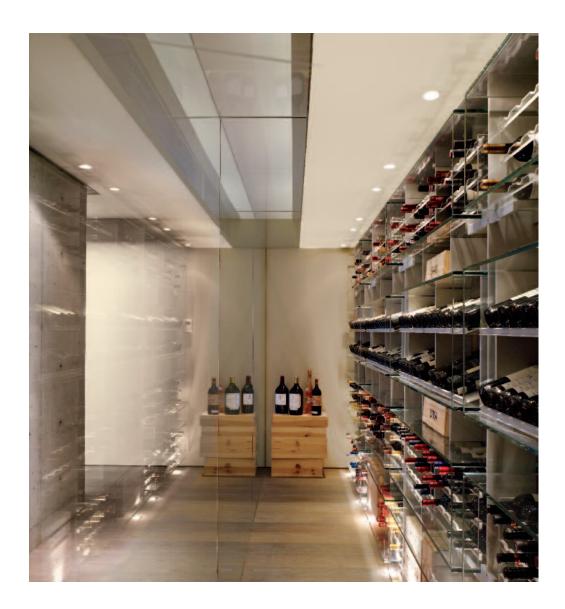
Luckily he knew exactly where to turn for help, beginning with Mexico-based architects Alberto Kalach, a longtime friend, and his own father-in-law, Moises Becker. Specialists in contemporary urban design and site planning, Kalach and Becker deftly executed the latter and determined the optimal spot to place the sprawling modernist structure Oberfeld envisioned on a challenging hillside lot in West Hollywood. Its actual design, however, was wisely left to local architect Zoltan E. Pali, FAIA, of Studio Pali Fekete /SPF:a in Culver City.

CAVE IN

The hushed tones of the family room are defined by the soft gray sofa by Cassina and the Maxalto chair, found at Diva in Los Angeles. The painting on the left is an oil on canvas by Will Cotton; Alison Van Pelt's *Nude* is to the right.







OPEN BAR

The aluminum-and-glass wine cellar was designed by Hamui and stands opposite the home theater.

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Pali appreciated his predecessors' work on the site, designing a slender, 24-foot-wide and 200-foot-long L-shaped residence to maintain as much outdoor space as possible. "The slenderness achieves natural light in all parts of the house," say Pali. "There are no deep spaces, and light floods in from all sides, which gives the home quite a beautiful feeling."

The main level—which includes the kitchen and living and dining areas—is fronted by glass walls, as is the second level housing the bedrooms and bathrooms. White Swisspearl panels, a cement composite product, clad the structure. Pali used the same material to construct the distinctive narrow louvers arranged on the upper level that deflect sun





STYLE SELECTION

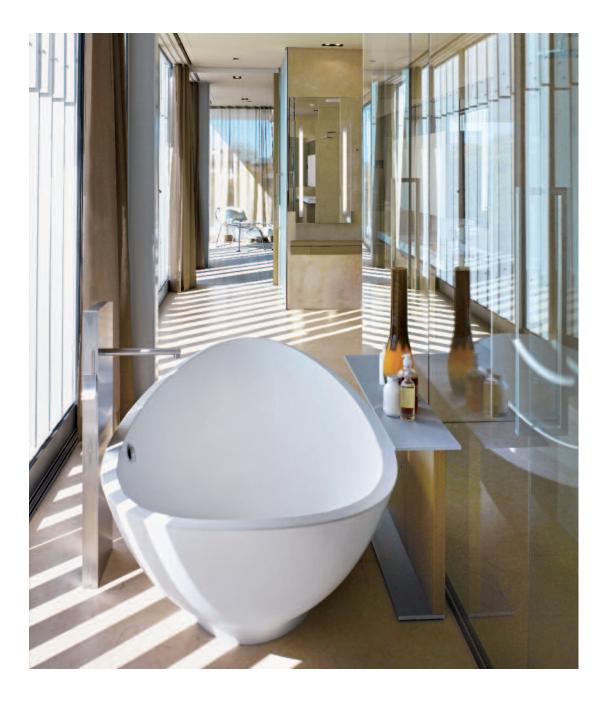
Designed by Jeremy Pyles for Niche Modern, this trendy pendant infuses two complementary colors in its modern, rounded-square form. Encalmo-Stamen Modern Pendant Light, \$1,295; nichemodern.com

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and contribute a measure of privacy. Ranging in depth from 5 to 12 inches and spaced between 5 and 16 inches apart, they bring a dramatic vibrancy to the façade. "The louvers create what I call an ethereal texture on the building," says Pali. "Light bounces off and into the interior spaces."

Throughout, the design was informed by the notion that the exterior walls would remain sacred. "Thus, the interior walls never actually 'touch' or 'engage' the exterior walls," says Pali. "So, in essence, they float in plan, and the view lanes created connect one space to the other." It's just one aspect of the project the architect contributes to his collaboration with the client. "Mauricio is a talented builder. He knew how to do these things in his head but had never realized them in physical terms. Doing so pushed both our intellectual abilities."





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For the interiors, Mexico City-based designer Simon Hamui, of Aevum/Grupo Hagan, sought "a pure, clean and geometric language that would coincide with the contemporary architecture, yet maintain a warm and earthy feeling throughout." Hamui selected the interior furnishings and also contracted the woodwork, fireplace, lighting and built-in elements. Natural wax-finished woods, such as dark baked ash on the floors of the living and dining areas, and the natural basalt limestone found in the entry, speak to the organic aesthetic.

Outside, the landscape's subtle design—the work of Andrea Cochran, FASLA, of Andrea Cochran Landscape Architecture in San Francisco—quietly highlights the architecture. "I tried to create a seamless transition,

SUPER SOAKER

The large, freestanding ovoid tub by Hastings declares the master bath's luxurious nature. The stainless steel bath filler is from Boffi; slabs of Jerusalem Gold found at Stone Connections cover the heated floor.



STYLE SELECTION



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a clean and amenable program that reflects what was done with the home's interiors and doesn't compete with its architectural vocabulary," says Cochran. "The lawn tones everything down so it's not so bright."

Looking at the completed project, Oberfeld is happy to report that the client is indeed satisfied. "I didn't want a house that reflected the modern movement of the '50s or even a contemporary. I wanted a technologically forward house of today that wouldn't try to be anything it's not," he says. "That's a house that I'm confident will remain timeless."



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