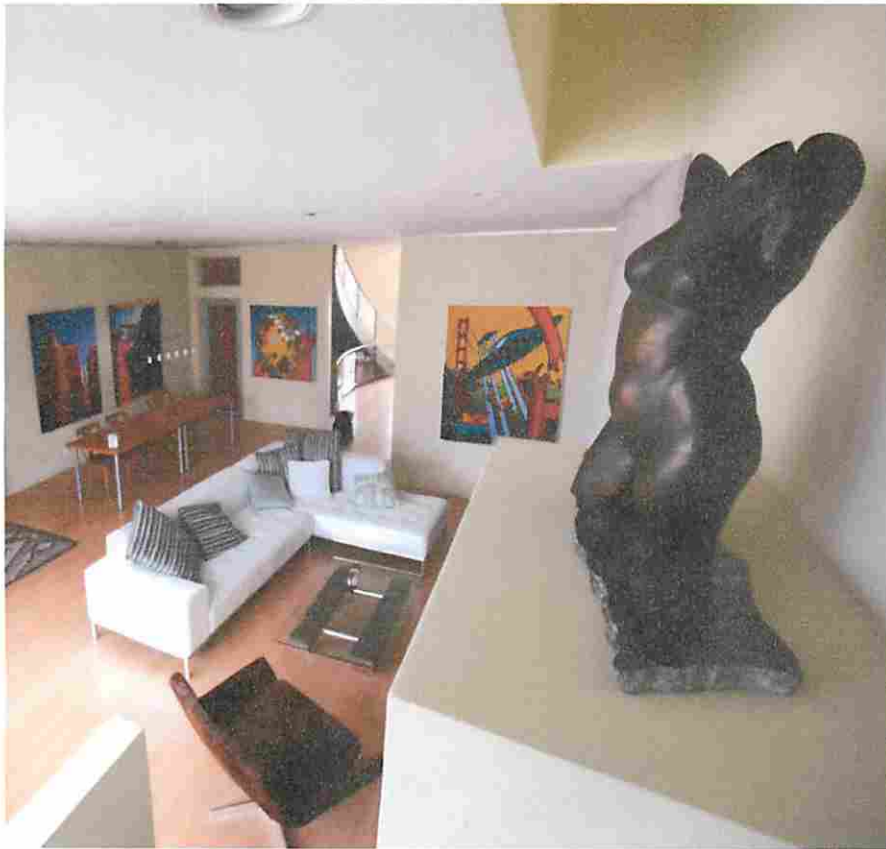
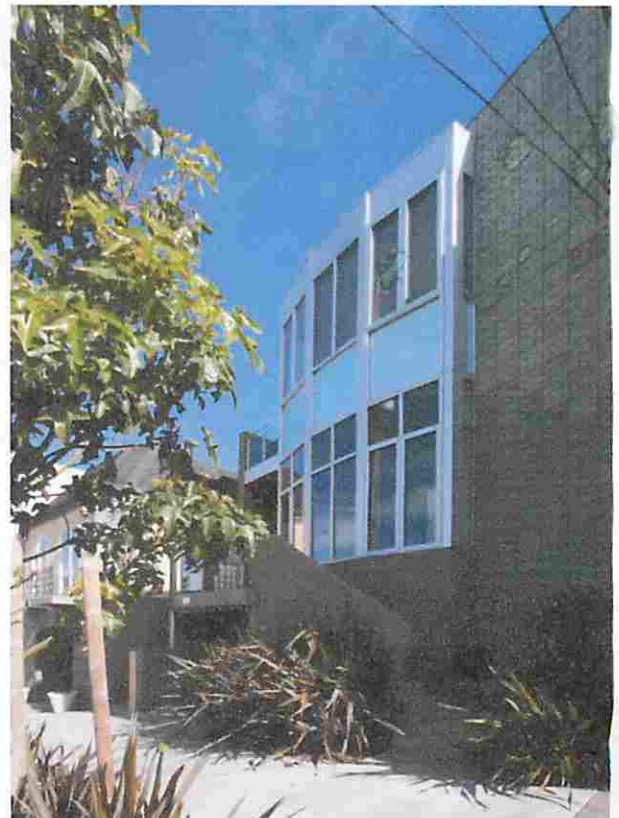


Green House on Goat Hill

Two Artist / Entrepreneurs Create a Place to Make and Display Art



San Francisco's Potrero Hill neighborhood is best known to many of us from scenes of the 70's TV series *Streets of San Francisco*, featuring dramatic views of both the City and the Bay. Formerly known as Goat Hill, residents have included farmers, WWII ship workers, hippies, bohemian artists and in recent times high-tech entrepreneurs. David Colleen, an architect and software designer set out to create the perfect "urban salon", a place where creating and exhibiting art would inspire them and their friends.



Above: Owners Robin & David Colleen wanted a gallery like living space to entertain, hold benefit art shows and to display their own artwork. Right: Architect David Colleen wanted to preserve Potrero Hills' tradition of mid-block house setbacks and gardens. Decorative concrete tiles were sculpted by artist Robin Colleen.

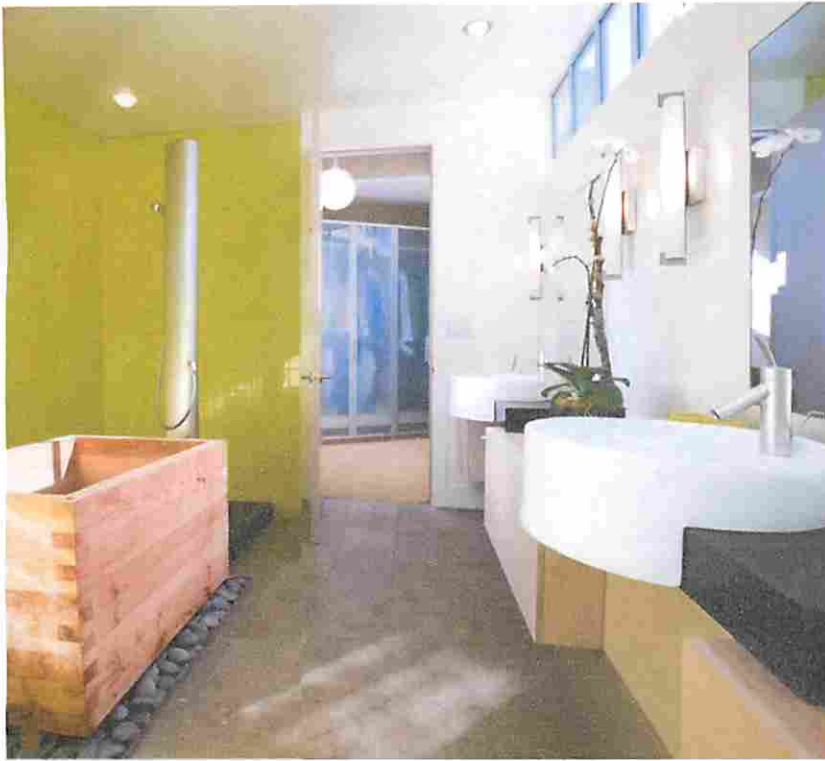


Above: The living room overlooks a garden entry and Potrero Hill streetscape. The stairway leads to one of two art studios. The fireplace is faces with Mexican Adoquin stone and the floor is Vermont maple. Below: The kitchen was designed to support Robin's love of cooking (she used to be a restaurateur in Chicago) and entertaining. It includes Italian oak cabinets and a cast stone island top also from Italy, range and oven from Thermador, Broan Best hood, Thermador refrigerator, Miele dishwasher and Elkay faucets. To the right of the curved stairway is a light court with 37' bamboo.

"San Francisco lots are long and narrow," David Colleen says, "I wanted to bring light in at every possible location."

During design, David used 3D game technology to build a computer model of home alternatives. "The model allowed us to walk through the house before it was built. It gave us a platform for discussing what we each wanted in the space, and ultimately saved money by avoiding mistakes," says Colleen. David first used 3D models of his commercial architectural projects in 1991 when he opened his San Francisco office. The technology that he developed subsequently led him to start Planet 9 Studios, a 3D software firm. "I loved walking through the space using the mouse," comments Robin. "The computer tools allowed me to see just how our furniture fit in and where I would need more closet space!", she jokes.





“Both of us wanted to recreate the urban “salon”, she continues. “We wanted a large open space where we could exhibit art and entertain a crowd.” The second floor is an open entertainment space 75 feet long. Robin is active in non-profit events that benefit seniors. “With gallery tracks installed, it’s easy to hang an art show, whether it is our own paintings or some of the paintings from the Art With Elders program,” she says. “People comment that they’re comfortable here,” Robin says, describing her last benefit event of 100. “They love the soft green walls and the dramatic views to the water. They also wonder how we can live in a house with no drapes!” she laughs. The couple’s travels have influenced the amenities in home. A Japanese cedar ofuro is featured in the master bath after a trip to Kyoto. The modern simplicity of the bathrooms was in keeping with Italian designs that the couple admired abroad. On the third floor, a sumptuous master suite with expansive glass overlooks the San Francisco Bay. “Sometimes we step out on the balcony before going to bed,” David says.

Above: Black granite and pickled, rift oak cabinets are set off by white Italian tile and a wall of shocking chartreuse green tiles. Below: Expansive Bay Bridge view from the master suite. Right: Curving stair detail.



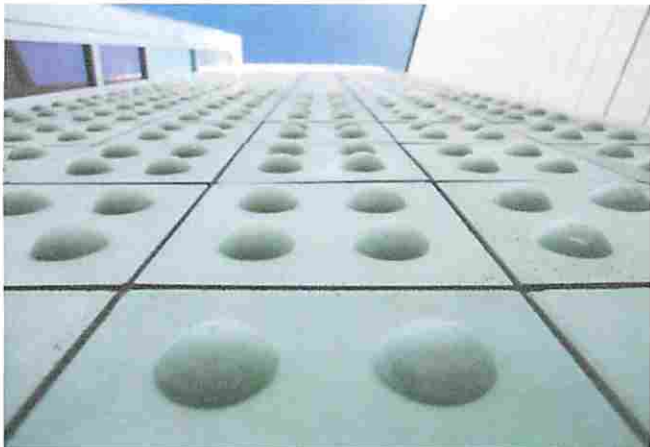
“This is a very green, green house”, says David Colleen, “though we rarely need to turn lights on during the day, the solar panels on the roof provide 95% of the home’s electrical needs”.





"We wanted to create spaces that reinforce our creative urges," says Robin. "Every space in the house is geared toward making, displaying or enjoying art".

Robin Myers Colleen is a sculptor with bas reliefs on many important Bay Area buildings such as Hills Plaza. For her own home, she abandoned her normally figurative style to remain in tune with the modern feeling of the new house to create cast concrete tiles on the front of the house and a carved soapstone sink in the powder room.



Above Left: Bamboo Forest in the central light court. Above Center: Carved soapstone sink atop timbers salvaged from the prior 1908 home. Left: Concrete tiles, sculpted by Robin and cast in green concrete. Below: Sculpture court backyard with a blazing wood oven.

The backyard was designed in a competition held at UC Berkeley's Landscape Architecture Department with a prize supplied by the San Francisco Garden Club. After completion, the Garden Club held its' yearly show house at the home.

While we enjoy all parts of the house, the backyard, centered around the wood fired oven, has become the heart and soul of the house", says David, "It reminds us of the of the great times that we have had, camping in the mountains with friends and telling stories around the fire".

