

DREAM HOMES

LOS ANGELES

AN EXCLUSIVE SHOWCASE OF THE FINEST ARCHITECTS IN LOS ANGELES
FOREWORD BY JULIUS SHULMAN



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ROBERT SINCLAIR

Sinclair Associates Architects

When *The Franklin Report* recently asked Rob Sinclair, AIA, for five words that best describe his firm, he responded, "It's all about the process." So important is the process that the principal of Sinclair Associates Architects personally works with clients in every stage, from defining the design concept to walking them through their completed homes. Since founding the firm in 1982, Rob has worked with a small team of four associates to ensure that every client is actively engaged in the creation of his home.

Fundamental to Sinclair Associates' process is integration. In close conjunction with clients, Rob and his team work to create and, literally, edit the design program. After each initial interview, Rob drafts a narrative of the house, explaining the look and feel of each space with words and asking his clients to revise and rewrite as necessary. His clients are thus essential to the concept, themselves co-authors of their eventual homes. Once a vision is established, Rob brings the interior designer, builder and superintendent on board, forming a team unified around one central goal: to create a beautiful, harmonious environment that faithfully expresses the project's defining idea.



ABOVE:
A groin-vaulted gallery, with its varying intensity of shadows and light, produces a dramatic atmosphere, balancing the interplay of natural light with the soft edges of the vault.
Photograph by Brian Thomas Jones

FACING PAGE:
This rural Tuscan-style home illustrates the firm's goal to create completely integrated environments. The stone wall and brick drive unite the home to its site, beautifully blending the home's materials with the hillside beyond.
Photograph by Brian Thomas Jones

Because Sinclair Associates works very carefully to create beautifully balanced, fully integrated environments, the team is drawn to those clients who plan to spend the rest of their lives in their homes. As creating a custom home is often a lengthy endeavor, Rob makes certain that the clients and design teams with whom he chooses to collaborate are compatible in personality and mutually respectful so that all enjoy every aspect of the process and are proud of and happy with the outcome. Featured in *The Franklin Report*, *Architectural Digest*, *Robb Report* and *California Homes*, the firm's homes are visually exquisite. Yet of chief importance to Rob, each provides a deep sense of well-being for those who live therein.



Due to the rigor of the firm's process of investigating and arriving at the home's theme, each project embodies a decidedly different aesthetic. All are infused with a European sense of warmth and intimacy, established by the smaller scale and natural materials indicative of the region's architecture. By breaking up the massing and creating an intuitive flow of the home's spaces through qualities of natural light, from intimate to expansive light-filled spaces, the firm effectively evokes a mellifluous ambience that embraces residents and guests, filling them with a sense of peace. To this European feel, the team adds a minimalist touch, in essence cleaning up and paring down the clients' stylistic preference. Reducing the ornamentation and focusing instead on the quality of light, the relationship to the outdoors and the warm atmosphere that brings families together yields cohesive, harmonious atmospheres in even the largest homes.



TOP LEFT:
Lighted fountains create a romantic ambience in the courtyard of this Mediterranean-inspired villa. Enclosing the outside space forms dramatic areas of intimacy and warmth, adding to the experience of the architecture.
Photograph by Brian Thomas Jones

BOTTOM LEFT:
This Shingle-style home balances the cottage context of the surrounding site while at the same time providing privacy and expansive waterfront views.
Photograph by Brian Thomas Jones

FACING PAGE TOP:
Curving around the central courtyard, this mission-style home seems to embrace the central tree.
Photograph by Brian Thomas Jones

FACING PAGE BOTTOM:
A cozy yet elegant pool house replete with a fireplace creates drama and warmth with the interplay of fire and water. Different qualities of light create the calming atmosphere.
Photograph by Brian Thomas Jones