



Stone plays a major part in the home's new look. Jerusalem limestone floors were employed in the living room (above) and the pool surround (below).





THE HOUSE OF WOZ

There are only a handful of contemporary homes in Silicon Valley that shimmer with the aura of celebrity. One such residence is the former Los Gatos hillside manse of legendary Apple Co-Founder Steve Wozniak. Gentry takes a look at Woz's home and its reincarnation as one of the Valley's most sparkling structures.

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REMODELING BY ARCHITECTS AVI AGASI AND AMNON LEVY OF ASHFORD ASSOCIATES

KITCHEN DESIGN BY DEGANIT ALBALAK OF EUROPEAN KITCHEN DESIGN

For anyone who's ever had the opportunity to listen to Steve Wozniak lecture, the experience is electrifying. This soft-spoken genius is simultaneously brilliant and funny. He cuts through technical jargon, illuminating his audience with the elegant simplicity of his creations. He possesses a singular mind, one that has transformed the planet and added to all our lives.

Taking a walk through the Los Gatos home that he spent over two decades in, it's easy to see what nourished his soul and fed some of his creativity. Perched on a steep hillside, the Wozniak home commands breathtaking views of a hidden valley in southern Los Gatos. Indeed, the powerful beauty of nature is a major element in the home's design. All of its living spaces blend seamlessly with the outdoors. Combined with that raw, rugged landscape, is a playful and imaginative element. Wozniak had a 500-square-foot wonderland created with a series of child-sized playrooms, tunnels, and lofts for his kids, and he reportedly had a team of designers from the California Academy of Sciences build a cave on the property (complete with stalagmites) and outfitted it with a state-of-the-art home entertainment system. Woz loved this home, but a few years back he was forced to move because he could not get a wireless signal in this particular part of Los Gatos. He told *Wired* magazine in 2003, "It's in a weird little nook where there's no GSM coverage. I need it, so I'm moving."

In 2005, architects Avi Agasi and Amnon Levy were brought in by a developer to give the 7,100-square-foot home a facelift. The pair stayed true to the home's footprint, but opened up interior walls, giving the spaces a more sophisticated flow. They added

patios and terraces, updated baths, flooring, and finishes throughout. They also incorporated new skylights and removed walls that formerly separated the home's living room, dining room, and kitchen, combining them to create a single great room. For the kitchen area, they partnered with award-winning kitchen designer Deganit Albalak on a spectacular contemporary space that serves as the core of the newly invigorated home.

"Avi and Amnon wanted the kitchen to be a source of light. They felt it needed to be ultra-modern and elegant, but also wanted it to have a garden element," recalls Albalak. To meet these requests, she fitted the new kitchen with sleek, white lacquered cabinetry from ALNO's "Sign" collection, interspersing elements of frosted glass and aluminum trim. Vibrant "Esmeralda" green granite counters with rough-hewn edges echo the verdant gardenscape outside.

The jewel-like quality of the kitchen radiates to the home's formal spaces, infusing them with a fascinating combination of chic lines and natural elements.

All in all, Agasi and Levy's stunning remodel took around a year from start to finish. Wozniak himself came back to take a look at the results and was wowed. In typical Silicon Valley fashion, buyers quickly snapped up this cutting-edge property, and a piece of high-tech history. ■



This page:

The kitchen, designed by Deganit Albalak of European Kitchen Design, is a light-filled space with contemporary cabinetry by ALNO.

Opposite:

Clean lines and sophisticated textures are found throughout the former Wozniak home.

