



Carver + Schicketanz

ARCHITECTS · PLANNERS · INTERIOR DESIGNERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Marie-Louise Juslin
Ann Hill Communications

415.491.5902

marielouise@ahcommunications.com

SPELLBOUND: FROM THE DESIGN TO THE INTERIORS, THE LESLIE HOUSE OFFERS THE QUINTESSENTIAL BIG SUR EXPERIENCE

CARMEL, CA—(January 31, 2007)—The Leslie residence at Big Sur gives the words “ocean view” a whole new meaning.

Perched on a cliff near Rocky Point, one of the most scenic areas of Big Sur, the 3,600 square foot two-story home has stunning ocean views from every one of its 10 rooms.

Pick any room—the dining room for instance—where a view from the window showcases the waves crashing onto the rocks and sending foam up onto the cliffs. The sunsets from this vista are beyond glorious and depending on the season, you can watch spouting whales, seals, sea otters, or pelicans. Multiply the dining room view times 10, and you can begin to imagine what its like to live in this house some ten miles south of Carmel.

Designing it, however, was a challenge, as architects Rob Carver and Mary Ann Schicketanz of Carver + Schicketanz, Carmel, can recount.

First there was the matter of trying to site a contemporary ocean view home on a long and narrow lot that begins very narrowly at the top, where the driveway comes off the road, and then widens as it goes towards the ocean. The architects opted to build the home on the widest portion of the lot, so the home is perched on the edge of the ocean, just before the land drops over rock outcroppings down to the Pacific.

“It was a real challenge,” says Architect Mary Ann Schicketanz, “because we wanted to have ocean vistas from every room in the house.” Another requirement was to make the home intimate, but large enough to accommodate the Leslie’s three grown children and their families, including five grandchildren who are frequent visitors.

-MORE-

The Leslie House Offers the Quintessential Big Sur Experience/Page 2

To solve the problem, the architects designed a two-story home with curved walls and pie-shaped rooms, with the lower level designed primarily for guests. The pie shaped design created a curved spine on the upper and lower levels, so that each room of the house has the same spectacular view. The front of the house, which overlooks the ocean, is a wall of glass. The roof on the east side of the house is flat; on the ocean side it is lifted by suspending it off steel beams and columns.

“The Coastal Commission also mandated that the home needed to be invisible from the highway,” said Mary Ann. “To accomplish this, we built the home inside a hedge of 15 feet high cypress trees, and designed a flat roof to give it a low profile from the road.”

Because of the unique roof configuration, which steps up on the ocean side, the home is perceived as one story from the driveway, and two stories from the ocean. Clerestory windows bring in day light from the east side, balancing the bright light from the ocean.

Carver + Schicketanz also discovered uphill ground water on the property, and then, as they explored further, found many springs with water pouring out. A twenty foot deep, ninety foot wide drain curtain had to be installed on the uphill side of the building site to divert water from the retaining walls and foundations of the building.

Landscaping the property and creating usable outdoor spaces was difficult because the wind blows relentlessly from the ocean side. Mary Ann Schicketanz resolved the issue by creating a patio inland on the east side that is sheltered and sunny. A patio on the Oceanside is used during the rare calm days and evenings to watch the spectacular sunsets.

The upper floor of the home contains the living, dining, and kitchen areas, as well as a study, and the master suite. A large hot tub off the master bedroom is built from local granite and rocks and also overlooks the crashing waves. The lower level has three bedrooms, two additional bathrooms, and a bunk room for the grandchildren.

In addition to the design, Carver + Schicketanz also prepared the construction documents, managed the construction administration, and designed the interiors. Hunt Brothers Construction of Carmel served as the general contractor.

“The layout was rather unique because it had four different radius curved walls at the entry side of the house,” said Todd Hunt, the managing partner for the General Contractors. “We had to move back up the side of the lot in order to acquire the radiuses for those walls. The ocean side of the house was made up of straight lines with corners that followed the curve from the entry side. The challenge was that the walls were 14 feet high made of glass with corners that were 88 degrees and 90 degrees tipped out at various angles.”

-MORE-

The Leslie House Offers the Quintessential Big Sur Experience/Page 3

Mary Ann Schicketanz drew inspiration for the color palette for the interior from the surrounding vegetation, using rusts and greens. Accents include warm contemporary pieces, as well as tribal art. A solid teak door highlights the entrance, with the foyer floor designed of New Mexico sandstone.

The living room features a custom sofa in orange rust produced by Eduardo Martinez of Marbello Designs that can seat fifteen, with custom side tables featuring glass tabletops by John Lewis Glass Studio. Scattered throughout the room are Balinese vessels as well as African tribal stools used as bases for other tables.

The dining room is furnished with a Mattaliano table and sideboard, as well as chairs by Dakota Jackson. Bamboo flooring is used throughout the upper level, with sea grass custom carpeting in the lower level.

Custom maple cabinetry is used throughout the home, including the kitchen, laundry room, master suite and the bathrooms. A combed ceiling treatment by Eric Seniska of Carver + Schicketanz that looks like an artistic finish is substituted for wood ceilings. Plaster walls are a feature of both levels.

In addition to the light maple cabinetry and bamboo floors, the kitchen is designed with stainless appliances with maple fronts, and gold and brown toned granite countertops. A hidden pantry area allows the smaller appliances and cooking implements to stay out of sight, creating a pleasing aesthetic ambiance.

“The clients were a little apprehensive when we started the project,” said Todd Hunt. “But once it was complete, with the finishing and the colors that Mary Ann and Rob picked in place throughout the house, and the furniture brought in and the curtains pulled back for the views, I think they were pretty spellbound.”

Design Team:

Architect: Carver + Schicketanz, Carmel

Partner in Charge: Mary Ann Schicketanz

Interior Design: Carver + Schicketanz

Decorative Ceiling Treatments: Eric Seniska

Lighting Design: Terry Ohm

Builder: Hunt Brothers Construction

###