



Stan Field

FIELD ARCHITECTURE

Stan Field's work has spanned over 30 years and garnered the attention of media outlets in three continents, yet conversation with him reveals an approachable nature and earnest desire to help clients achieve thoughtful architecture. Stan is principal of Field Architecture, a practice aimed at creating value through design by coalescing the dynamics of place with clients' needs. The buildings that result create opportunities for contemporary living and have been recognized nationally and internationally for their powerful architectural contributions.

Stan studied under the iconic architect Louis Kahn and took a bold leap into the world of architecture when he turned a complex undertaking—a project with almost implausible parameters—into his first commission. Faced with an outcropping of massive boulders just outside of Johannesburg, Stan set out to design two residential structures of varying elevations connected by a bridge, while leaving all definitive site elements untouched. The integration of building with site unfolded as the award-winning Len Miller House, which was widely regarded at the time as leading a wave of progressive architecture to come out of South Africa.

The social dynamics of the '60s influenced his initial introduction to architecture. The changing times affected the residential setting that Stan was engaged with in South Africa through the '70s and intensified his work in the urban context. Stan embraced change and moved to Jerusalem, where he engaged in architectural projects in the spiritual, civic, commercial and



ABOVE:

The natural light, which defines the spaces of the Pasternak house, shifts throughout the day and seasons, celebrating the changing nuances of mood and function.

Photograph by Cesar Rubio

FACING PAGE:

Situated in the heart of Silicon Valley, the Pasternak house has become emblematic of a fairly sophisticated network generation, where the home is evolving into a multi-dimensional, live-and-work, media-driven environment of interconnectedness.

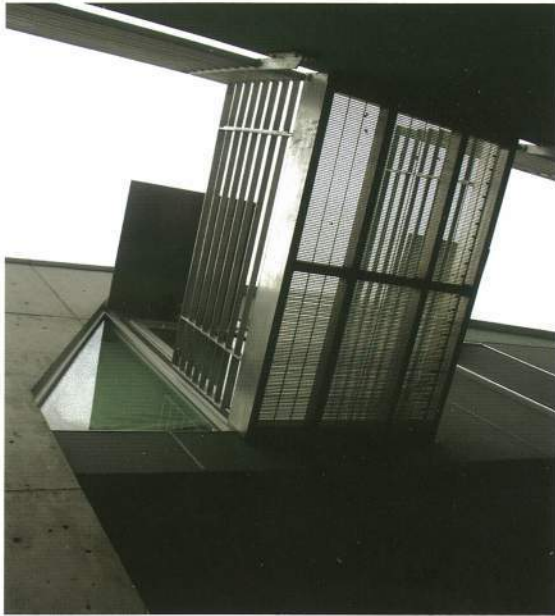
Photograph by Cesar Rubio



educational spheres and was named Chief Architect of the city. These transitions carry into his work and express the fluidity and immediacy of time and place.

Stan considers a combination of factors that affect architecture: "When designing in the landscape, the goal is to incorporate structure with the surrounding environment. In the city, architecture must create its own environment and deliver a sense of open space within it." His design process is organic in the way it involves client and site; the synthesis of both becomes the creative impetus of each individual project.

Stan's extensive experience teaching and practicing abroad offers priceless insight into the role of style in contemporary homes. He has found that many clients shed preconceived notions of style during their time working with him; one Northern Californian client decidedly expressed her desire for a Mediterranean villa yet adores the romance of her contemporary hillside dwelling. His understanding of architecture is imbued with a pedagogical role in that he facilitates an understanding of the motivations behind his clients' desires. His houses are infused with unique personality that expresses an inspired intersection of client, place and time.



Jess Field, Stan's son and partner, feels fortunate to have learned from his father. As Jess remarks, "The architectural dialogue between us is fluent. It begins at a high level of understanding of one another and takes off from there." Jess completed his Master of Architecture in 2006, and his father remarks, "He has an amazing ability to bring designs to life; the fusion of my liberated style and his architectural vision has yielded exciting results." Mark Johnson, partner of Field Architecture, contributes his keen understanding of construction and ensures that the firm's brilliant designs are brought to fruition. Together with a core team of handpicked, highly skilled individuals, the Field Architecture practice is creating meaningful and lasting works of contemporary architecture.

ABOVE LEFT:
The Los Altos home boasts striking architectural details. A transparent metal bridge spans a lower-level light well.
Photograph by Field Architecture

ABOVE MIDDLE:
The clean-lined steel stairway leads to a lower-level terrace.
Photograph by Field Architecture

ABOVE RIGHT:
Voluminous ceilings, floor-to-ceiling glass sliding doors and an open layout lend themselves to flexible contemporary living.
Photograph by Field Architecture

FACING PAGE:
The predominant suburban neighborhood context of Los Altos suggested a reinterpretation of the California Ranch style. The covered patios become outdoor rooms as the interior spaces transition to the garden and pool.
Photograph by Field Architecture

more about stan...

WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TO TEACH WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY PROJECTS TO DESIGN?

I believe that teaching is a very important part of learning. Young architects exchanging information with their mentors not only reaffirms and expands our ideas and concepts, but allows us the opportunity to advance the profession by discovering where to put our energy, how to avoid certain pitfalls, and the way by which to elevate the value of a design.

WHAT SETS THE STAGE FOR A PRODUCTIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP?

The most successful collaboration is not necessarily formed with the client who gives an architect free reign on the design, but rather the one who values the unique insight that an architect can bring to the project.

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