

New York Architect Peter Gluck Has Designed A Masterpiece Of A Hollywood Home That Wins Big On Sustainability

An East Coast interpretation of West Coast living, at the heart of this slick Hollywood home is a father-son story that centers on a shared passions for art and design

by *Pratyush Sarup. Photography by Paul Vu.*



Sitting atop a green lawn, this modest glass pavilion of a [Hollywood Home](#) belies its celebrity status. Home to LA triple threat Will Gluck (a writer, producer, and director known for movies like Easy A, Friends with Benefits, Peter Rabbit, and Peter Rabbit 2, amongst other blockbusters) it was designed by his father Peter and his firm Gluck+ on a site formerly considered unbuildable.



The upper floor is where guests drive up to and is dedicated to entertaining.

But the sexagenarian modernist has never been shy of a challenge and the father-son duo's six-year long, bi-coastal adventure has resulted in a sublimely modern, sustainable, and highly functioning home for a modern family.

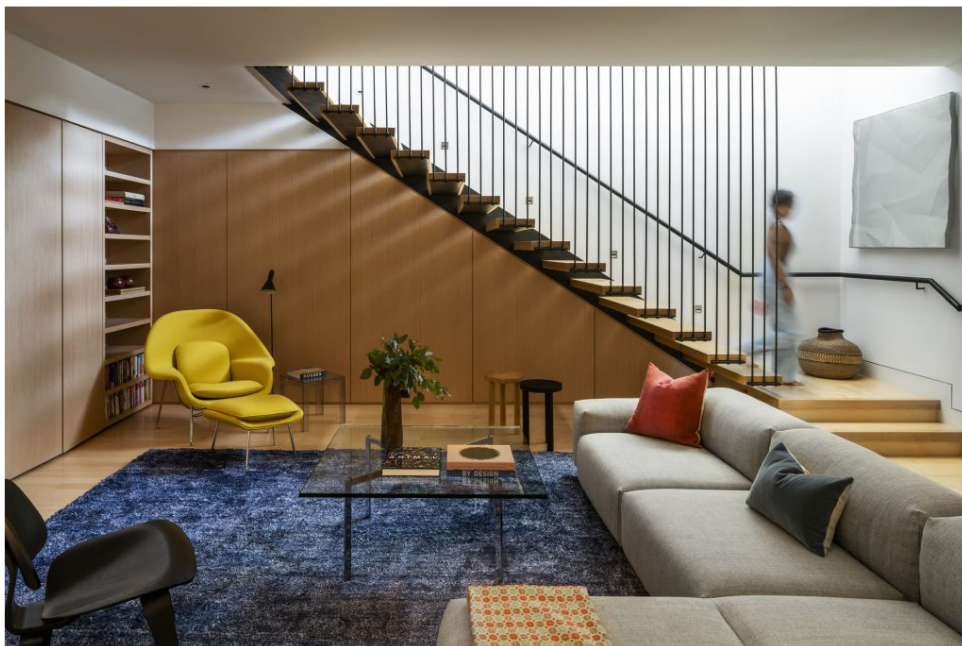


“The site is spectacular, a steep north-facing hillside with unobstructed views of the mountains beyond and a 180-degree panorama from the east to the Burbank airport in the west,” says Peter. Directly below is Universal Studios in the San Fernando Valley and on a clear day, you can see the Hollywood Sign and Griffith Observatory directly across in the Santa Monica Mountains. Even though the site was bombarded with LA views to die for, the intent was to make the house equally designed for intimate family living and entertaining whilst ensuring that its footprint doesn't overpower its surroundings. “We attempted to replicate the simplicity and elegance of the experimental Case Study Houses that were built from 1945-1966, reimagining them in a much more complex and demanding architectural world.”



Sustainability through passive design informs the architecture of this Hollywood Home. The floating roof provides external shading (and internal cooling) all year round.

“We keep discovering new places,” says Will about how his father’s tactical spatial planning – entertainment spaces on the upper level where guests approach the property and private spaces below – has created opportunities for the family to explore and come together. “Mine is now the cactus garden, Trista’s is her office, and the girls like the upstairs communal kitchen area.” Being involved in every step of bringing this Hollywood Home to life enriched Will’s appreciation for his father’s profession, He actually likens the process of making a movie to the process of designing and building a house. Here, unlike other ornate celebrity homes, it is the supremely refined architecture and material palette that doubles up as [interior decoration](#).



A chunk of his Hollywood home is buried into the hillside, offering privacy to the family areas. Pictured here, the staircase leading to the family quarters focussed around a chic lounge.

In California's sun-drenched climes, this Hollywood Home was also designed with impeccable sustainability credentials in place. Considering the sun and earth and to take advantage of naturally cooling and shading, solar panels on the roof produce more electricity than the house uses. A large cistern captures rainwater for landscape irrigation, but its the site-specific interpretations of passive design codes that pack a visual punch. Over half of the house is buried into the hillside to passively cool and heat the house, whilst the floating roof provides shading for exterior seating in all seasons and for all times of the day.



Peter is of the school of thought that architects need to know how to build buildings, not just “draw cartoons” and hand them off to contractors. That rigour came in handy when he and his team deciphered the most suitable engineering solutions for what is really a glass house, whilst addressing seismic issues of the site.





“Achieving this level of simplicity while technically addressing structural and energy concerns in a really difficult building environment,” says Peter. “But it was truly rewarding in the end.” gluckplus.com