

Shift Design Studio offers full architectural services, from pre-design through construction administration and post-occupancy. Projects include new construction, renovations and interiors for offices, art galleries, homes and apartments as well as mixed-use buildings, restaurants, industrial uses, landscapes and streetscapes. Art services include color consulting, curating and custom visual and sculptural pieces. Clients are individuals, businesses, developers, city agencies, schools and community groups. Shift Design Studio is a woman-owned, San Francisco certified green business and registered Local Business Enterprise.

Jane Martin AIA/ASLA/LEED AP is principal of Shift Design Studio, specializing in building and landscape design. She is a licensed architect and artist whose work embraces all scales from urban planning and buildings to sculpture and color consulting. The SFMOMA has named her one of the Bay Area's leading experimental designers. Ms. Martin is founding director of Plant*SF, a San Francisco non-profit focused on storm water diversion through public space community planting projects. An educator since 1995, Ms. Martin has held teaching and administration positions in architecture, art and design at the California College of the Arts and the University of California, Berkeley. She is a San Francisco Commissioner of the Environment and participates in a number of civic organizations. Ms. Martin earned a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and a Master of Architecture from Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.



2717 Harrison Street, San Francisco

A foundation-to-roof renovation of this 1860s Italianate duplex has saved it from literally caving in. Each level is an independent 800 square foot, 2 bedroom 'four-square' apartment. The front facade is enhanced with replacement period windows and custom entry doors made in the neighborhood. The bathroom addition at the back of the property dating from the 1930s has been re-sheathed with modern detailing and fenestration. The ground floor houses Shift Design Studio's creative workspace and sustainable materials proving grounds while the upstairs is Jane Martin's home. The property achieves net zero energy through conservation and tandem photovoltaic arrays. The front garden features native and climate-adapted species while the back garden is developed as an edible oasis including raised vegetable beds, fruiting vines and trees and timber bamboo.

The sidewalk garden at this location was Plant*SF's initial Harrison Street Greenway de-paving project, installed in 2007. Since that time several phases of the project have expanded into the surrounding neighborhood.

The following are some of this building's sustainability features:

Building Re-use

While the 145-year-old brick and rubble foundation had given way, the structure was salvageable in its original configuration. A new concrete foundation and seismic sheathing were added and all redwood and fir framing was retained.

Standing Seam Metal Cool-Roof

The building's failed asphalt shingle roof was replaced with a locally manufactured standing seam metal roof that is light in color and has a UV-block coating. While longer-lived and recyclable, this material is also more appropriate for rainwater harvest than highly toxic alternatives.

Locally Made Custom Doors and Windows

Existing vinyl and aluminum windows and steel doors are replaced by locally made, period-appropriate double-hung wood windows of traditional manufacturing techniques. Fabrication is by Arellano's Windows and Doors who offer FSC certified products and energy efficiency options.

Earth Plaster

The process of jacking the building back into plumb sacrificed the original plaster but provided an opportunity to put updated electricity and plumbing inside the walls. To maintain a plaster appearance and eliminate paint, earth plaster was applied over drywall. Installed by local artisan Orit Yanai.

Minimal Paint, Coatings and Plastics

To reduce toxins, alternative materials such as cork wainscot, steel outlet covers and refinished original Douglas Fir subfloors were used. Clear powder-coated tin tiles made in USA liven the ceilings and brighten the interior. As a result, interior paint (No-VOC) was used only on FSC wood trim.

Insulation and Heat

Recycled denim insulation was used. Informed by an energy audit, wasteful gaps were sealed. Energy efficient louver windows by Breezway replace leaky windows at the back façade. In-floor radiant heat is reflected by tin ceiling.

Furniture and Fixture Re-use

Salvaged furniture and fixtures include claw-foot bathtubs, US Army field nurse station desks, Danish modern and contemporary used pieces. Aluminum, steel and glass light fixtures are recyclable.

High Efficiency Appliances

A combination boiler services the in-floor hydronic heat and domestic hot water. Low-flow plumbing fixtures, Malber washer with condensation dryer and dual-flush toilets conserve water. Minimal household appliances, clothes line, UC refrigerator and eliminating the freezer further reduce consumption. Solar-powered LEDs illuminate the exterior house numbers.

Interior Doors

Interior doors are FSC Douglas Fir clear stained with Rubio Monocoat (No-VOC). Glass panels were selected to eliminate toxic adhesives often found in center panels of low-cost doors. Graphic patterns and cork are added to one side for visual interest, takable surface and privacy.

Balcony Stair

Intense heat of the sunny, wind-protected back yard quickly deteriorated the former wood stair. A custom new galvanized steel stair has greater longevity and a light proportion. The required mid-landing was relocated near the top and expanded to a sitting balcony to benefit the upstairs apartment while creating a nook for the potting station below.

Photovoltaics

A total of 3kW DC power is produced by fourteen 215 watt high efficiency SunPower panels which clip to standing seams. Annual average production of 4,228 kWh runs the building at net zero. Installed by Luminalt.