

RESTLESS LIVING

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FENIMORE ROAD RENOVATION

Mamaroneck, United States

Sometimes there is very little hope to restore a house. When a house has been abandoned and suffered from burst pipes and substantial interior damage, the most logical conclusion would often be to tear the building down and redesign a new place. Despite these conditions being reality for a mid-century home originally designed by Frank Lloyd Wright protégé, Kaneji Domoto, the team at the New York-based studio Resolution: 4 Architecture saw opportunities in the original home after inspecting the heavily dilapidated house. It was especially the quirky details and its unique siting that caught the attention of the design team.

“The architect who designed the pre-existing home, Kaneji Domoto, was both an architect and landscape architect, and there was something special about how the original single-story, mid-century house was woven into the landscape, both curated and natural”, architect Jessica Wilcock says. “Domoto had designed the entry procession via a breezeway through a Japanese-style rock garden, since severely overgrown. The original pool and deck were built into large exposed rock formations, overlooking the woods beyond.” The house on Fenimore Road also featured a glass-wrapped living space, cantilevering over a small stream which would be impossible to replicate due to the zoning and environmental regulations of today. “So while the team had very real





discussions about the fact that the house was in utter disrepair and it might have made more logistical and financial sense to tear it down and start anew, we could see, past the decay and cobwebs, great potential in the home”, Jessica explains. In an attempt to preserve and enhance Domoto’s original mid-century architecture, Resolution: 4 Architecture came up with a design for an energy-efficient, young family home with a sensitive attitude towards the landscape. “We had a great working relationship with our general contractor, CK Home Builders, to address the inevitable surprises and challenges that arose. But also, the owner, Farah Kathwari, is an interior designer and was an integral part of the design team, working closely with us on the interiors. She advocated to preserve certain details, like reusing the original cabinet pulls on the millwork”, Jessica notes and continues: “Augmenting the traditional material palette with unexpected vibrancy, Kathwari introduced colorful wallpaper and geometric tile accents, and completed the home with her handpicked mix of modern, vintage, and mid-century furnishings.”

The Fenimore Road Renovation is an example of the exception that proves the rule. A renovation project may seem doomed before initiation, yet – with the right, determined team – a design of true authenticity can be deemed possible.

Architecture and photography by **Resolution: 4 Architecture**

