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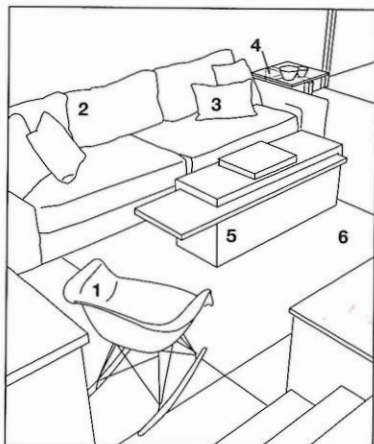
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mod squad

Upstart design firm Assembledge embraces California modern in the Miracle Mile

by charles runnette photography by michael weschler

For many people, the construction of a dream home is synonymous point in life when one starts to escape from work. But that's not the case for rising "starchitect" and designer David Thompson. The California-modern dwelling he designed in the tony Larchmont, L.A. is not only his home, but a fantastic calling card for the architectural design firm, Assembledge, that he runs with partner Kevin Souza. "We've gotten several jobs from people who are just driving

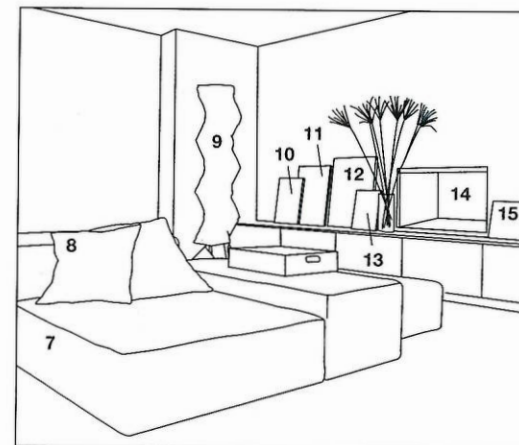


family room

1. 1950s fiberglass rocking chair by Charles and Ray Eames
2. Orange/rust couch with wood frame by Assembledge, fabric by Kravet
3. Orange/rust couch pillows by Assembledge, knoll fabric by Kravet
4. Glass end table with steel base by Assembledge
5. Syndeconcrete and Douglas-fir coffee table by Assembledge
6. Poured concrete slab floor by Assembledge

living room

7. Brown couch with wood frame (can be arranged





guests can't go here, or can't sit there." Walnut built-in cabinets line the walls and provide an alternate place to perch, at a just-right seat height.

Just right of the entry, just past the cozy dining area, which is a large round table from Plantation and six B&B Italia black chairs, is the open kitchen. Also showcasing walnut cabinets and quartz countertops, it boasts Horwich-Thompson's favorite detail: "How a window slices through the front porch."

Upstairs, Lyla's bedroom and the master suite flank the top of the stairs. The second floor has two bedrooms and two bathrooms on the second floor; Horwich-Thompson, a real estate broker in Prudential's Hollywood Hills office with a specialty in architectural residences. In both the "walls" are actually floor-to-ceiling glass sliders that open to reveal separate decks. "We entertain out here all the time," says Horwich-Thompson of the more spacious deck off the master suite. "It's that when we were discussing the upstairs in the design stage, David was dreaming. He's an L.A. boy and grew up like this, so it

was never a question for him, but where I come from, the Midwest, or where we went to school, New Orleans, no one lives like this, with all the doors and windows open all the time. But now that it's done, I get it, and I'm out here pretty much year-round."

Back downstairs, another bedroom and a home office share the rear of the home with a sunken family room that's easily accessible from all living areas, yet offers a private sanctuary with its pair of Eames chairs and 10-foot-long sofa Thompson designed. Here, concrete flooring and a 10-foot-high glass slider ensure a seamless transition to the backyard, where an expansive deck of ipe (also known as ironwood) provides the perfect spot to enjoy the views of the Hollywood Hills to the north and the Getty to the west—and to host a Thanksgiving for 25. "When we were building the house, we said we'd host the first holiday right here on the deck," recounts Horwich-Thompson. "My family came from Chicago, David's family from here, and the weather was perfect, a little cool. But we had heaters and we strung these gorgeous lights. It was the perfect Southern California Thanksgiving—with the Hollywood sign in the background." ★