

Raymond Kappe, FAIA The Keeler House, 1991



16525 Akron Street, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

"When a garden is used as a place to pause for thought, that is when a Zen garden comes to life." — Muso Soseki

The architect's work has been described as the apotheosis of the California Modern House, and while some may argue the point, it is clear that Ray Kappe pushed the limits of California's Post & Beam style to its ultimate conclusion, and in doing so created unsurpassed space for California living. The Keeler house is a textbook example, but at the same time it is much more. Here, Kappe perfects a modern interpretation not only of the high ideals of Wright's Organic Architecture, but also of the Craftsman Era's fine woodworking. The result is a masterpiece.

Meticulously constructed over four and one half years in clear heart redwood, teak, fir, concrete, and glass, the residence dramatically soars over its hillside site, yet is one with its intimate forested aqua garden, and the city and ocean vistas. The integration of architecture with landscape is remarkable.

A drive above the house leads to the gated parking plaza, a carport, and direct access to the residence which incorporates open plan living/entertainment areas and decks with the spaces integrated both horizontally and vertically, media room, four bedrooms, three baths, kitchen, laundry, utility room, storeroom, and a separate guest quarters and bath which has been converted from an earlier music studio, all of which has been meticulously maintained, restored, and upgraded by the sole owner since built.

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