



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE



Wall Art for All. Artist Amos Goldbaum finished this mural on the south wall of Cardio-Tone at 1747 Church St. on Aug. 1. See *Rumors*, page 33, for a closer look. Photo courtesy Amos Goldbaum

AIA House Tour Reveals Noe Moderns

We're Not Just About Victorians Now

By Corrie M. Anders

She didn't have a garage on her hard-to-park street in Noe Valley. The living room in her bungalow was practically on top of the sidewalk, and over the years, the 1908 cottage had suffered some clumsy renovations.

So the owner, a research scientist who has lived in the neighborhood for 13

years, set out to refresh and enlarge her residence on Noe Street.

Three years later, the home has been transformed into a contemporary jewel that will be open for viewing during the 2014 San Francisco Living: Home Tours.

The house is one of 10 San Francisco residences—four of them strikingly mod-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Room with a View. Visitors to the AIA's San Francisco Living House Tours Sept. 20–21 will have a chance to see the interiors of 10 designer homes, including this beauty on 27th Street near Douglass Park. Photo: Azevedo Design/Cesar Rubio

Stoplight Proposed For Cesar Chavez And Church

Trains Would Gain Speed, But Would Cars Join the Race?

By Heather World

Transit planners are proposing to replace the four-way stop at the intersection of Cesar Chavez and Church streets with a traffic light. The goal? To speed up the J-Church.

"Having to come to a complete stop and start up again all takes time," said Cathal Hennessy, who is managing the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

City Scouts Out Car-Share Spots

Residents Reluctant to Give Up Curb Space

By Heather World

Two parking spots on streets in Noe Valley have been reserved for car-share vehicles as part of a citywide experiment to increase car-sharing. Still, neighborhood resistance to other proposed locations may stall the drive for more.

One of the proposed spots, on the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Pleasing Pictorial. Artist Jack Freeman left a legacy of brightly colored landscapes, including this painting called *Pink Fence*.

Master Jack

An Artist Who Painted the World, One Sky at a Time

By Paul Reidinger

Whenever I would see Jack Freeman driving around Noe Valley, on his way to or from one of his innumerable 24th Street rendezvous, I would note his wild white hair and think: *That is what Beethoven might have looked like if he'd driven an old Volvo.*

Jack wasn't Beethoven, of course. He was a painter, not a composer. And while Beethoven terrified people just by stepping out the door, Jack was the picture of conviviality. Although he spent the last half-century of his life in San Francisco

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Noe Valley Homes Dominate AIA Tour

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ern Noe Valley showplaces—that the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects will feature during its Sept. 20-21 exhibition.

“Throughout the weekend, tour participants can see some of the latest residential projects from the inside out, meet design teams, explore housing trends, and discover innovative design solutions that inspire unique San Francisco living,” the AIA guide says.

The tour also offers a chance to see the shift in architectural tastes in Noe Valley, a neighborhood known for its Victorian and Edwardian homes dating from the turn of the 20th century.

“The appetite for modern is tremendous right now,” said architect Maura Fernandez Abernethy. “A lot of people who have the ability to buy and renovate are younger, and tech-savvy, and have less conservative attitudes” toward home design.

Abernethy’s firm, Studio VARA, designed the renovation for the homeowner on Noe Street, who initially only wanted to add a garage. The project grew as the owner realized what would need to be done to fix past alterations.

“It was just funky, funky, funky. We

had to go in there and triage all the places and pull it together,” said Abernethy.

By the time the job was done, the home had doubled in size to 3,500 square feet and gained not only a garage, but a wine cellar, two decks, and a pair of guest suites. To enhance privacy, Studio VARA put in small front windows near the sidewalk, but added floor-to-ceiling glass at the rear of the house, which opened up views of the city skyline and the East Bay.

Other Noe Valley gems on the tour include:

—A house on 27th Street near Douglas Park that Azevedo Design turned from a collection of boxy rooms into an open, light-filled space with all the modern amenities. It has a front deck that looks out on a copse of cypress trees, and a rear patio affording panoramic views of the Bay. The interior also features a light monitor “that illuminates the center dining area and adds to the subtle variety of ceiling heights.” The designers tricked out the kitchen with custom oak cabinets wrapped around a marble and stainless-steel island with a section of glass floor revealing a wine cellar below.

—A remodel on Elizabeth Street that Malcolm Davis Architecture expanded and transformed to accommodate the needs of a young couple with children. The firm added a top story and reoriented the main floor of the home to take advantage of a south-facing, rear garden. A new central stairway and new light wells al-



This modern showcase on Noe Street, designed by San Francisco’s Studio VARA, will be a stop along the Sept. 20 home tour hosted by AIA San Francisco as part of the “Architecture and the City Festival.”

Photo by Studio VARA/Bruce Damonte

low light to flow through all three levels of the house.

—A pair of freestanding condominiums on Church Street, designed by Zack/de Vito Architecture + Construction. The ultramodern homes—known as Steelhouse 1 and 2, owing to their use of steel detailing and cladding—share a central courtyard and entry court.

The Noe Valley properties, as well as one in Cole Valley, will be open on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The other five homes around the city will

be on display Sunday, Sept. 21.

Tickets can be purchased for either day. Prices range from \$60 to \$70 per day for AIA members. The cost is \$75 to \$85 per day for the general public.

Tour tickets also provide admission to a Sept. 18 forum where participating architects will answer questions about the design and construction of their projects. The 6 to 8 p.m. gathering will be held at the AIA office, 130 Sutter St., Suite 600.

For more information about the event, go to www.aiaasf.org.



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