



Walnut Residence

VENICE, CA

The Walnut Residence is located in Venice, California, a beachside community characterized by small lots (30' wide x 120' wide), an eclectic mix of architecture and a unique blend of personality. While the tight square footage of the lot and an existing tree constrained the organizational possibilities of the home, the connection to community, the need for privacy and security, and interest in natural lighting offered endless possibilities.

The 2,700 square foot single family residence draws upon the site and context for inspiration by referencing a specimen pine on site and reinterpreting two other trees removed as part of the construction process. The trunk diameter of the pine is nearly five feet and the canopy over sixty feet across, so it clearly serves as the most dominant feature of the site (and nearly the entire block). Since removal was not an option for the clients, the parti of the house was organized around the tree's location on site; near the back and virtually in the middle. This organization maximized the livable square footage of the house while minimizing the risk of damage to the tree. In reality, the plan of the house is quite simple and if left untreated could resemble any number of stucco boxes in the area. Exploring options through the exterior skin offered a dynamic expression of the client's taste and character as well as the sculptural qualities of architecture.

