

Berkeley contractor capitalizes on 'rare opportunity' in Oakland Hills

By Jordan Guinn



Photo: Thomas Grubba Photography

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There are few opportunities for new construction in the Bay Area. So when contractor [Cara Lee Pine](#) acquired a plot that had sat vacant since the Oakland fire, she instinctively knew the privilege.

“Nowadays there are very few opportunities to build on or even acquire land this close to the heart of the Bay Area,” said Pine, owner of [Visionworks](#) construction in Berkeley. “Even here in the Oakland hills, most of the lots are way up there and are about a 15-minute drive just to get to the freeway.”

The result is 7062 Broadway Terrace, a four-bedroom contemporary with sleek lines, an open floor plan, lots of natural light, a landscaped garden and canyon views.

“I would call it contemporary but not ultra-modern,” Pine said. “There’s concrete for a bit of an industrial feel. The home is definitely not sterile.”

Pine acquired the lot with architectural plans already drawn. She opted to keep the exterior design but rework the floor plan and finishes. As long as the structure fit inside the footprint officials originally approved, Pine was free to design to her liking.

Pine typically works with a client who will live in the home, so building on spec offered significant challenges.

“When you’re working for a client you have someone to run ideas past. Here you just have to trust own intuition,” she said. “So I focused on my experience and really thought about how people would use the home and how light would strike it.”

The two-story home makes use of clerestory windows and skylights to complement the work done by the rest of the home’s windows.

The great room has windows on three sides and opens to a deck overlooking Mount. Tamalpais and a landscaped garden with both new and established plantings.

Cherry cabinetry, stainless steel appliances and a two-tiered granite island are among the inclusions of the chef’s kitchen.

Pine credits her partners, Guido Valle and Claudia Ellinghouse of Re:Design, for their efforts in completing the chic and stylish residence and selecting just the right finishes.

A walk-in Elfa closet system is already installed in the master suite, a space that includes a spa bathroom with rimless glass shower, heated floor and stylish tile work.

Throughout the project Pine and her associates were careful to be creative without going over the top.

“You want it to be memorable so it stands out, but you don’t want it to be memorable because you made it so extreme,” she said.

Go to www.7062Broadway

terrace.com for more details.

Listing agent: [Mary Neuberger](#), [Highland Partners](#), (510)-367-7575, mary@maryneuberger.com

Details

Address: 7062 Broadway Terrace, Oakland.

Price: \$1.495 million.

Features: Newly constructed four-bedroom features an open floor plan, a level lawn and lush landscaping. Cherry cabinetry, two-tiered granite island and stainless steel appliances are among the inclusions of the chef’s kitchen. Mount. Tamalpais, the bay and nearby canyons are visible from the home.

Open home: 2 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday.