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# GOLDEN STATE of MIND

HIGH STYLE AND  
SUSTAINABLE  
FEATURES EXIST  
IN HARMONY IN  
LAUREL CANYON.

BY KELLI LAMB







**WHEN IT COMES** to high-profile neighborhoods, Laurel Canyon is it. It became famous in the '60s and early '70s as home to Los Angeles's iconic rock scene, with musicians such as Frank Zappa, Jim Morrison, Joni Mitchell, and many more calling the canyon home. Though there's certainly a Hollywood connection, it's worlds away from the lights of L.A. The area is filled with oaks and eucalyptus trees, not to mention a lively roster of local wildlife.

Yaniv Tepper, a partner at the Angeleno Group (a private equity firm that invests in clean energy), and his wife Nina bought this 1956 Laurel Canyon ranch house in its original form, give or take a few minor renovations over the years. Specifically, it's in the Wonderland Park Avenue community, a neighborhood originally created with grand ideals of integration, tolerance, architecture, design, and progressive politics.

The family wanted their home to channel the spirit of the neighborhood and, given Tepper's career, keep sustainability at the forefront. Architect David Thompson, founder of Assembled+, tackled the renovation while interior designer Vanessa Alexander captured the essence of Laurel Canyon with a modern take on bohemian decor. The simplicity of form, the extensive use of glass, and the indoor/outdoor living experience were all used to create a remodel and addition that would be in complete harmony with the core principles upon which the neighborhood was founded.

#### **CANYON CONNECTION**

The natural materials and palette, along with an overabundance of glass, allow the unassuming house to blend into its surroundings. "The Western red cedar cladding that runs continuously from the ceiling of the family room up through the skylight and around the exterior walls of the second story enhances the indoor-outdoor connection and contributes to the notion of a treehouse," says architect David Thompson. Designer Vanessa Alexander adds, "Exterior materials fold into the interiors and blur those lines so all interior finishes and furnishings enhance the fluid concept and earthiness."







**HEALTHY HUB**

The home's premise of sustainability continues in the kitchen, where the design team incorporates green technologies and materials such as a solar photovoltaic system, formaldehyde-free MDF cabinetry, and Caesarstone countertops. Thompson says the goal was to create a kitchen that operates as the heart of the residence, physically connecting the

social and private areas. The space also offers views horizontally to the landscape and vertically through the skylight. "Floor-to-ceiling glass sliding doors are positioned on opposite corners of the plan so that a diagonal axis is established from the front yard that passes through the interior spaces and out to the backyard and pool," he says.





### LOW-KEY LIVING

Alexander's goal with the interior was to focus on comfort and subtle mid-century references, while keeping the location a priority and taking care not to overdesign each room. She relied on custom pieces and vintage finds, as well as the clients' art collection, which features original pieces from Christina Craemer, Ed Moses, and Ramsey Dau. "As much as the architecture and design go hand-in-hand, the conceit of the house was that it felt part of the land in terms of its profile as well as in its materials palette," she says. "The clients were thrilled and felt the home reflected what they aimed for as a statement of their personal style."

### DESIGN TEAM

Architectural Design: ASSEMBLEDGE+:  
DAVID THOMPSON (PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE),  
SCOTT WALTER  
& GREGORY MARIN

Interior Design: ALEXANDER DESIGN

Photography: LAURE JOLIET

Styling: LISA ROWE

Landscape Design: FIORE DESIGN LANDSCAPE

Contractor: ABOVE BOARD CONSTRUCTION

Structural Engineering: PECK

