

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

## A Modern Home Near the Beach in California

September 12, 2019  
Emily Nonko

- Location: Venice Beach, CA
- Price: \$4,950,000  
This couple built a light-filled home with good flow and a contemporary feel in Venice Beach. It is listed for \$4.95 million.



Judy and Michael Israel planned to downsize from their home in Brentwood, Calif. after their children moved out of the house. 'We wanted to stay in L.A. and be near the beach,' Ms. Israel says, 'And we found dirt in Venice.'

NILS TIMM



In 1997 the couple purchased a vacant double lot near Venice Beach for \$185,000. They hired friends, principals of the architecture firm Koning Eizenberg, to build a home. 'The primary mission was to build a Santa Monica beach house with a contemporary twist,' Ms. Israel says.



Mr. Israel, 72, is a psychologist. Ms. Israel, 77, is involved in philanthropy and community projects. The first-floor entertaining area has an open flow, with large windows and doors to the yard and patios.



The kitchen and living room connect to a side patio for al fresco dining. The architects selected an Italian green tile for the island and backsplash.



Mr. Israel kept a formal bar at the family's former home and the architects suggested integrating a smaller one into the kitchen. The color, Ms. Israel says, 'is like peeling open an orange.'





The second floor ceilings are lined in a Philippine mahogany. In the master bedroom, the couple decided to expose the chimney from the Rumford fireplace in the living room below.



There are three bedrooms and three bathrooms in the 3,069-square-foot house. The property has been listed by Tami Halton Pardee of Halton Pardee + Partners for \$4.95 million.





An 'open space' was carved from the second floor; it's where Ms. Israel works on photography and photo books. Mr. Israel keeps an office upstairs.



One design goal was to integrate enough shelving for the couple's book collection. They filled the interior with Midcentury modern furniture, including pieces from the woodworker Sam Maloof.



The front of the property holds a fire pit and barbecue, with the gate leading back to the dining patio. 'This home has been a magnet for family and friends,' Ms. Israel says.



The couple plans to move to a more rural area closer to family, likely in Oregon. 'This has become a beach home for our grandsons,' Ms. Israel says, 'It was a tough decision to sell.'



An upstairs patio extends from Mr. Israel's office.