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## WINDSWEPT *Creating the ultimate family home that's designed to go with the flow*

BY ALEXANDRIA ABRAMIAN-MOTT PHOTOGRAPHY BY ART GRAY

The first flutterings of an offshore breeze register on the sheer, white Knoll curtains in Nancy Keatinge and Stanley Felderman's west-facing master bedroom. It only takes a few seconds for the wind to travel down the stairs, through the corridor and into the open living/dining area before it reaches another set of sheer drapes hanging in front of the glass wall that dominates the back of the house. "The way the curtains move is like ballet," says Felderman.

It's not only the breeze that travels easily through the house. Designers Keatinge and Felderman built their 4,100-square-foot Pacific Palisades home so that their 4-year-old twin daughters could just as effortlessly glide from bedroom to great room to backyard without escaping from view. The kitchen functions as the home's core, a center from which they can see the girls in almost every room in the house—whether they're drawing on the Jean Nouvel metal dining table or jumping on the Verner Panton Tower, a vertical seating unit in the family room. "We wanted to create a house that was about family, so it really had to function," says Keatinge.

Three years ago, the couple moved to the Pacific Palisades from Santa Monica, drawn to the area because "there are more kids here per square foot than anywhere else in the world," says Felderman. They contemplated living in the site's original structure, a 1950s ranch, and simply updating it with an IKEA kitchen, but ultimately decided that low ceilings and a profusion of light-blocking walls wouldn't do.

So the principals of the architectural firm responsible for designing the MTV building in Santa Monica decided to become their own clients and set about creating what Keatinge calls "a New York loft on ground level" in the El Medio bluffs. The result is a light-filled home that keeps its inhabitants in constant visual contact with one another while maintaining privacy from the outside. Windows are built to "borrow other people's landscapes"—palm trees, hedges and small swaths of park are framed by strategically placed windows throughout, but neighboring houses are generally obscured.

Both wind and whimsy are invited to flow through the house. The couple opted for fewer built-ins and less anchored furniture for a more fluid approach to design. A cluster of iconic chairs in the living room includes Frank Gehry's Easy Edges and Saarinen's Womb chair, but there's no museum-like **CONTINUED...**

Sheer curtains dance with the breeze. A pair of Sinking Man chairs from Cappellini beckon from the backyard. In the living room (left) Saarinen's Womb chair is in the foreground and Maya Lin's chaise is in the background. In the family room (right) Foscarini's Orbit floor lamp and a painting by Elizabeth Nees.





***"EVERYTHING IN THE HOUSE IS ABOUT SHIFTING, NOT BEING ANCHORED,"  
SAYS FELDERMAN. "IT'S VERY INTERACTIVE IN THAT WAY"***




Left: Felderman and Keatinge kept the scale of the home in keeping with its neighbors. Landscape design by R. Michael Schneider of Orange Street Studio. Above: The couple combined iconic chairs that include Frank Gehry's Easy Edges chair and Alessandro Mendini's colorful Proust chair. The leather and maple wood ottoman is Felderman's design, made by Design America. Painting by



*"THE WAY THE CURTAINS MOVE IS LIKE BALLET," SAYS FELDERMAN*



...CONTINUED precision to their placement. Instead, they move about, depending on the party or the mood. "Everything in the house is about shifting, not being anchored," says Felderman, who designed the windows to slide away so that the backyard becomes an extension of the living room. "The house is very interactive that way." And even though Keatinge and Felderman share a passion for design, ultimately, the house is about the family: Standing in front of a Hans Wegner Peacock chair, Felderman proudly points to a series of notches on its wooden arms. "The kids teethed on these chairs," says Felderman. Family living at its finest. 

**Left:** In the master bedroom, Marc Newson's white fiberglass chair is paired with a leather and chrome chaise, also by Newson. The floor lamp was purchased at Fontana Arte. **Above:** In the family room, Sara and Kate Felderman play on the Verner Panton vertical seating unit. A Saarinen Tulip table stands in front of a red rocking chair the couple found at the 20th Century Antique Show in Canada.