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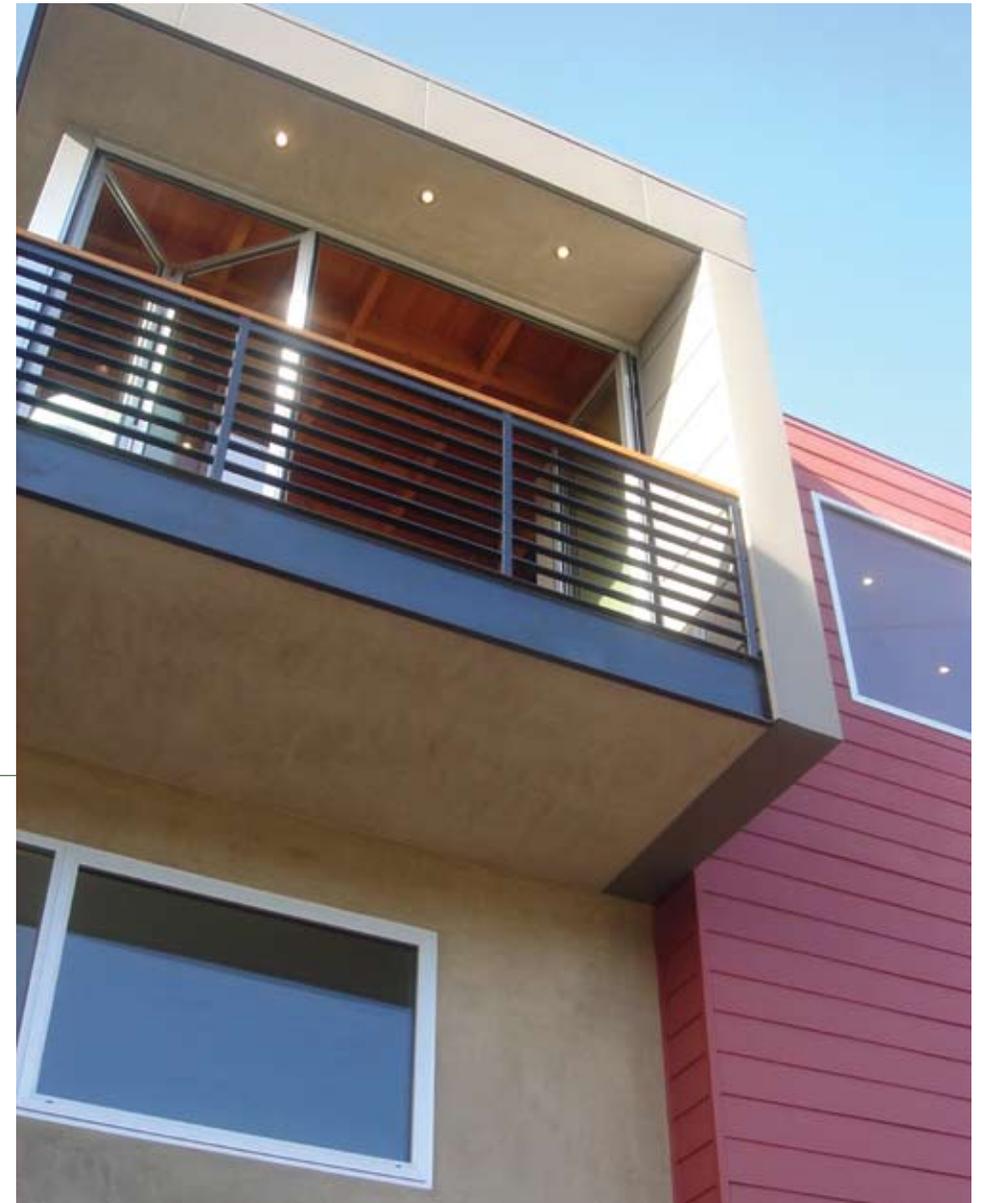


## JAMES R. MEYER

LEAN ARCH, Inc.

In the fast-paced, demanding world of Los Angeles architecture, James R. Meyer confirms himself as a calming breath of fresh air, through both his work and demeanor. From the beginning, his firm Lean Arch, Inc. has strove to move beyond the realm of “paper architecture.” The firm’s priority has always been to see their work through to completion. In his words, architecture is about people, and the realization of the project is the only way in which one may critique the effectiveness of the design. Dealing with executed works enables the firm to assess its impact on both users and critics, and to ultimately become better and more effective designers and builders. It is the architects’ dedication to the work and the rigor in which it is executed that has earned Lean Arch the respect and appreciation from a growing number of clients, consultants and contractors.

Established in Los Angeles in 2001, Lean Arch is one of the few boutique firms that offer clients the option of both architectural design and construction services, providing a turn-key option to the building process. Inspired by the case study houses of the mid-twentieth century, the firm’s master builder hands-



### ABOVE:

Volumes of space slip past one another with precise detailing. The rich palate of materials includes a recycled Douglas Fir ceiling.

*Photograph by William Short*

### FACING PAGE:

The living area of this Manhattan Beach residence opens onto balconies at both ends emphasizing the expansive views and capturing ocean breezes. Interior Furnishings Provided by Danielle Berman and Diana Kunce

*Photograph by William Short*



on approach, superb attention to detail and focus on Green building and sustainable design concepts, make the process even more distinctive. Design objectives are met by keeping in mind the idea that people must work together to solve a problem: more ideas, better solutions.

Founded on the principles of modernism, the firm strongly believes that architecture and the built environment have the ability to improve people's lives—their physical surroundings, their appreciation of nature, their understanding of the arts, and their relationships to one another. James is committed to offering ideas that address the specific needs of a client while remaining conscious of the physical and psychological impact a work will have on both the environment and the community.

Lean Arch has successfully chosen to forge its own style in an established, traditional industry. With upwards of 50 projects completed to date, James has no intention of slowing down. His goal, however, is to continue to provide his clients with the personal touch that has come to define his business. The mixture of Lean Arch's approachable attitude, responsible design theory and solid work ethic has rightfully won the firm a spot in L.A. Architect's "Top Ten Firms to Watch for 2007": a prophetic acknowledgement, no doubt.



**TOP LEFT:**

The south facing elevation is enveloped by a stainless steel mesh screen which reduces sun exposure and frames the window openings and entry.  
*Photograph by Everett Fenton Gidley*

**BOTTOM LEFT:**

There is a strong sense of connection between the terraced living spaces in the Park Oak Drive house, flowing from one level to the next, indoor and outdoor.  
*Photograph by Everett Fenton Gidley*

**FACING PAGE LEFT:**

The straightforward detailing seen in the kitchen is evident throughout the house with an emphasis on natural materials.  
*Photograph by William Short*

**FACING PAGE RIGHT:**

The house takes advantage of its small beach lot with cantilevered floor plates providing open space on the ground while maximizing living space above.  
*Photograph by William Short*

