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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE STRATA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE • LIGHTING DESIGN HIRAM BANKS • CONTRACTOR LOUIS PTAK CONSTRUCTION



M I D C E N T U R Y

W I Z A R D R Y

THE **SUPERNATURAL COMPOSITION** OF THE ICONIC  
MCINTYRE HOUSE BY JOSEPH ESHERICK **EARNs NEW PRAISE**





#### DESIGN NOTES FROM THE WISEMAN GROUP

The existing home has a Bay Area 1961 architectural pedigree. The architecture and garden have regional historical significance and were required to be respected and preserved.

Most of the original Esherick exterior architecture details were maintained and honored. The interior was reconfigured for a young family; keeping original references and elements, reintroducing some of the same and simplifying others.

Maintaining the integrity of the architecture and original intent was an overriding theme. We wanted to honor the past. We enhanced the open plan northern California living concept with a seamless connection between the indoor and outdoor spaces. We were also influenced by and found inspiration for the contemporary furnishings by looking at the work of midcentury masters to create a fresh look and feel. We included furniture pieces by some of those same designers. We essentially recreated the interiors with an understanding of 'that time and place' by using today's furnishings, materials, and forms.

The atrium is a significant room in the house. It is carried by the boldest architectural feature, the original concrete and glass ceiling. The room was enhanced and balanced by the current architect by adding slotted openings on an interior wall. A contemporary detail that repeats itself in other places and passages.



**THE ATRIUM**  
**PREVIOUS SPREAD AND CURRENT PAGE:**  
Light and scale – Beard's favored design elements – are on full and glorious display here, enhanced further by Paul Wiseman's reverent midcentury-meets-modern contemporary treatment. Area Rug by Merida. Ondine Chairs with P/Kaufmann fabric made by Vladimir Kagan. Custom Two Piece Coffee Table made by Tom Sellars and Jafe Custom Finishing. Custom Sofa with Weitzner fabric and Cantilevered Side Tables made by Custom Furniture Design and Hilde Brand. Lullu Side Tables by Holly Hunt. Custom Mouille Style Five-Arm Pendants by Urban Archaeology. Adjustable tables and additional benches split the room for multi-purpose functionality.



When Joseph Esherick, the famed architect and co-founder of Berkley's storied College of Environmental Design, designed the McIntyre House in the early 1960s, he did so while making considerable concessions to accommodate his clients; Chicago transplants, unaccustomed to the San Francisco climate, and resistant to the more modern (and locally favored) open space design philosophy ushering in the new decade. What resulted was a house that was aesthetically striking, critically acclaimed and undeniably Esherick, with its wooden walls and muscular, Louis Kahn-inspired concrete frame blending effortlessly into Lawrence Halprin's impeccably designed landscape.

But with a starkly conservative, compartmentalized interior layout, the house would later prove to be a tough sell for potential homebuyers. According to Paul Wiseman of The Wiseman Group, the house remained on the market for some time, before finally being snapped up by a young family familiar with Esherick's work. They wanted a contemporary refresh while maintaining the home's midcentury charm and paying homage to its notable designer. Wiseman, along with architect Richard Beard and landscape architect Todd Cole of Strata Landscape Architecture, would go on to do just that – synergistically creating a space that feels warm and inviting, and emanates light that flows throughout the home, something that was very important to Beard and his predecessor.

For Beard, the challenge was exciting. Limited to very few exterior changes by the house's designation as an architectural landmark, Beard focused on creating accessibility of the indoor spaces, and magnifying hidden and not-so-hidden gems – removing extra storage closets, exposing steel and glass staircases, converting the formal dining room into the family room, and opening up the kitchen and atrium to stunning effect. The atrium, which Beard refers to as “a showstopper,” was designed to be the focal point of the home, and cleverly uses window slats to avoid closing off the rest of the home to the light coming through the spectacular concrete, steel and glass ceiling. “Know where the light is coming from, and that it's your friend,” notes Beard.

The ceiling, which was replaced with insulated glass and fashioned with LED lighting installed by Hiram Banks Lighting Design, is one of many aspects of the house that point towards the team's commitment to incorporating sustainability in their work, although Wiseman admits it's complicated in their business. Beard joked that the team recycled “a whole house,” acknowledging that all of the windows were updated with energy-efficient models,

including the dual-glazed ones in the atrium. “Taking what was [already] a durable house, and continuing its legacy of durability,” was their goal, he explains.

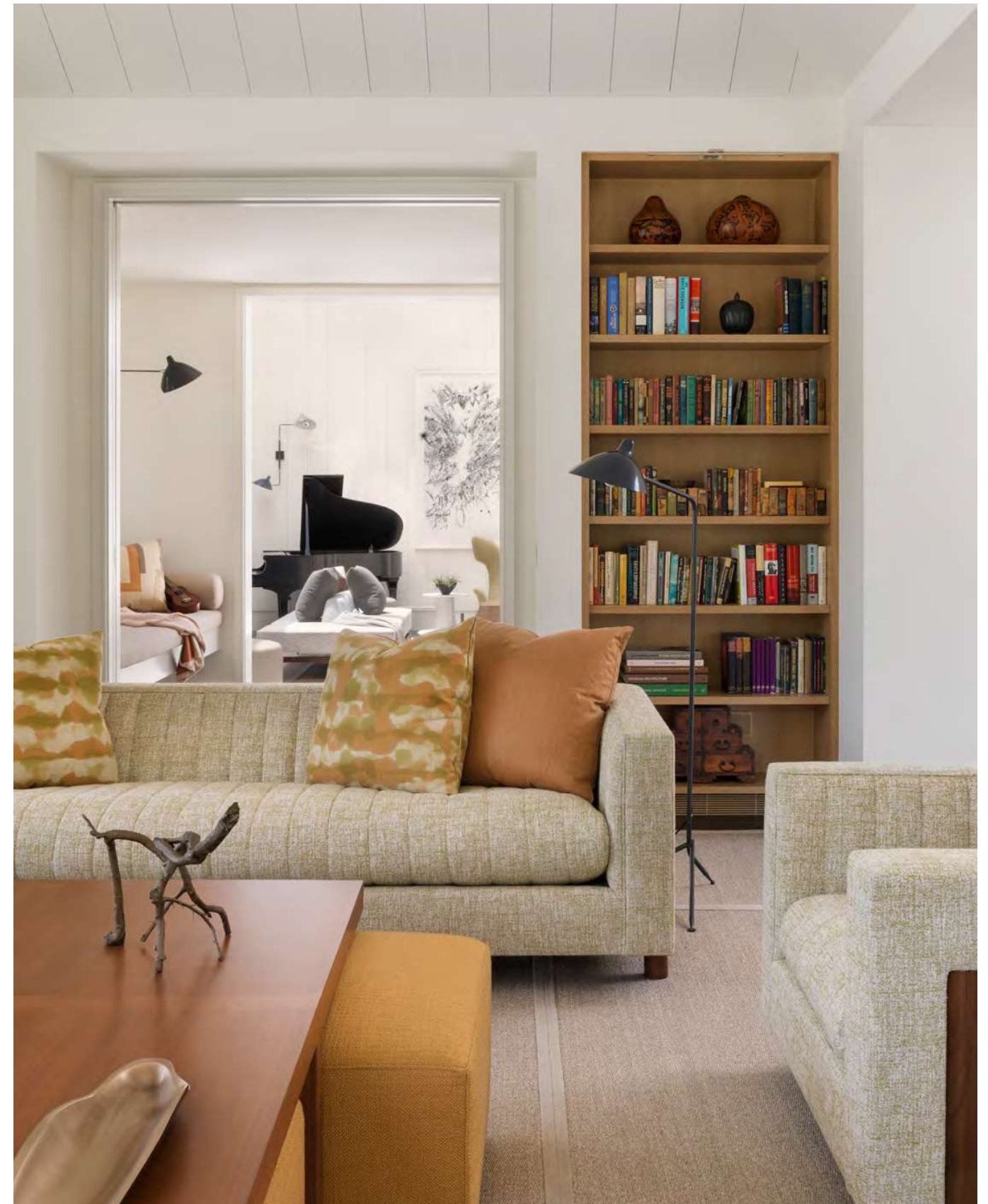
Another highlight of the living room, which is sunken, is that its design seamlessly integrates into the outdoor/garden/pool space, which makes the home ideal for entertaining. As Wiseman notes, the client regularly holds fundraisers for environmental and educational causes and considers the house a perfect backdrop to bring people together. “We make backdrops where people feel comfortable and can raise money that can change the world for the better. I'm in service to help people change the world in ways I cannot do.”

For Wiseman and his team, that meant installing a hydraulic table capable of accommodating up to 30 diners, with additional tables and seating available throughout the home. They also accented each space with furnishings that played up the natural beauty of the garden and pool areas, and “did well in the sun” – incorporating hot oranges and chartreuse to complement the flecks of reds seen on the seasonal foliage, providing “a speckling of color without being too strong,” and using a predominantly neutral palette that blends beautifully with the client's existing art collection. Heath tiles were used in the kitchen and bathrooms for a midcentury aesthetic.

Having worked with Esherick on his final residential project, an experience he calls “special,” Wiseman credits it with inspiring his design direction. “When someone sees simplicity in a way that you can't... he was very good.” But both Wiseman and Beard agree that having a dream client, who assembled the team with a clear, informed vision and an appreciation for midcentury design was a bonus.



**FAMILY ROOM:** Once a formal dining room, the family room now channels a warm, welcoming and comfortable vibe. Sofa and Lounge Chairs made with Calvin Fabric by The Bright Chair Company. Custom Coffee Table made by Tom Sellars and Jafe Custom Finishing. Custom Ottomans by Hilde-Brand Furniture with Leather by Pavoni Leather. Area Rug by Merida. Custom Floor Lamp by Urban Archaeology. Fabric on Throw Pillows by Michell Pereira Studios and Rose Tarlow. Game table (this page) by Ironies, with Tiche Chairs by Giorgetti (through Arkitektura) are a winning combination.







**BEDROOM:** Wishbone Table Lamps by Paul Marra Design. Bench by Hilde-Brand Furniture, covered in Holland & Sherry fabric. Bed Linens by C&C Milano. Area Rug by Merida. Ledtube Sconces by Marset. Jens Risom Big Chair through Ralph Pucci. Turned Wood Side Table by Ironies.

**KITCHEN:** The team breathed new life into the kitchen, removing cumbersome walls and installing Dual Glazed Tile by Heath Ceramics on the backsplash. Seido Walnut Counter Stools by McGuire Furniture and Custom Mouille Style Library Ceiling Lamps by Urban Archaeology top off an inviting makeover ideal for impromptu gatherings.





**STAIRS:** Beard and Wiseman set out to reveal the house's "hidden gems" — removing extra storage closets and shag carpets to uncover this extraordinary steel and concrete staircase.

**REC ROOM:** The omnipresent yellow palette brings its bold and invigorating aesthetic to the recreation room. Tufty Time '15 Lounge Chairs by B&B Italia. Circular Lava Stone Table Top through Sue Fisher King with custom base by Tom Sellars and Jafe Custom Finishing. Rectangular Wall Sconce by Phoenix Day.



**POOL:** A masterclass in continuity, the collaborative chemistry of the architect, interior design and landscaping teams create a home where each space transitions seamlessly into the next. Union Square Portable Lanterns by Phoenix Day. The Cat's Cradle chairs by Sutherland add a splash of color amongst the lush foliage, and the Custom Banyan Square Dining Table by Link is perfect for poolside entertaining.