



Engel House

3087 Overridge Drive

ARCHITECTS:

Albano & Olencki, 1963

Ilene R. Tyler

The Engel House is barely visible from the street, but the ascent up the driveway instigates an “Oh My Word!” sense of an unfolding palace, as three, superimposed, white volumes, somewhat austere, rise up a cliff face. The carport leads the eye to take in the layered forms of courtyard wall, first level, second level and an additional volume farther back. The house is sited so that it’s impossible to comprehend the full scale of the house as it reaches into the surrounding ridge and trees.

Once inside and having climbed the stairway to the main level, the

interior proportions and large windows convey an airy feeling of openness and light. Placed on a north-south axis, three large rectangular areas accommodate sleeping quarters, living room, and a kitchen and dining room. At the north end, a screened porch looks over a saddleback horizon into a grove of trees.

The spatial arrangements remain as designed by the architects except for the removal of one upstairs bookcase to be reused downstairs and several modifications in the kitchen. The detailing is likewise intact: the interiors employ light-toned wood surfaces, large windows, and predominately white walls with black accents to create serene, light-filled spaces.

The Engel House embodies the essence of mid-century modern house design in its accommodation of the house to the site, rectangular volumes, comfortable proportions, elegantly detailed materials, and landscaped setting.¹

¹ Jeffrey Welch, “Engle Residence,” *A2Modern*, accessed June 30, 2023, https://www.a2modern.org/portfolio_page/engel-residence/