



The Best Of Everything!

Just off the Pacific Coast Highway is an unforgettable address, an architectural masterpiece and a luxurious getaway all rolled into one

Feature **MEENAKSHI SHANKAR** Photographs **STEVE SHAW**

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— Scott Mitchell, Architect





A great building must begin with the unmeasurable, must go through measurable means when it is being designed and in the end must be unmeasurable,” Louis Kahn once said. And, the Rappaport Residence in Malibu, owned by real estate magnate, entrepreneur and art collector Kurt Rappaport resonates his sentiment to the T! Architect Scott Mitchell has unleashed his design prowess to lend to this home — spread over a whopping six acres and overlooking the magnanimous Pacific Ocean — what we call an unforgettable quality.

The home’s monumental linear lines combined with Scott’s strong, humanistic design sensibilities have created an Edenesque feel. This extraordinary composition of elements mirrors the spirit and energy of the incredibly young couple who reached out to the A-list architect to design their home. Scott

Mitchell says, “The juxtaposition of the mass of the concrete monoliths and the delicate steel and glass window and door system creates the fundamental psychological device that drives an emotional experience.”

Floors and ceilings of white oak with antique granite pavers in the outdoor areas lend texture and warmth to the starkly modern scheme. The architectural language of the 15,000sqft residence encompasses a sweeping living room, a master suite with a luxurious bathroom, a wing of bedrooms for Rappaport’s children, a lower level with a game room and a home theatre and an adjacent pavilion containing two guest suites. Outside, the 168-foot-long infinity pool is said to be the longest residential swimming pool in California. “I thought it was important to use the pool as a conduit to connect the Ocean beyond to the structures. The length of the pool is a response to the length of the horizon and the width of the



SCOTT MITCHELL

Scott Mitchell Studio was founded in 1999, when Scott was commissioned to design his first project — the renovation of a Beverly Hills home. Scott has since developed an extensive architectural, interiors and landscape design portfolio across the U.S. and internationally, including houses and estates, restaurants and retail spaces. The architect is inspired by the works of architect Louis Kahn and aims to create buildings with soul.

Armchairs by Denise Kuriger and vintage Ross Littell woven-leather lounge chairs flank the ceramic table by Michael Smolcich. An interesting artwork by KAWS (facing page) hangs above the fireplace. There is a steady play of light in the space, filtering in through the various architectural wonders created in there.

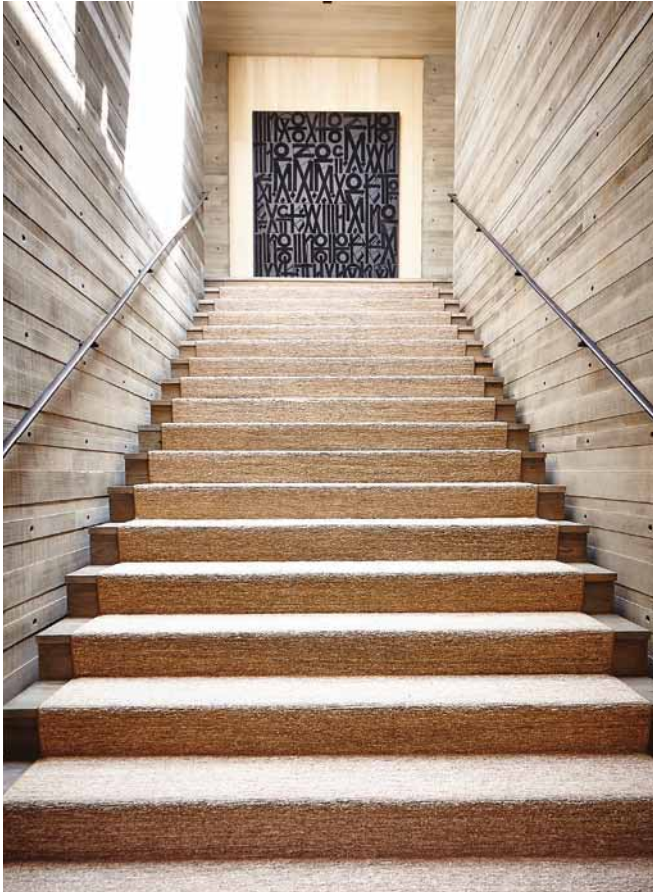


PROJECT BRIEF

This Malibu estate overlooks the Pacific Ocean. Long, horizontal forms, tall, vertical monoliths of concrete and an expressive use of material create a monumental, yet unpretentious building.



Accenting the largely monochromatic palette is a collection of vivid contemporary artworks that one finds in profusion in this home. Board-formed concrete with its finely grained surface, and distressed white oak create a robust sense of materiality appropriate to the textured cliffside landscape the home inhabits.



The 168-foot swimming pool lined in black granite tiles, offering unobstructed views of the Pacific is a sight to behold. The endless pool is an architectural marvel and is considered to be the longest residential swimming pool in California.



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property and it was very important to us to match the colour of the pool with the Ocean,” Scott says.

What is interesting is the collaborative effort, given how Scott brought in New York interior designer Denise Kuriger, to contribute to the architectural design. Indoors, we love the assortment of interesting Art Deco pieces, quirky vintage finds furnishings with an industrial edge and complementary 18th-century antiques — all united by their emphasis on clean lines and understated forms.

A recurring element in the decor is the owners’ homage to Jean-Michel Frank, a

1920s and ’30s designer known best for his minimalistic interiors decorated with plain-lined but sumptuous furniture. Denise and Scott have, through this project, paid a fitting tribute to the French maestro with a parchment-and-walnut waterfall-edge desk in the study; an oak centre table near the entryway, and, a pool table that they outfitted with a variation on Frank’s signature pineapple legs in one of the game rooms. With a refined sense of order, scale, material and structure, Scott’s design transcends the ordinary. The views are needless to say spellbinding. ✧✧