

The curved roof has a square cutout over the uppermost balcony, letting light into the interior.



Designing a spec home on San Francisco's famed Billionaire's Row is a daunting task. After all, it's a stretch of street in the Pacific Heights neighborhood that is home to some of the city's wealthiest residents and priciest real estate.

The task of creating a dwelling posh enough to live up to the street's moniker fell to architect Tom Taylor of Taylor Lombardo Architects. Having designed many luxury homes around California, Taylor is no stranger to a home equipped with the finer things. But in this case, he was creating a grand home to attract a future owner, as opposed to a here-and-now client. He found the process engaging.

"Many times, we are dealing with clients who have extremely specific needs," he says. "In this case, when we were working with a developer and not an owner, it allowed for some creative opportunities."

Creativity was the name of the game here, as this was designed to be a statement house. "We knew that, for the caliber of people who would buy this home, safe and neutral wouldn't be appealing," Taylor says. "We imagined the buyers would be technology executives with kids, and that they'd want something imaginative and innovative."

With that in mind, the architect created a five-level, 11,000-square-foot home that's LEED Platinum Certified (no small feat for a large building). The geometry of the house is fascinating and functional. A curved roofline allows for maximum volume on the upper floor, a dramatic iris-shaped stairway makes an impact while allowing for more floor space and modern-day, angular bay windows point occupants toward the view.

Other features (Handel Architects assisted with the interior design) include floor-to-ceiling windows capturing some of the best views available in San Francisco, terraces on every level so you can step out into said view and a large wine cellar complete with room for a generous tasting table.

The home came with a price tag reflecting its attributes: At \$40 million it was the most expensive home in the city when it was on the market. But the large family the architect initially envisioned didn't prove to be the buyers. "A couple of empty nesters purchased it," Taylor says. "And they love the house." — *Mary Jo Bowling*



**TOP:** The curved ceiling plane at the top of the house allows maximum views of the San Francisco Bay. All of the glass windows and doors are from Southland.

**BELOW:** The large wine cellar is adjacent to an entertaining area.



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