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Canyon House: A Private Oasis

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Staff Writer

To be able to work at home was the goal for married couple and architects Mark Cigolle and Kim Coleman when designing their own home at 455 Upper Mesa Road in Rustic Canyon.

Completed in 1992, the three-story Canyon House is built into the slope of a hillside with the top level serving as the entryway. Cigolle and Coleman clearly delineated between public and private space by devoting each level of the house to a specific purpose.

The third story serves as a workspace for business and clients, the second story as a shared space for family and friends, and the first floor for the family's bedrooms.

The more than 6,000-sq-ft house is now owned by Steve Richards, an entertainment executive, and is on the market for about \$5.3 million.

"What I think is so fantastic about this house is the fact it is in Rustic Canyon," said George

Penner, president of Deasy/Penner & Partners, a real estate brokerage selling the house. "It's close to a great park with tennis courts [Rustic Canyon Recreation Center is around the corner] and is a walk from the beach."

Cigolle and Coleman took advantage of the year-round sunshine in Southern California. Each level of the house has floor-to-ceiling windows offering spectacular views of the ocean and canyon (looking toward Chautauqua Boulevard).

Plus, "nearly every door in this house opens out to a terrace, garden or deck space," Penner said.

Although the house has a workspace on the entry level, Penner said the studio (to the left of the front foyer) does not necessarily have to be used for business purposes. Interested buyers have talked about converting the studio into a workout room or an extra garage to store a car collection. A two-story garage is adjacent to the studio.

Stairs lead down to the living

room, which features two floor-to-ceiling glass screen doors that can be opened to make the deck part of the living room, blurring the lines between indoors and outdoors.

Adjacent to the living room is a guest bedroom and media room, both with exposed concrete walls contrasted with steel and warm woods to create a sense of warmth. A nearby den offers a quiet, serene space with windows providing views of the garden beyond.

A steel frame in the shape of an X separates the den and the dining room and acts as a buffer. In the dining room, small rectangular windows lined with copper trim are mirror images of four glass-screen doors leading out to a deck.

The large kitchen has space for a table and is equipped with Miele appliances. Above the kitchen is a guest suite with a sea grass rug and floor-to-ceiling windows.

"This guest suite is so your closest friend can be nearby and a mile away," Penner said, noting the room contains its own bath and has a separate exit.

On the lowest level of the house is a bedroom designed for two young children to share.

With some minor construction work, "the room can be separated into two rooms," Penner said.

In the center of the room, with maple floors and white walls, is a play area. The beds are hidden behind half walls. Each side of the room has a closet and full baths with playful tiles in hues of red, yellow, green and black. The children have their own deck that leads to the grassy lawn and lap pool.

The adjacent master bedroom features two balconies and a fireplace. The walk-in closets and master bath are not enclosed but separated by half walls to create an open space while maintaining a sense of privacy. From the woman's closet, a door opens to an enclosed private deck, which would be a perfect place for a Jacuzzi, Penner said.

Throughout the house, the architects use transparent frosted glass "to have light flow into the house, but create a sense of privacy," Penner said. The house was also angled on the double lot, so that the neighbor's home is hardly visible.

"I really love this house," Penner said. "It's a quiet oasis in an urban setting."

For more information, contact Deasy/Penner & Partners at www.deasypenner.com.



The Canyon House's living room features two floor-to-ceiling screen glass doors that can be opened, so the deck becomes a part of the living room, blurring the lines between indoors and outdoors as shown above.

Photo courtesy of Edward Pfeiffer



Mark Cigolle and Kim Coleman designed their own home at 455 Upper Mesa Road in Rustic Canyon as a work-live space. The house, built in 1992, is now for sale.

Photo courtesy of Edward Pfeiffer