

Charles Ward, Designer Ocean Park Residence, 1992



602 Bay Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405

This elegantly private residence by Charles Ward in Ocean Park makes one think of Mediterranean port towns in late-day sunshine and the limestone masonry that characterizes cities like Dubrovnik or Valletta - without quoting any historic forms. Its concrete and stucco surfaces retain the sandy color natural to the materials. The geometric exterior, punctuated by both slot and two-pane windows, rounds the corner with just a hint of a tower, and is framed by careful plantings and well-pruned trees.

Within, the design centers on a square central living space with fireplace that opens via French doors onto a large flagstone-paved courtyard dotted with mature olive trees, as well as a separate-entry office, an outdoor fireplace, an alfresco kitchen and a formal garden. Back inside, pony walls on two sides of the central square define a path to the kitchen and formal dining room or straight out to the courtyard, garden and generous exterior parking. Another room right by the front entry could be a den, office or guest space.

Upstairs, the private living quarters similarly branch off a substantial gathering room, where more French doors open to a terrace that winds to an outdoor staircase back down to the garden. The primary suite takes up nearly half the upper floor, comprising a large home office, skylit bath with walk-in tile-lined shower, separate tub and well-buffered sleeping quarters. Two additional bedrooms upstairs share a bath. A planned reconstruction, called off, explains why many doors and some fixtures were removed. However, Ward's distinctive design is intact.

\$2,750,000.

Christopher Pomeroy 917.838.4692

Michael D. Phillips 310.927.9189

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