



Fu-Tung Cheng

A TIMELESS, MODERN SPACE
BY CHENG DESIGN AND RJ
PACIFIC

A seven-foot wide, bronze pivot door opens up to reveal the custom universe and hillside forest of this recently completed 6,000-square-foot Carmel Hills tour-de-force home. Upon entering this home, the first thing one senses is the shimmer and soothing sound of moving water. Then, as the eyes gaze upward to take in the thirty-foot high vaulted ceilings, a steel staircase winds its way up to a floating office mezzanine which punctuates the grandeur of the space.

Under the dramatic, cantilevered mezzanine, the kitchen looks back toward the entry water feature. Low walls of sculptural concrete delineate the functional areas of living, dining, and kitchen spaces without visual obstruction—anchored by a monumental





steel refrigerator box, which acts as a kind of sentry to the space. The cast concrete walls and Geocrete™ countertops were accentuated with details such as depressions, polished semi-precious stones, fossils, and integral iron-oxide colors to reinforce the earthy but modern character of the massive forms. In the center is an elliptical food prep island. An intimate banquette for casual dining, tall bamboo cabinets that maximize storage, and an eight-foot long stainless steel Flux by Cheng ventilation hood round out the custom installation.

The spectacular site-cast concrete water feature invites entry guests along its curved, tiered wall, and directs them three steps down into the main living space. Water pools from a small reservoir and cascades down into the contoured and stepped aqueduct that hugs the wall. The aqueduct recreates, in concrete, geologic erosion striations as though sculpted over time. Just beyond the end of the stairs at the main living level the water stream terminates at a basin pool shaped around a sculpted black Balsalt monolith. The concave side of the sweeping structure is an intimate, sheltered library with hidden light accents and curved mahogany shelves.

The custom concrete elements complement the modern design of the architecture, grounding it, while the flowing water reminds us of the passage of time and of our place in the natural world.

Cheng Design, led by principal Fu-Tung Cheng, in close collaboration with Carmel builder Rick Alexander of RJ Pacific, designed and executed the water feature, kitchen, living room, dining room, spa, master bedroom fireplace, and his-and-hers master bath suites, of this house by architect Paul Byrne.

Cheng Design (510) 849-3272

RJ Pacific (831) 647-9500