



DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE

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**SPA ESPRIT GROUP**  
WY-TO DESIGNS  
FOUR OUTLETS

**PROJECT #4**  
STUDIO WILLS + ARCHITECTS

**WORQ SUBANG**  
SESHAN DESIGN

**TANJONG PAGAR  
WATERFRONT**  
A TRANSDISCIPLINARY TEAM  
EXAMINES ITS POTENTIAL



WORDS PEARLIE TAN

# PORTRAIT OF A CLIENT

After a decade-long hiatus, Gottesman Architecture has meticulously executed a minimalist private home using a tried-and-true methodology.





When architect Asaf Gottesman first began designing private homes more than 25 years ago, he formulated an extensive questionnaire to define the requirements and aesthetic inclination of his clients, beyond the cost, dimensions and number of rooms.

"The underlying purpose was to define the nature of every entity and its inter-relationship with all the other elements of the home," says Gottesman, who describes designing private homes as a form of portraiture. "It was, in essence, a declaration of the clients' world view."

According to Gottesman, the critical tenet

of any architectural project is the merging of the specificity of site, local regulations, and above all, the nature of the client.

The architect actually created two questionnaires; the first dealt with definitions and relationships (including questions such as "Define a home" and "What is the relationship of the living room to the exterior?"), while the second focused on the clients' personal palettes, presented in the form of mood boards containing abstract images.

"These two questionnaires were an indispensable tool as they enabled us to formulate a response that could be a true portrait of our clients," explains Gottesman.

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The minimalist Postscript Residence is a family home, cast in situ in fair-faced concrete.



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/ 2

From the west, only one floor of the two-storey house is visible, due to the sloping topography of the site.

Following an intensive decade as a leader in the Israeli private home domain using this successful methodology, Gottesman stopped accepting commissions for villas in 2001 to focus on larger scale international projects and mixed-use real estate developments.

The nature of his practice shifted, and his team developed a different skill set that required collaboration with local architects rather than execution and detailed drawing.

### AN ARCHITECTURAL POSTSCRIPT

After this lengthy hiatus, Gottesman Architecture has recently unveiled the Postscript Residence, the first private home undertaken by the firm in more than a decade.

The decision to take on this project in collaboration with GSArch was based on Gottesman's connection with this particular client, for whom he had already designed two other homes.

It was also an exercise in sharpening the skills of the younger architects in his practice.

Located in Kfar Shmaryahu, Israel, this meticulously executed modern home was designed for a family with four children and a preference for minimalism. Cast in situ in

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fair-faced concrete, the details are methodical and a clear reflection of the owners.

"The clients are minimalists by nature," explains Gottesman. "They naturally avoid clutter and visual noise."

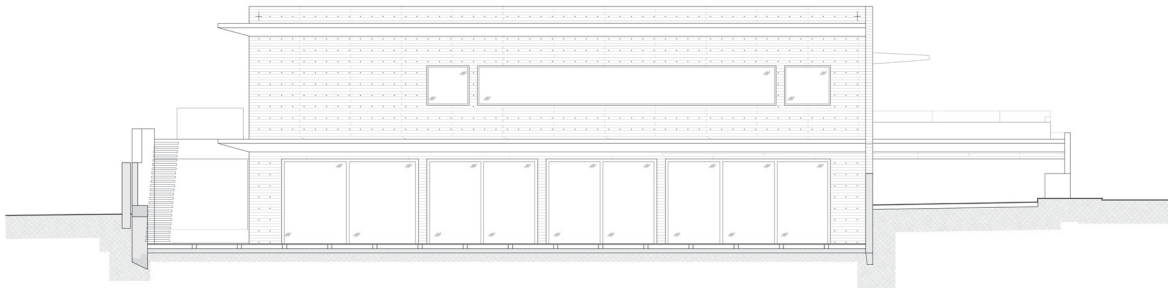
Accordingly, the palette is limited to smooth concrete, pale stone, aluminium profiles and pure white plasterboard, which are used consistently throughout the interiors and exteriors.

The lighting consultant, Rama Mendelson, enriched the space with

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The living and dining areas are located on the ground floor, which open to the extensive patio, pool and garden.

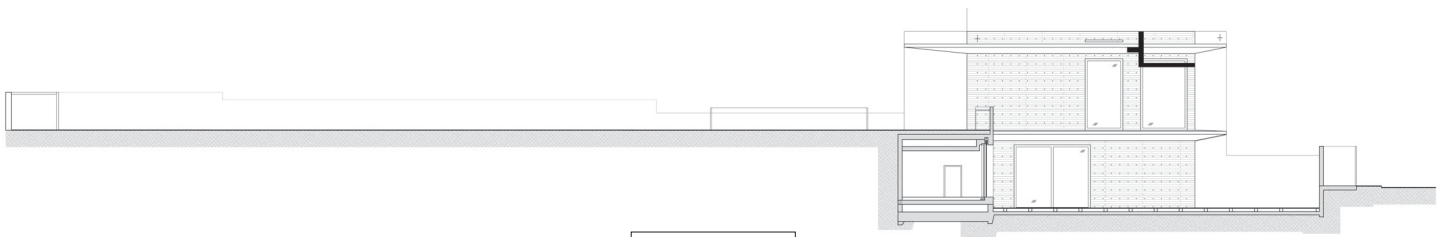
ELEVATIONS



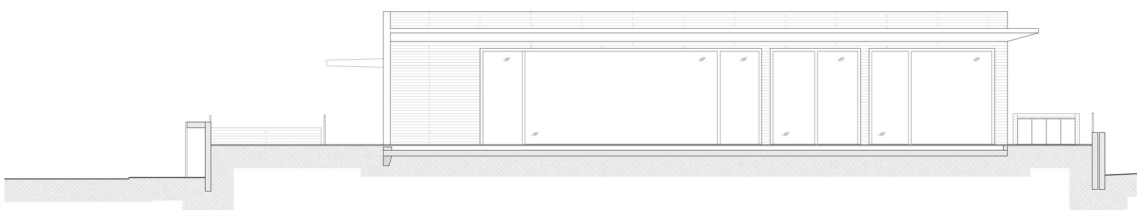
EAST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



**/ ABOVE**  
Sliding doors  
that almost  
disappear when  
open complement  
the streamlined  
aesthetic.

restrained warmth, while keeping with the rigorous minimal concept.

Built on a gentle slope, only the ground floor is visible from the west. From the east, the two floors can be seen, with a sunken garden delimited by a perimeter wall for privacy.

The clients requested to have their bedroom on the ground level adjacent to the living area and kitchen.

These areas are thoughtfully connected as there are no corridors to divide the

space. Pivot and sliding doors that almost disappear when open complement the streamlined aesthetic.

On the lower level, each of the four children has their own bedroom. A sizable family room gives the kids a communal space, separate from their parents, and opens to an enclosed yard, suitable for outdoor games.

Parallel to the home is a 20m-long pool and an ample patio for dining and entertaining. The meticulously landscaped garden occupies about half of the property.

**POSTSCRIPT RESIDENCE**

**LOCATION** / ISRAEL  
**COMPLETION** / 2017  
**SITE AREA** / 2,000M<sup>2</sup>  
**BUILDING AREA** / 500M<sup>2</sup>  
**GROSS FLOOR AREA** / 250M<sup>2</sup>  
**ARCHITECT** / GOTTESMAN ARCHITECTURE & GSARCH  
**LANDSCAPE** / COHEN LANDSCAPE DESIGN  
**LIGHTING** / RAMA MENDELSON



Although Gottesman doesn't consider the home particularly environmentally friendly in terms of materials, sustainable practices include natural ventilation, low-E double glazing and large windows that maximise natural light and reduce energy consumption.

Cantilevered concrete caskets have been introduced along the sides of the house to combat the harsh afternoon sun, while deciduous trees provide natural shade.

"Concrete is not necessarily eco-friendly although in the long run it has its environmental advantages in terms of upkeep," adds Gottesman.

**DEMANDING PERFECTION**

The greatest challenge of this project was to ensure a high quality of execution. Cast in situ, fair-faced concrete requires highly skilled local craftsmen to mount proper shuttering and regulate the pouring of the cement.

"Some of the sub-contractors selected were ill-equipped to deliver the quality required and certain elements needed to be corrected or executed more than once," explains Gottesman.

"The clients, who rather than being discouraged by poor workmanship, continually raised their bar, insisting upon perfection. Their unwillingness to

**/ ABOVE**

There is an inherent consistency in the use of materials from the interior to the exterior.

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/ 4  
The clients are  
minimalists by  
nature and the  
interiors are a clear  
reflection of this.



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compromise paid off. Minimal detailing leaves little room for error and this tends to raise standards."

While the Postscript Residence is consistent with the private homes that Gottesman designed throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, what is arguably different is his personal perspective.

"Age and accumulated experience

introduce a certain ease and gravitas to the process," reflects the architect.

"As strange as it may sound, I am less concerned with what a building may look like. I am far more interested in the process of definition, designing and construction and if those aspects of realisation are handled properly, the results attain a timeless beauty."

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The children's bedrooms and family room are on the lower level, giving the four children a communal space that is separate from their parents.