A photograph of a modern, minimalist house at night. The house is a two-story structure with a light-colored, possibly white or cream, facade. It features a series of rectangular windows and a large glass-enclosed section on the right side. The interior lights are on, and the house is illuminated from within. In the foreground, there is a swimming pool with a small white square object floating in it. To the left of the pool, there is a low wall with some plants. A tall palm tree stands to the left of the house. The sky is dark blue with some clouds.

DREAM HOMES

LOS ANGELES

AN EXCLUSIVE SHOWCASE OF THE FINEST ARCHITECTS IN LOS ANGELES
FOREWORD BY JULIUS SHULMAN



SPF:a's goal, first and foremost, is to create architecture that is right for its users, while technically addressing the myriad of geophysical and political forces that create the context for each project. The unique combination of inside and outside forces lays the foundation for Zoltan and Judit's architectural solutions, and ultimately delights inhabitants by anticipating their needs and usage of the space. The studio's résumé is filled with non-uniform, innovative houses and other buildings that poetically solve such architectural challenges.

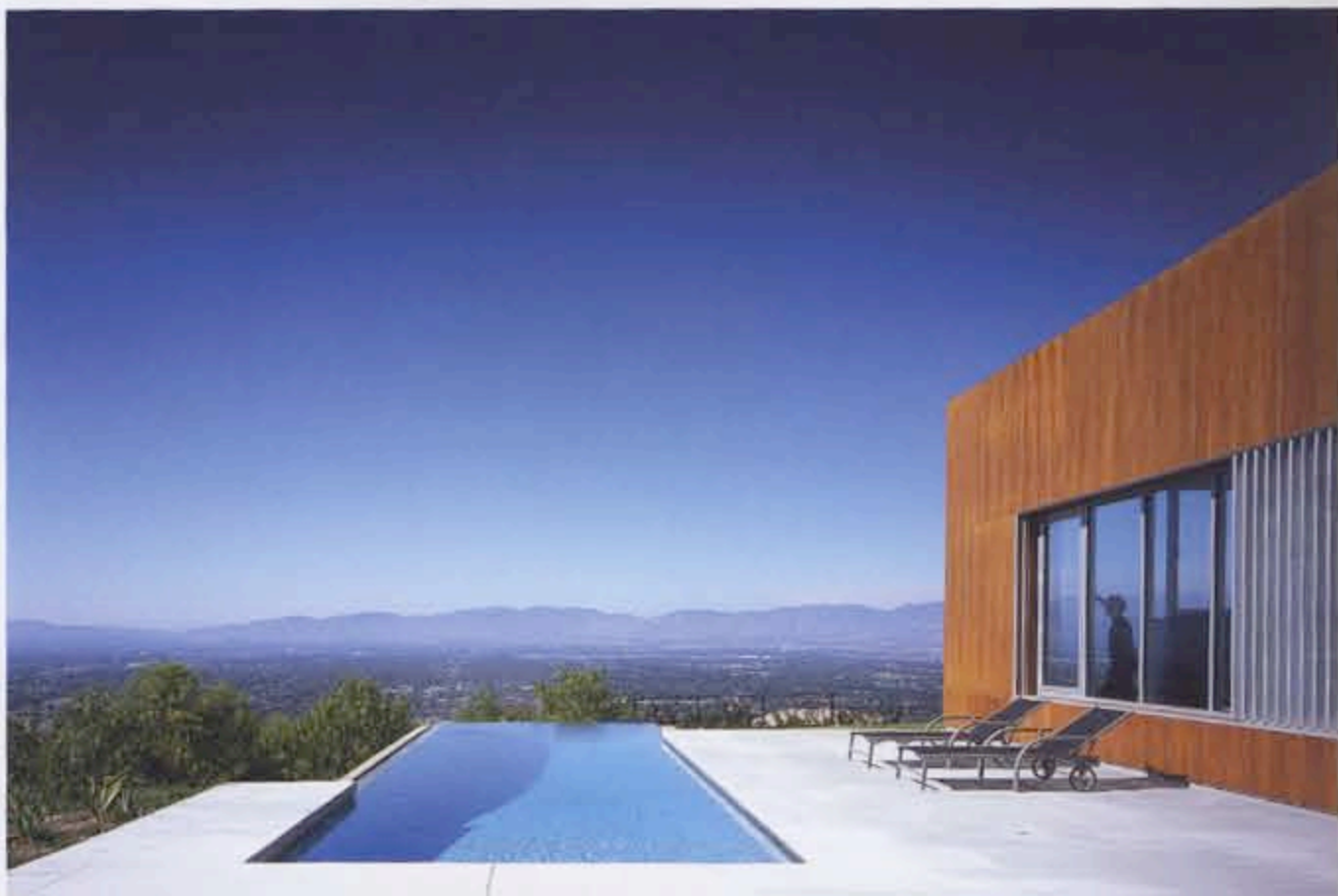
LEFT:
The living room of this residence features double-height ceilings and generous natural lighting.
Photograph by John Edward Linden

FACING PAGE TOP:
This residence's southern elevation displays a delightful contrast of horizontal and vertical forms.
Photograph by John Edward Linden

FACING PAGE BOTTOM:
Moonlight casts a subtle blue hue on the rectilinear residence, which nestles into the densely wooded landscape.
Photograph by John Edward Linden

The efforts and achievements of SPF:a have all but gone unnoticed. The firm has accumulated a lengthy list of awards and accreditations from the architectural, design and business communities. The year 2007 alone brought high honors, including AIA's California Council Merit Award, AIA's L.A. Citation, the Chicago Athenaeum International Architectural Award and L.A. Business Council Award for Best Mixed-Use Design for the Museum of Design Art and Architecture. A private residence garnered the team an AIA L.A. Merit Award and *Custom Home Magazine's* Grand Award, while the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts won AIA and L.A. Business Council awards. Through merit and unyielding style, Zoltan, Judit and their team have successfully established themselves as a visionary force in the architectural industry.





SPF:a began with just two people in 1988 and has now grown to a specialized team of 33 adroit professionals. Zoltan and Judit have carefully watched the expansion of their company since its beginning, adding highly qualified individuals who share the same work ethic and maintain a vision of seeing a project through to its entirety. It is crucial that each member understand the vital nature of a home's design and see its place amongst the whole process. To determine whether or not the group will accept a project, the firm cautiously weighs what the assignment would add to its portfolio and to the general progression of the company.

As design principal, Zoltan's approach to his selected work remains consistent, seeing each client's vision as both an artistic and a mathematical problem. Gathering variables and resolving the uncovered issues surrounding a project, he strives toward the unique and rewarding solution that each project contains. With such large projects, these variables can arise in a multitude of forms: from the geographical features of a building site to the shape and placement of a single light fixture. Because of the wide variation in assignments, the firm relies on solid principles to guide design and structure, consequently generating a solution that matches the singularity of the original conundrum. Just as no two questions are precisely the same; no two answers are identical, either.

TOP LEFT:
Clad in a warm teak plywood skin, this residence's entry dramatically juxtaposes transparency and solidity, shadow and light.
Photograph by John Edward Linden

BOTTOM LEFT:
The residence's infinity-edge pool overlooks the San Fernando Valley.
Photograph by John Edward Linden

FACING PAGE:
From every room, residents can experience Southern California's exquisite sunsets.
Photograph by John Edward Linden



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This Page: Studio Pali Fekete architects SPF:a
Photograph by John Edward Linden, page 159

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DREAM HOMES

LOS ANGELES

AN EXCLUSIVE SHOWCASE OF THE FINEST ARCHITECTS IN LOS ANGELES

FOREWORD

by Julius Shulman



When my family arrived in Los Angeles from Connecticut in 1920, the population of 576,000 was a mere fraction of the millions who now call it home. Having lived here from the age of 10 until now, at the age of 97, I have witnessed and experienced its expansion and evolution and the subsequent shifts in architectural progression. As a professional photographer for more than 70 years, I have watched its transformation from a unique vantage point: the camera lens.

Since 1936, I have had the great fortune to capture and archive the work of many of Los Angeles' innovative architects. My first years of photography reflected the influence of International Style in the work of architects who had arrived in Southern California from Europe: Neutra, Schindler, Davidson, Gruen. The work of other designers in that period—Soriano, Ain, Harwell Harris—also demonstrated a close adherence to International Style. But subsequent generations of architects progressively pursued a greater respect for environmental involvement: Leo Marmol and Ron Radziner; Steven Ehrlich; Conrad Buff, Donald Hensman and Calvin Straub; and Edward Killingsworth, as well as numerous others whose work I have photographed.

RIGHT:
Photographed by Julius Shulman in 1960, Pierre Koenig's case study house has been featured in numerous films, television shows and advertisements. Considered an iconic representation of modern architecture in the mid-20th century, it is thought to communicate the essence of Los Angeles living to the world. © J. Paul Getty Trust. Used with permission. Julius Shulman Photography Archive, Research Library at the Getty Research Institute.
Photograph by Julius Shulman

FACING PAGE LEFT
Buff, Smith & Hensman Architects, page 195
© J. Paul Getty Trust. Used with permission. Julius Shulman Photography Archive, Research Library at the Getty Research Institute.
Photograph by Julius Shulman

FACING PAGE RIGHT
Studio Pail Fekete architects SPF/a, page 159
Photograph by Julius Shulman and Juergen Nogai





As Los Angeles grew in population, architecture displayed an increasing respect for the region's climate and environment. Case study homes such as Koenig's—which I famously documented—and those like my own steel-and-glass home/studio visually connect with the surrounding landscape, offering expansive views of the cityscape or, in my case, canyon slopes and soaring hillsides. While architects today tend not to pursue a narrowly defined stylistic direction, sensitivity to and communion with nature remain central to their work—and mine.

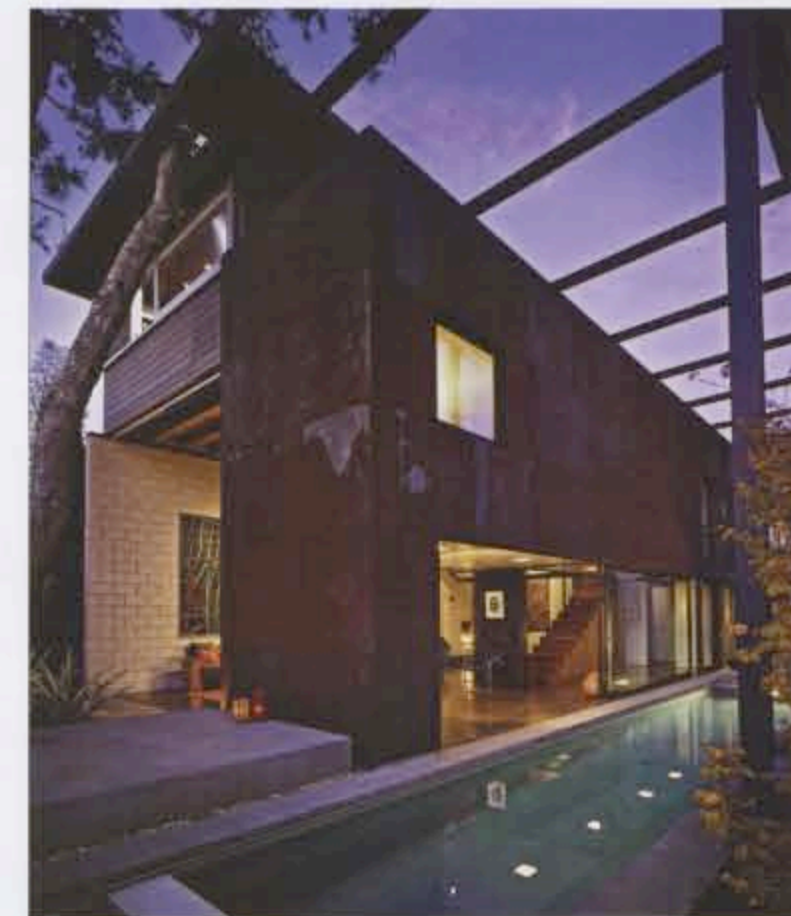
I am thoroughly familiar with many of the architects included on the pages that follow. The earlier, well-established firms contributed considerably to the enhancement of contemporary architectural traditions. The newer architects bring a fresh perspective to the art form. All are, in a word, brilliant.

A dream home is only a dream home until it is built, at which time it becomes real, a tangible haven in which people experience their lives and view the outside world. This era has seen clients equipped to communicate to architects the terms of their dreams—their functional and lifestyle needs—and homes are created to support them.

In my 70 years of experience, my architectural photographs have traveled the globe, influencing the work of architects across the continents. I have witnessed firsthand the inherent power of photographs to teach, to influence and to preserve. The photographs featured in *Dream Homes Los Angeles* beautifully illustrate the region's architectural heritage while alluding to its future. While the featured homes began as fanciful visions, their presentation herein eliminates the need for dreaming.

Julius Shulman

Julius Shulman



ABOVE:
Steven Ehrlich Architects, page 51
Photograph by Julius Shulman and Juergen Nogai

FACING PAGE:
Studio Pali Fekete architects SPF-2, page 159
Photograph by Julius Shulman and Juergen Nogai



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ZOLTAN E. PALI
JUDIT MÉDA FEKETE

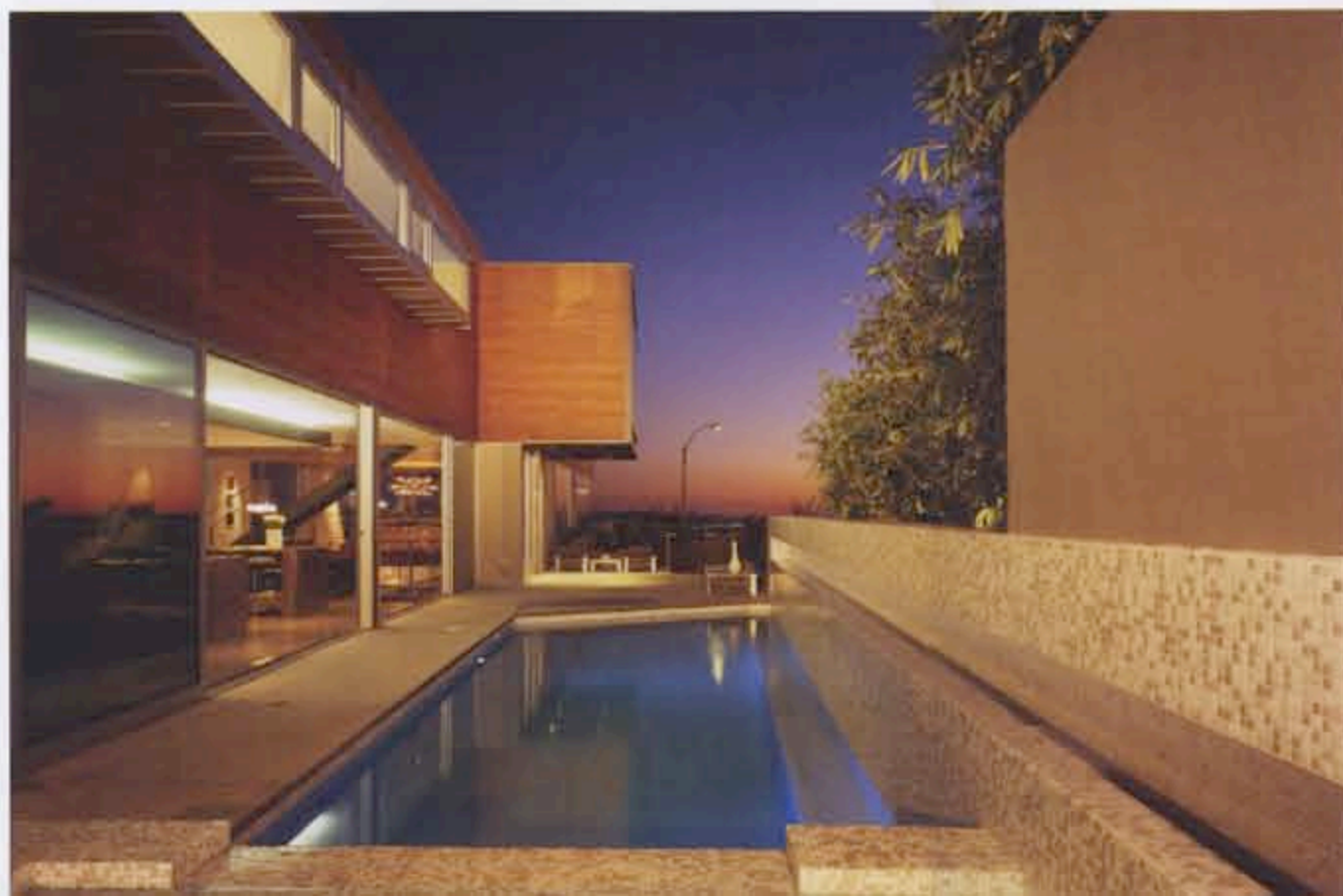
Studio Pali Fekete architects SPF:a

For Zoltan E. Pali, FAIA, and Judit Méda Fekete, LEED AP, architecture and design are more than just professional fields: They are a way of life. The pair's Culver City-based company, Studio Pali Fekete architects (SPF:a), resides in a building that Zoltan and Judit created to house several work/live lofts. The components of their labor constantly surround them, as they resourcefully utilize one of the lofts as their home. Additionally, the building functions as the Museum of Design Art and Architecture. With Judit as the curator, the gallery showcases the close connections among art, architecture and design in their modern forms. Because Zoltan has had a natural inclination toward the industry since a young age, his profession and lifestyle come as no shock to those who know him well. His parents watched him ambitiously measure rooms throughout his childhood home and copy floorplans from home and garden periodicals. Undoubtedly, the young boy had a future in architecture.



ABOVE:
Wooden treads offset the steel rails of this floating master stair.
Photograph by Julius Shulman and Juergen Nogai

FACING PAGE:
Steel and concrete combine to form a tranquil setting from which residents can enjoy sweeping views of the Los Angeles basin.
Photograph by John Edward Linden



As the son of an engineer, Zoltan had the advantage of honing his natural talents in hand-drafting with his father. At 17 he began working in architects' offices and, by 26, ventured out on his own to start a practice in Los Angeles. In an industry that prides itself on experience and reputation, this turned out to be quite a daunting undertaking. Zoltan had difficulty setting up a solid clientele base and realized the high cost of entrepreneurship in Los Angeles. Even with his intense drive and determination, he began doubting these decisions over the next few years. That all changed, however, when the young architect met Jerrild Lomax, a protégé of Craig Ellwood and lead designer of the case-study homes. This meeting became a crucial turning point in his professional life, calming the looming fears and reassuring his longtime desires of an architectural future. The experience of seeing one of Lomax's completed homes altered his professional outlook and solidified his goals.

TOP LEFT:
A second-story glass room protrudes from this West Hollywood residence, affording excellent views from the street's highest point.
Photograph by John Edward Linden

BOTTOM LEFT:
At twilight, the residence's pool and entry court glow with light from within.
Photograph by John Edward Linden

FACING PAGE:
A limestone water feature creates a transparent division between the residence's living and dining rooms.
Photograph by Julius Shulman and Juergen Nogai

