

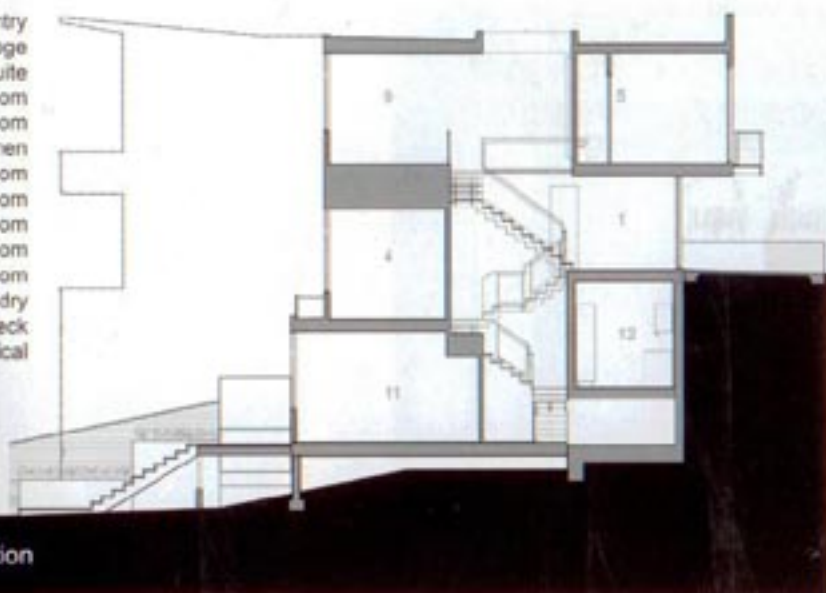


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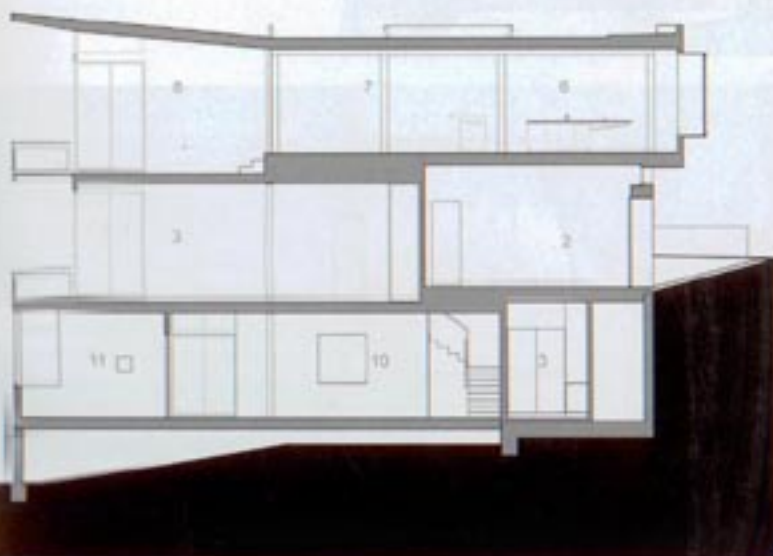
A SUSTAINABLE, SECURE, AND STYLISH SANCTUARY ON LAIDLEY'S LANE

Photography by Bruce Damonte

Entry
 Garage
 Master suite
 Bathroom
 Guest room
 Kitchen
 Dining room
 Living room
 Sitting room
 Family room
 Bedroom
 Laundry
 Deck
 Mechanical



Final Section



Final Section





Sustainability, security, and style are often the three "S" words in your Oxford English Dictionary which you would expect to contradict each other. Yet, a simple trip to 147 Laidley Street in San Francisco will reveal the ultimate urban infill designed for sustainability, style, and most importantly children's security. Designed by architectural principal Jim Zack and his wife Lise de Vito from Zack/ De Vito Architecture, the Laidley Residence is an interesting contemporary addition to San Francisco typically Victorian classical streets.

Building has been Zack's passion for his whole life. His career in carpentry at the age of 17 developed his fondness of building, designing, and the amount of logic required each step of the way. It was a passion that finally drove him to study architecture at Berkeley. Before starting his own business along with wife de Vito in 1991, Zack worked with some of the Bay Area's renowned architects.



Yet, even with a 25-year design and construction career behind him, designing this new tall house was still no easy task. The goal of the project was to provide the original client with an urban sanctuary, a peaceful space for contemplation while taking advantage of the area's typically hilly landscape to create a jaw-dropping view of the rest of the city. Having their blue prints at hand, the architectural duo was ready to create something for this Laidley lane.

But down the road, something rather surprising happened. After the partnership between Zack/De Vito Architecture and the local contractor disintegrated, the dynamic this architectural duo, Zack and

his wife de Vito, all of a sudden became the clients. When construction was complete, the Zack family decided to move in. They decided to maintain the house's philosophy of sustainability and tranquility. It would be a contemporary amendment to the relatively architecturally diverse neighborhood of Laidley Street.

The structure consists of two large volumes on top of one another where the larger level has been slightly slid forward. The second smaller part on top of the larger volume creates a second and the third floor to the façade. Given the steep downward slope typical San Francisco's hilly landscape, the structure has incorporated many other architectural

adaptations. Sliding one volume forward adjusts the structure for the steep slope.

From behind the house, structure is given a unique attachment to the outside world through a chain of balconies interconnected by steel channels. Yet, the position of balconies presented a privacy problem with the neighboring houses and hence the duo

had to cautiously positioning them in places where the privacy of the adjacent structures would not be threatened. Nonetheless, the careful positioning is compromised by the amazing view that the house is exposed to.

"The site is an urban infill site, with the typical zoning restrictions and neighbor issues many urban conditions have."



said Zack. "The site is quite steeply down sloping so the result is three level building, and with the living level on the top floor to capture light and views, the yard space at the rear is a bit disconnected to the living level, but is connected to the lower level with the kids rooms and family room."

Through windows and balconies, light permeates the interior energizing and igniting the colors and accessories within the large spaces that make up the void within the house connecting the kitchen, dining, and living room together. Using this technique, the architects managed to reduce the structure's consumption of energy.

All compartments within the structure are in one way or another interconnected. No one space within the building is completely isolated. All family areas and places of congregation are fused together to create a cohesive and open living space. But you always have to take some more things into consideration when kids become part of the equation.

Now, building a child-proof house didn't mean that Zack had to crank style! Open spaces have been weaved into the interior space to create small places for the kids to congregate whenever they have friends over.

Overall, the house represented a big stylistic change in comparison to the area around them, but for the Zacks, it was nothing new. Moving around was nothing new for the family. Zack and de Vito's kids have seen enough houses to tell the difference between the architectural styles of houses in San Francisco. "When she was five years old, our daughter already perceived a difference between her house and her friends, which were typically traditional San Francisco Victorians or similar period design," said Zack.

Fear of change is a mind-killer. But the Laidley Residence is yet another contradictory addition of the small street's row of houses. It is a huge step forward to sustainability, style, and safety. Yet another three's words which don't really mix well together, but in this situation did.

Nader Ramadan

