

Dennis Britton Designer of Inspirational Spaces



FEATURED PROPERTY

This rare property is only two short blocks from Twin Lakes Beach and the Yacht Harbor and is nestled on a quiet, tree-covered street with a view of Schwann Lake. Don't let the lot size fool you; a large and private backyard paradise awaits. This home makes great use of space with lots of natural light and many elegant touches.

By **AARON LIEBEN**

“You can have an experience in a house that feels elegant, that feels like there is grace involved” says home designer Dennis Britton, who has been designing quality homes in Santa Cruz and Carmel since 1970, “by the way you arrange the spaces and by the way you direct people to move through the house.” **335 10th Avenue**, designed by Britton in 1987, is inspirational. Space is separated yet connected with a natural flow to the heart of the home, which is a sacred backyard garden that is spacious, private and sunny nearly year round.

Using a photographic memory, Britton visualizes long before anything is drawn. Once pen goes to paper, concepts begin to form as Britton pays great attention to detail. He embarks upon each design as though he were constructing a masterpiece. With six years of art edu-

cation and a propensity for romanticism, Britton designs for an **experience**.

Britton designs contemporary adaptations of classic cottages and bungalows. **335 10th Avenue** was originally single story. By increasing the slope of the roof and adding dormers and shingled siding, a two story cottage is formed that is full of charm and spatial interest.

“What makes **335 10th Avenue** really exceptional is that there is a wonderful sense of space and, of course, you have this almost perfect Southern exposure.” Warm light enters the home through its myriad of carefully-placed windows. “The way you bring light in is very important,” says Britton. “If your family gathers late in the day, then orient the design of the house so you have late afternoon light. If you shower first thing in the morning, then bring the light into the shower.”

Each of Britton’s designs is custom-tailored to fit the unique characteristics of the property and its surroundings. A remarkable aspect of **335 10th Avenue** is that it is elevated above street level. Britton takes advantage of this by

incorporating a row of windows in the living room that extends the sense of space into the outside domain of mature trees and neighboring Schwann Lake, at the same time avoiding the view of the street.

“The most elusive thing to define is why we react emotionally to certain types of spaces.” Britton muses. “An extreme example is to go into a 16th century cathedral. These types of spaces can raise the human spirit. They are inspirational spaces. Houses can have inspirational spaces.”

We invite you to visit 335 10th Avenue so that you can experience for yourself one of Britton’s designs. www.33510thavenue.com. OPEN SAT (8/22) & SUN (8/23), 1-4pm

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