



# Leading by example

All successful projects are the result of the innovative and collaborative skills of a wide team of professionals, as these projects illustrate



# Drama unfolds

Every picture tells a story. The Mediterranean exterior of this house hides a secret – a dramatic, light-filled, contemporary interior

**This Los Angeles home proves it is possible** to have the best of both worlds – the charm and character of Mediterranean-style architecture and a sleek, contemporary interior with every modern convenience.

The two-story house, which was designed and built by Mega Builders of Chatsworth, California, has risen from the foundations of the original smaller 1950s home on site.

Mega Builders principal Alon Toker says the house evolved as it was constructed, with the owners opting for a streamlined, modern interior, rather than the traditional European look

that was originally specified and approved.

“The change in the brief was a challenge, but we were able to accommodate the change, and seamlessly merge the two styles,” Toker says. “Effectively, we retained the key architectural features and gave them a modern treatment. For example, the grand entry still features symmetrical curved staircases with a bridge at the top, but these have frameless glass railings, miter-edge white stair slabs and streamlined trim.”

Two glass water walls beneath the rotunda inside the entry reinforce the curved theme, but also give the space a contemporary feel.

Toker says the house has numerous special features, including a self-contained suite for a grandparent, a meditation room, home theater with acoustic insulation, stand-alone gym and steam shower, games room and an expansive outdoor living area with a built-in misting system to lower temperatures in summer.

As well as designing and building the house, Mega Builders commissioned, supervised and liaised closely with all the subcontractors.

To contact Mega Builders, 21021 Devonshire St #201, Chatsworth, CA 91311, phone (818) 407 5533. Website: [www.megabuilders.com](http://www.megabuilders.com).

*Preceding pages:* With its authentic clay terra cotta-tiled roof and arched windows, this Los Angeles house has a distinctive Mediterranean character. The house was designed and built by Mega Builders of Chatsworth, California.

*Above:* At the rear, the house opens up to a landscaped outdoor living area with spa and swimming pools. Photography by Mega Builders (preceding pages and these pages) and Tim Maloney.



**Architectural glass is a key feature of the** Los Angeles house – both outside and in.

Working with the owners and the contractor, Architectural Annex was responsible for the concept development, design, fabrication and installation of all the glass and steel features, including the stair rails and two large glass and stainless steel water walls in the entry lobby.

The company also created a glass and stainless steel door system for the wine room, along with a bar top, and a stainless steel and textured glass footbridge over a koi pond.

President and lead designer Rob Brennan

says the stair rails, mezzanine balustrade and water walls are all curved, which added to the challenge. The frameless stair rail system meant the glass panels had to be bent and tempered, and structural mounts added into the framing.

Architectural Annex worked closely with UltraGlas, the glass fabricator. The firms have worked together on many residential and commercial projects worldwide.

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*Above left and top right:* Architectural Annex worked closely with glass fabricator UltraGlas to create several glass and stainless steel features, including the curved stair rails, mezzanine balustrading and two curved water walls near the base of the stairs.

*Above:* A textural glass footbridge, framed with brushed stainless steel leads to the front door. The bridge was also designed and fabricated by Architectural Annex and UltraGlas.



*Top and center:* Sophisticated home automation and audiovisual systems were supplied and installed by Shelley's Stereo & Video. The touch pad for lighting control in the kitchen is customized with pink-lit buttons to match the cabinets.

*Above and above right:* Customized televisions include a TV concealed as a bathroom mirror, and a family room TV with a custom high-gloss white bezel to match the home decor.

**The traditional exterior of the house and its streamlined interior** belie the sophistication of the technology behind the scenes.

Alon Moscovitch, owner of Shelley's Stereo, says the company was selected to design and install a home automation system with fully distributed audio and video entertainment capability throughout. This included the integration of interior and exterior lighting, heating and air conditioning, automated window treatments, pool control and security systems.

To meet the demands required by these multiple control systems, high definition media

streaming, security and internet/data services, Shelley's Stereo installed an enterprise-grade managed network system with the bandwidth and speed to run everything without hiccups.

"Because the house has a very sleek, modern interior, one of our design goals was to integrate our work and the electronics in an unobtrusive manner, with all design complexity and most electronics hidden from view," says Moscovitch.

Shelley's Stereo also avoided floor clutter by using in-wall speaker systems, which are matched to wall color, and acoustically balanced and calibrated for optimal performance.

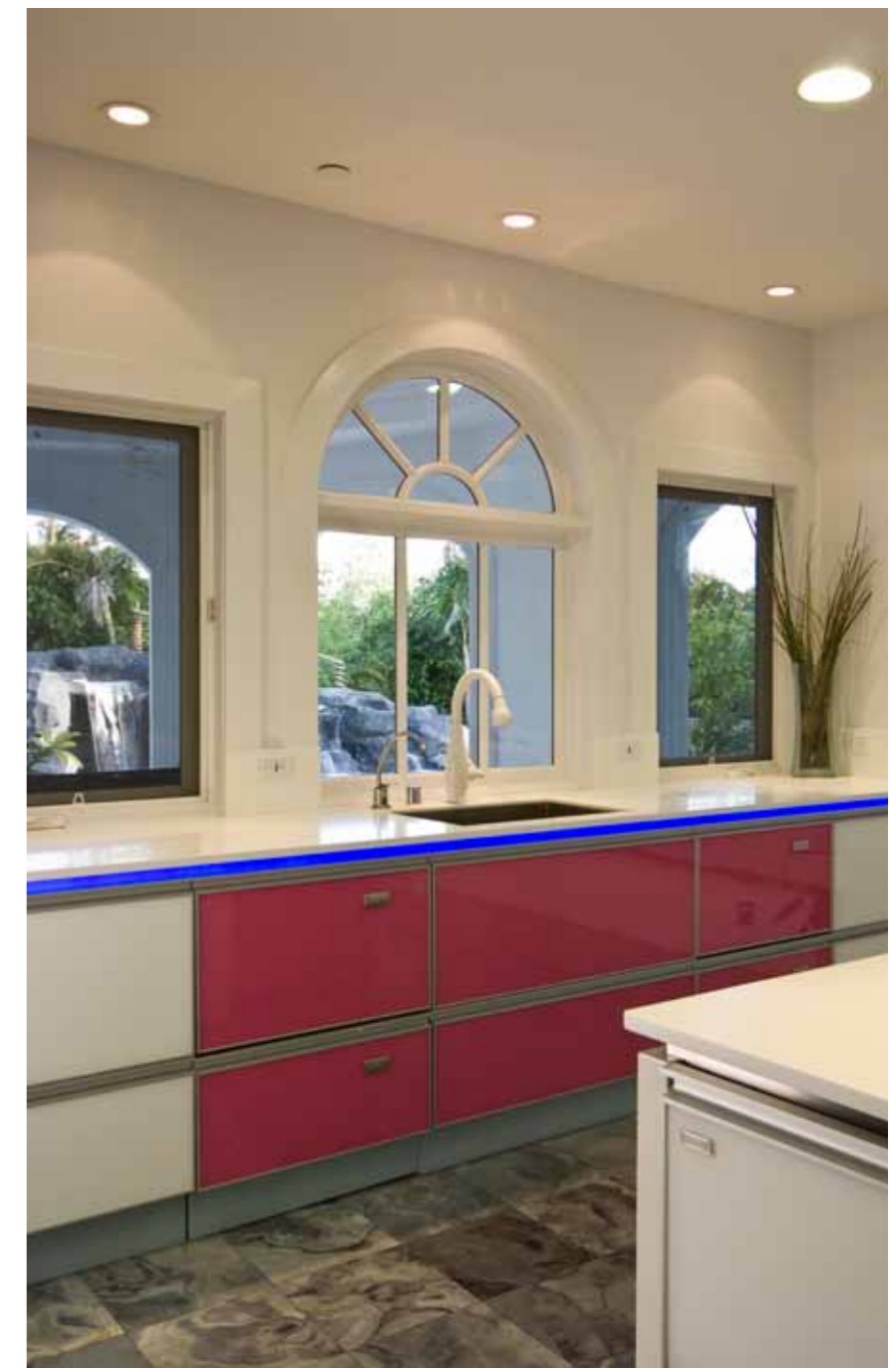
"This was a large-scale project and the level of customization required was very high. As the backbone for this home's automation system we chose Control4 for its robust functionality, rich customization capabilities, and its ease-of-use interfaces. Control4's elegant InfinityEdge Touch Screen is beside the front door. The family also has complete home control using Control4 software running on their iPads and iPhones."

For more details, contact Shelley's Stereo & Video, Woodland Hills, CA 91367, phone (818) 716 8500. Email: info@shelleysstereo.com. Website: www.shelleysstereo.com.



*Above:* Shelley's Stereo installed a ceiling projector and 120-inch projection screen in the home theater. The iPad in the foreground can be used to control all the AV and home automation systems, including lighting, window treatments, security and HVAC systems.

*Left:* The television in the master bedroom is on an automated lift that raises, lowers and swivels from within a custom-built white cabinet at the end of the bed.



*Above:* In the pink – the eye-catching kitchen in the Los Angeles house features custom-colored pink and white glass cabinets paired with lacquered panels. The kitchen, which was designed and manufactured by Mal Corboy Design & Cabinets in New Zealand, also features decorative LED lighting strips. All the cabinetry incorporates Hettich soft-close drawer systems and hardware. A stepped glass feature on the rear wall creates a layered shadow effect.

**Global communications have made the world** a smaller place, as people look beyond their own shores for products and services. And this even applies to kitchen design and manufacture.

The kitchen in the Los Angeles house was designed and manufactured in New Zealand by Mal Corboy Design & Cabinets.

Designer Mal Corboy says the owners had seen published examples of his work and were looking for something outside the box.

“This kitchen is very different to what is available locally, but it is exactly what the owner was looking for,” he says.

The custom-colored pink and white glass cabinets are teamed with Corian countertops. LED lighting set in the recesses between the cabinets and countertops enhances the horizontal lines and adds sparkle by night. The lights can be programmed to change color.

Corboy cabinets are distributed in North America by AIT Development Corporation.

For more information, contact Mal Corboy Design and Cabinets, phone +64 21 322 599, or AIT Development Corporation, phone (818) 407 5533. Websites: [www.malcorboy.com](http://www.malcorboy.com) and [www.megabuilders.com](http://www.megabuilders.com).



*Above:* The main sink and cleanup area are positioned so the owners can enjoy the view of the landscaped pool and outdoor living area.

*Left:* With its white glass doors and drawers, the island has a more subdued presence. An elevated section serves as a bar top. The island also accommodates a wine refrigerator.



*Above:* A covered barbecue seating area at the rear of the house is slightly elevated above the poolscape. The landscape was designed by Dekel & Associates.

*Facing page, top:* Curb appeal is ensured with the formal landscaping at the front of the house. This includes a colored concrete driveway and lawns with boxwood borders.

*Facing page, lower:* A rocky outcrop features water falls and a water slide.

**No matter how exciting the architecture, a home needs to sit in harmony with the landscape.**

To ensure the Los Angeles house would be enhanced by complementary landscaping, Mega Builders commissioned the services of Dekel & Associates, a firm that specializes in all aspects of landscape design and construction.

Alon Sahar, regional manager of Dekel & Associates, says the company was responsible for all aspects of the landscape, from the hard landscaping to the water features, pools, koi ponds, planting and lighting.

The formal landscape at the front of the

house provides lawns edged by boxwood and roses. The entry to the house is defined by a glass bridge, and an Indonesian chiseled marble walkway. Other pathways feature the same marble, which ensures visual continuity.

Semi-tropical planting creates a more relaxed poolscape at the rear of the house. Here, Dekel & Associates added waterfalls and a waterslide from a rocky outcrop. Pebbled areas enhance the Zen-like tranquility of the setting.

For details, contact Dekel & Associates, 17933 Tophan St, Encino, CA 91316, phone (818) 634 2258. Website: [www.dekelandassoc.com](http://www.dekelandassoc.com).

