

EYE *on* DESIGN 2017 MATERIALS



Textured materials, such as reclaimed-teak flooring, a fir ceiling and a fireplace made with stone unearthed from the property, temper the clean lines of a Carmel home designed by architect Mary Ann Gabriele Schicketanz.

Builders Todd Hunt and Forrest Hunt oversaw the intricate installation of the living area's south wall of 14-foot-tall windows, made from three thick pieces of glass fused at the seams with glass fins for stability.



SCHICKETANZ/INTERIORS PHOTO: JOE FLETCHER. MCCUTCHEON HEADSHOT: NANCY ROTHSTEIN PHOTOGRAPHY. SCHICKETANZ HEADSHOT: COURTESY STUDIO SCHICKETANZ, INC.



**CLOCKWISE
FROM TOP LEFT:**
Michael McCutcheon,
Mary Ann Gabriele Schicketanz,
Tim McDonald

MATERIAL WORLD

Few things prove as important to establishing the feel of a space than choosing the right materials. The organic warmth of a rammed-earth wall provides instant character, while the appearance of marble or concrete can transform a space with a modern or industrial lean. In addition to aesthetics, as professionals discuss here, the right materials can open up design possibilities, offer sustainable solutions and provide a tactile, hands-on connection with our built environment.

Michael McCutcheon: When it comes to new technology, we have installed everything from “smart house” controls—Nest, Sonos, Philips Hue and Alexa Voice Service—to “smart glass,” which changes from clear to translucent at the flip of a switch. On the materials side, one of our new favorites is liquid-applied membranes, which are state-of-the-art in waterproofing. Products such as Prosoco Cat 5 Rain Screen not only keep the water out, but they also seal the building so well that it’s easy to meet the most rigorous standards for air infiltration, which is a big deal to green builders.

Mary Ann Gabriele Schicketanz: A contemporary house, that’s basically a box, can be either really bad or really good, and it all hinges on proportions and material selection. There are so many advantages to

a modern house—the way it flows, the bigger openings—and the reason people often don’t like modern houses is that they can feel cold. So we try to balance a contemporary approach of composing a house with a rich materials palette. We design projects that have a very strong relationship to their environment, so we try to use materials that are from the site. In the case of this house (shown), it was literal, in that the stone we used was actually quarried from the property.

Tim McDonald: I think all materials should be suitable to the area. We have a temperate climate, which allows us to use more innovative materials, but my love is for permanence. If every structure I build would last 500 years I would be happy. That would require a lot of concrete, stone and metals such as copper, zinc and stainless steel.