



An Irish Architect in Southern California

Description

Paul McClean is an Irish architect practicing in Southern California.

He grew up in Dublin, sure from the age of four or five that he wanted to be an architect.

“Even at 10 or 11 I was walking around Dublin looking for modern buildings,” he says. “There was a local public library back then, but it wasn’t big and I got through the whole thing pretty quick.”

He came across Frank Lloyd Wright’s [Fallingwater](#) a year before, and tried to draw it. Then he discovered Le Corbusier and Mies – and went to college and got into California residential design. “It was always about homes,” he says. “I discovered Schindler and the Case Study Homes and Southern California, and that’s what drew me here.”

Now he’s designing nine or 10 modern homes a year. He’s trying to find ways to connect people to the environment around them, thinking of architecture as temporary shelter – and as a way to break down barriers between indoors and outdoors.

His attraction to residential work is about California’s temperate climate – a place where people can be outdoors most of the year. “It’s also about light and manipulation of light,” he says. “And water, to create a different environment, to refresh the space, to look at and reflect the sky, and bounce light off of it.”

He uses steel and glass to connect to the environment, then warmer natural materials like stone and wood to counter them. “A lot of it comes from the client,” he says.

He finds inspiration how his clients live – and how their lives work. “I get them to think about that, and to push beyond that and think about how they interact with each other and how they entertain,” he says. “The architecture kind of flows out of that.”

His goal, he says, is to create the cleanest, simplest most restful environment possible – space that creates respite from distractions, no matter the site. “If you don’t have a view of the ocean, you can still have a view of sky that your eye can wander to,” he says.

His new book from Rizzoli just came is sold out already. Anyone interested in a copy from the second printing can go [here](#).

[slideshow id=2115]

Category

1. General
2. People
3. Places
4. Products

Tags

1. architect
2. California
3. Case Study Homes
4. Client
5. Dublin
6. Environment
7. featured
8. Frank Lloyd Wright
9. Irish Architect
10. Le Corbusier
11. Light
12. Manipulation of Light
13. Mies
14. Mies van der Rohe
15. Modern Architecture
16. Modern buildings
17. Modern homes
18. natural materials
19. Ocean
20. Paul McClean
21. Public Library
22. Residential Architecture
23. Rizzoli
24. Site
25. sky
26. Southern California
27. Steel and glass
28. Stone
29. Temperate climate
30. wood

default watermark

Date Created

November 22, 2019

Author

mike

default watermark