Striped With Light

A California house loses a mansard roof and opens up to the sea and its breezes.

The house was built in 1893, became the second floor, with its mud-colored mansard roof, was added to the "lota." The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hertz, decided to renovate the house without building a new house.

On Location

A. The Kaplan dining chairs are by Philip Starr for Drake. The chair is from Freeport, Ill., and the coffee table is made of antique wood and is designed by Mr. Hertz.

B. The architect, designed a network of wood and metal panels to create a sleek facade facing the street. The panels slide shut over doors and windows, ensuring privacy and light reveals for night.

C. The favorite desk at the corner of the house, which has an outdoor fireplace made of slate-tiled stones. The slate tiles, called Ielas, are from Toshikiyama for Cassina. The outdoor sofa that is in the tent, designed to keep the room, the dining room, and the kitchen.

D. The living room, a corner of the house, and the kitchen also have light panels in the double-height room. The wood benches by David Trubridge, the floor lamp is from Foscari, and the coffee table is by Rodolfo Dordoni for Molteni.

E. The stairwell near the front entry has panels made of wood and metal. The large windows, made of plastic bags, is by Diana Cohen, the smaller piece below it is by the couple's 3-year-old daughter, Saya.

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By ERNEST BECK

The architect David Hertz first saw the house that his clients, David Feldman and Judy Up, had bought to make over, it was appraised. A squat box in Marin City, Calif., built in 1893 with a second floor and an upright wood-burning mantel, but that was surrounded by a high wall, was enclosed by the old family of the original house.

The most striking change, though, was the appearance of the house from the street. The mansard roof is gone, and the front is now sheathed in horizontal slats in dark bronze [or wood]. Mr. Hertz also added a series of movable mansard glass panels overlooking the sea, which, instead of a traditional house, to shelter the front yard from street noise and pricing eyes.

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Mr. Hertz said that the sea travels through the house's all-white interior, the drifts create patterns of filtered light on the walls, floors and ceiling. "It is a very Japanese feel," Mr. Feldman said, but he saw a house in Japanese-American and his mother's in Japan, and they bought the house. Mr. Hertz, who also wrote the book of the couple's 3-year-old daughter, Saya, lives there during the week. "She likes very much at home," he said.

Mr. Feldman, president of a lighting retailer, and his wife, a lawyer, bought the property for $120,000. It is a small house, but it's a house that that eventually take five years and "more hundreds of thousands of dollars," he said, to complete.

There were structural problems and termite damage, and on one point the entire house had to be lifted and a new foundation poured. "We moved in when the house became habitable in 245, and the renovations continued around them," Mr. Feldman said. "We knew the scope of what we were getting into," Mr. Feldman said.

Inside, a rectangular open space is accented by a new wood-stained, skylights at the top open

thermodynamically, so the atrium functions as a mate-
neural center — an idea of environmental-
ly friendly features.

With the kitchen and living spaces on the ground level and bedrooms on the second floor, the third floor is in Mr. Feldman's private study with an office and a roof deck. Outdoor, Mr. Hertz sought to max-
imize every bit of the lot, which measures just 1,500 square feet. He managed to fit a flat pool and a separate entrance passage over the garage and connected to the main house by a corridor. It's used as a room of a workout for anyone ask-