

# MICHAEL MCKAY

## MCKAY ARCHITECTURE

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### CAREER PROFILE

Versatile, well-grounded architect with rich experience in design and construction, producing top quality designs, construction documents, and services resulting in over 200 built projects and hundreds of satisfied clients. For over 27 years served as principal of San Francisco Bay Area-based McKay Architecture, a small architectural firm emphasizing quality designs, a track record of on-time, on-budget project delivery, and excellent relationships with all members of the team. Strong experience in earthquake strengthening projects following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and subsequent California building code changes. Skilled at green and energy efficient design. Experience with US and California accessibility codes. Auto-CAD user since 2000. Moved practice to New Zealand in 2012.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**McKay Architecture, Berkeley, CA**  
**Owner and Principal Architect**

**1995–2012**

- **Project Development:** Cultivated clients from initial contact to securing the project and beyond. In phone, e-mail, and face-to-face meetings with clients, presented body of work, explained services and capabilities, explored the project potential, and answered questions. Conducted client program interviews, researched project requirements, wrote briefs, and developed projects to maintain a steady flow of work to the office.
- **Design:** Principal architect responsible for interface with clients and design of projects. Designed over 200 built projects ranging from small remodel/extensions of existing buildings to large new private residences and multi-unit developments to larger mixed use office/retail developments. Versatile in a wide range of architectural styles from a variety of heritage styles (Victorian, Craftsman Spanish Revival, etc.), 1950s and 60s styles, to more contemporary and original architectural expression. Conduct design work primarily in pencil on velum using Auto-CAD and Sketch-up as base drawings for underlay. Worked with consulting renderers for higher profile projects.
- **Resource Consent:** Liaised with local and regional authorities throughout the project often starting with pre-contract research and extending through to project completion. Maintained good relations with city planners and other government officials in multiple jurisdictions in order to ensure a smooth approval process for all projects. Managed and engaged in the production of resource consent submittal documents using Auto-CAD.
- **Project Delivery:** Managed and engaged in the process of project delivery from design development to resource submittals & consents, to the production of all construction documents. This included the construction documents – Auto-CAD drawings and specifications. Supervised the work of all project consultants from surveyors, geologists, and geotechnical engineers to civil and structural engineers, mechanical and electrical engineers, landscape architects, interior designers, and lighting designers. Maintained consistency between the work of all professionals, editing their work in progress and making design changes as needed.
- **Construction Phase Services:** Fielded phone and e-mail questions from builders and trades. Managed RFIs, change orders, and in-process design changes. Conducted weekly construction site meetings with builders and periodic site meetings with clients, consultants, and trades. Met with building inspectors and other government officials to ensure project quality and smooth relations with builders. Met with neighbors when needed to discuss issues before they became problems.

- **Office Management:** Supervised and motivated a staff of two to four drafters and architects for most of the 27 years of business. Managed hiring and dismissals. Dealt with personnel issues without major crisis, and maintained a high level of morale in the office.
- **Standards & Technology:** Developed and maintained design and document standards and supervised the creation and continued development of Auto-CAD standards. Primarily worked in Auto-CAD for the last 12 years with some use of Sketch-up in modeling. Also did physical model construction when needed.

**Spaulding/McKay Architecture, Berkeley, CA**  
**Co-owner and Principal Architect**

**1990–1995**

Principal Architect of firm. Signature to all projects requiring a license. Cultivated clients and developed projects. Prepared designs and construction documents in collaboration with Chris Spaulding. Hired and supervised part-time drafters. Divided office after Chris obtained his license. Continued to work in same shared office with Chris until 2012.

**Jarvis Architecture, Oakland, CA**  
**Drafter**

**1984–1987**

Apprentice to Glen Jarvis Architect in Oakland. Performed a full range of apprentice level tasks starting with measuring and documenting existing structures, preparing construction documents, and eventually assisting with the preparation of design drawings. Jarvis Architects specializes in high-end residential projects with an emphasis on work in the Bay-Regional traditional styles including Arts & Crafts, Spanish Revival, English Cottage, Victorian, and Art Deco including extensions to and preservation of listed historic properties.

**David Roberts, General Contractor, Oakland, CA**  
**Apprentice Carpenter/Laborer/Draftsman**

**1983–1984**

Apprentice carpenter laborer under supervision of general contractor. Worked in many areas of construction including demolition, concrete, framing, insulation, drywall, and painting. Prepared design and construction documents under supervision of employer. Assisted as a laborer for electricians, plumbers, and mechanical sub-contractors. Projects were all residential remodel/additions in Berkeley and San Francisco.

**PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

Licensed Architect in the State of California from 1990. License # C21,288. Next license renewal Sept. 2013. Now starting the process of study and supervised work with the goal of obtaining New Zealand architecture registration by 2014 while maintaining California credentials indefinitely.

**EDUCATION**

**1989 M.A. Architecture, University of California, Berkeley**

Graduate courses in design, design theory, history of architecture, passive solar principals, CAD systems, practice management, project management, and structural design.

**1983 B.A. Architecture, University of California, Berkeley**

Undergraduate courses in drafting and design, drawing, sculpture, architectural history, principles of architectural design, and cultural geography.

Regular continuing education to maintain architecture license including yearly courses in energy efficient design and ADA accessibility issues.

## **AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS**

- 2011 *Trends* magazine article: First completed project in New Zealand, a new residence on a ‘bush-block’ near Martinborough was featured as the cover story in the Trends Outdoor Living and Holiday Home issue.
- -2010 *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine article: Cover story of dramatic update of a 1950s Ranch into a California Craftsman style residence.
- -2009 *Pool and Spa Living* article: Article about our work designing pool houses features several of our better pool houses and an interview about my collaborative working style with builders and consultants.
- -2009 *Living with Wine* book: Our dramatic “room within a room” wine cellar designed for an Atherton couple was featured in this book.
- 2008 Tour of Lafayette’s Kitchens: Our California Ranch transformed into a Pasadena - inspired Craftsman was featured in this tour of Lafayette’s kitchens.
- 2008 Hillsborough-San Mateo Park 28th Kitchen Tour: Our remake of this historic San Mateo park home was featured on this kitchen tour. Working with noted interior designer Kim Palmer, we transformed this Arts and Crafts-era Colonial in keeping
- -2006 Piedmont Design Award: We won the City of Piedmont “Best Low Impact Expansion” Award in 2005 for a sensitive remodel and addition to this historic 1920s Arts & Crafts-style home.
- -2005 *Firescaping* book: Author Douglas Kent interviewed me about designing for fire-prone areas drawing upon my experience in designing 5 new houses after the 1991 Oakland Hills firestorm.
- -2004 *Backyard Idea Book*: Our “Matching Pool-house” project in the Los Gatos hills was included in the Backyard Idea Book, part of the Taunton Press Idea Book series.
- 1997 San Jose Symphony Showcase Home: We designed this sprawling, custom-built Mediterranean-style mansion to serve as the dramatic setting for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual San Jose Symphony Auxiliary Showcase Home. Each of the thirty rooms was furnished and decorated by a different interior design professional.
- 1997 College Preparatory School of Oakland Home Tour: This tour included the “Artistic Inspiration” home that we designed to replace the client’s home after the 1991 Oakland Hills firestorm.

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (Berkeley)  
National Trust for Historic Preservation (USA)  
Hillside Club (Berkeley)  
BRANZ (New Zealand)

## **HOBBIES & INTERESTS**

Active in travel, hiking, backpacking, scuba diving, gardening, and bush restoration. Also enjoy cooking, the fine arts, history, live music, live theatre, modern dance, good food and wine.