

# enki

FOR  
MODERN  
LIVING

THE HOME OF DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE



## HOME & GARDEN

WORKING WITH THE  
LANDSCAPE



TRAVEL  
DESIGN  
INTERIORS  
TECHNOLOGY  
ARCHITECTURE  
LUXURY ECO LIVING









BEAUTIFULLY  
IMPERFECT

A bisecting home plays with the Japanese philosophy of Wabi-Sabi

Photography Matt Winquist & Lucy Call



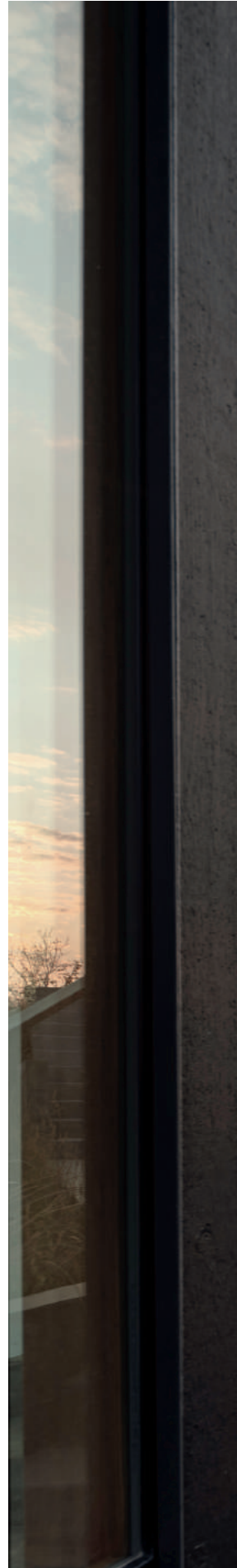




W

here the pursuit of perfection favours the orchestrated over the organic, the traditional Japanese philosophy of Wabi-Sabi invites the curious to find beauty in the imperfect. “It espouses simplicity and honesty in expression, those modest things in our world that convey beauty as they weather and age,” Sparano + Mooney Architecture explicate. In its latest residential realisation, this very concept was the driving factor for the aesthetic exploration. “In our internal discussions we wanted to celebrate the imperfect.” Thus, throughout this family home – a three bed abode nestled within the bucolic surrounds of Salt Lake

City – Sparano + Mooney has carefully juxtaposed the textured quality of natural materials like tight-knot cedar with stark and simple architectural forms. By doing so, the innate, imperfect nature of the timber is not only emphasised, but also calls out for appreciation. Split in half, the home presents as two separate volumes. While they share a full-length corridor that doubles as a personal gallery for the family’s impressive collection of artwork, as the structure cantilevers out over the valley, the home bisects into private and public quarters. In a continued effort to embrace the natural and imperfect nature of the challenging plot (“most of the property features a greater-than 20% slope”) however, the main living volume intricately follows the natural topography of the site. “The home respects and responds to the site rather than imposing upon it or attempting to modify it. As you move through the home, you are moving with and honouring the natural grade.” Yet despite Sparano + Mooney Architecture’s steadfast commitment to exploring the concept of Wabi-Sabi and the celebration of the imperfect, an irony remains that their response to the brief was, well nothing less than perfect for the clients.









"CAREFUL PLACEMENT  
OF GLAZING ALLOWS  
FOR NATURAL CANYON  
BREEZES TO FLOW  
THROUGH THE HOME"







“The flat roof was designed to keep the massing similarly low-profile. The home is unique because it is frequently viewed from above by those hiking a popular trail – we wanted the home to almost disappear into the landscape, and to be unobtrusive to those recreating, which is why we opted for a green roof”





"WE WANTED THE HOME TO ALMOST DISAPPEAR INTO THE LANDSCAPE"



"THE OCCUPANT IS CONTINUALLY PRESENTED WITH A FRAMED VIEW OF THE MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE"



Large glazed openings dotted around the perimeter open out onto concrete plinths that run around the outside of the home. While monolithic in stature, they follow the natural topography of the site, stepping up and down as required

## OWNER'S BRIEF

A young creative family with ties to Salt Lake City were looking to build a home, within the valley, that had minimal impact both visually and physically. As such, they were looking for a dwelling with a smaller footprint that was highly-crafted with a dedicated space to showcase their significant art collection.









## HOME PROFILE

A flat-topped home stretches out over a sloped plot in Salt Lake City. At the heart – and entrance – of the home is a corridor that runs the length of the property and naturally splits the two volumes that form the house. The first volume has been designed with communal spaces in mind while the second is purely for private retreat and domestic functions. Within this plan you can find three bedrooms, a creative studio, three en-suites, two powder rooms, an open kitchen, a living and dining space, as well as a three car garage with EV charging stations. At basement level, an external patio and spa connect the inhabitants with the outdoors while a green roof finishes off the design.

### PROJECT SIZE

372 sq. m

### LOCATION

Salt Lake City, Utah, USA





## ARCHITECT'S QUESTIONS

**Was the topography of the site a challenge?** The topography of the site was steep – most of the property features a greater-than 20% slope. We located the home on the flattest portion of the site, but that portion still included some topography in the range of 10%. We embraced this natural element and designed the communal volume to step down approximately 30 inches in tune with the landscape.

**With that being said, how have you utilised levels internally?** The north volume is oriented along a direct east-to-west axis and includes the private, domestic functions to address the quiet, static mountain views to the north. The southwest volume includes the more communal, active gathering spaces and is oriented along the canyon corridor axis toward dramatic views of the canyon and to the city below. The 18 ft. 6 inch and 24 ft cantilevers are achieved using a series of steel wall trusses with forces directly tied to the concrete plinths that step the volumes with the landscape. The wall trusses are captured within a 12 inch thick thermally-broken wall system.

**Was sustainability a consideration?** The sustainable design goals of this home were centred around creating a form and approach that would have minimal impact on the native landscape while still providing opportunities for interaction. A strict limit of disturbance was incorporated and the plinths that support the large cantilevers allow the mountain landscape to continue unhindered by the program that floats above. Designed to achieve LEED Gold certification, this home includes a double-framed wall assembly with a 1/2 inch thermal break air space that achieves an R-45 using 3 inches of closed-cell spray foam and 6-1/2 inches of blown-in-blanket insulation. The roof assembly achieves an R-60 with 6 inch minimum depth of rigid insulation and 16 inches of cavity insulation. Strategically-placed minimal glazing with a .30 U-factor ensures a complete and high-performance exterior envelope.



"THE HOME CELEBRATES A UNIQUE ELEVATED CANYON VIEW"



## PROJECT NOTES

**ARCHITECT & INTERIOR DESIGNER**  
Sparano + Mooney Architecture

**LANDSCAPE**  
Kappus Landscape Sprinkler LLC

**BUILDER & CONTRACTOR**  
Living Home Construction

**CIVIL ENGINEER**  
McNeil Engineering

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER**  
Structural Design Studio

**DOORS & WINDOWS**  
Weather Shield Windows & Doors

**KITCHEN**  
Appliances, Thermador; cabinetry, custom in white oak

**BATHROOM**  
California Faucets; LACAVA

**FURNITURE**  
Eames molded plywood lounge chairs, Herman Miller