

EYE CATCHER

Stealthy structure

Words *Laura Snoad* Photography *Bruce Damonte*

This project by Mork Ulnes Architects (+1 415 282 1437; morkulnes.com) got round San Francisco's strict planning laws by extending upwards and 4.5 metres behind the original building's facade, which adds an extra 60 square metres to the floor plan. Although its barely visible from the street below, the new mass provides spectacular views of the nearby bay →



Homes Architectural gem

this picture and below The new addition features perforated dark cladding that folds up to link the interior with the large balcony



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from a rooftop living room that's also connected to a secluded rear patio by a breathtaking metal walkway. 'We wanted the building to feel anonymous on the exterior, while bright on the inside', explains lead architect Casper Mork-Ulnes. The interior square metreage can also be increased by folding up a perforated screen on to the balcony; when down, this protects the south-facing space from overheating.

The owner (an English software consultant and enthusiastic inventor) pushed Mork Ulnes Architects to use inexpensive, off-the-shelf, raw materials and leave them exposed. These include oriented strand board (usually used for subflooring), a stairway assembled out of engineered-wood beams, plywood cabinet fronts, and, perhaps the most unusual, Ramp Armor, a robust metal normally seen in skate parks. 'We were looking for a dark siding material that would hold up to some abuse, require little maintenance and would contrast nicely with the white interior – Ramp Armor was ideal,' says Mork-Ulnes. Total spend \$375,000 (approx £241,250). **GD**