DAY-NIGHT HOUSE
CITY OF ANGELS HOUSE

JOHN HEJDUK

DANIELLE GRATIOT
ERIKA STUBSTAD

Designer: John Hejduk

Location:
Los Angeles, CA

Project Information:
Type: House
Designed in 1975-6

Design Concepts:
Hejduk’s ‘beach cottage’ is designed as a general breakdown of human activity throughout any day of the year. “Color indicates time,” and “the color wheel becomes the cycle of a day” according to Hejduk. He assigns a significant color to each area to describe the appropriate activity.

TIME OCCUPANCY

BEDROOM 33%
LIVING ROOM 21%
KITCHEN 10%
STORAGE 0.6%
UTILITY ROOM 0.4%
BATHROOM 6%

Utility Room

Utility Room

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These colors also indicate the path of the sun, rising at the front entrance, kitchen and living room side of the house. The color on the west façade becomes a cool blue to designate the ocean view. The ocean is also depicted in the roof that has been described as resembling a wave. The undertow of the wave compresses the night zone or bedroom and expands into the day area under the wave’s crest. The only element that separates the night from the day zone is the fireplace. Hejduk creates an in-between in order to provide definition and release from the two major halves. This break “creates a disproportion between person and things, desire and possessions” which is considered a central issue for this house. He emphasizes the input and output lines of the house with the accentuation of the three poles that correspond to the color of the specific zone. Two of the poles being for waste and the center pole being the exhaust for the fireplace.
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Ventilation:
The main focus of the house was the path the sun takes around the building, not just horizontally but vertically as well. Each gate façade contains a different type of shading device to deal with the different exposures from the sun. Hejduk describes the east gate composing of a glass element that would be shaded by an awning or blind unit. The opposite façade would be operable to allow cool air from the ocean to circulate throughout the bedroom. Shutters or shades were envisioned to help block out afternoon sun.
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STRUCTURE:
The gate facades act as support to a reinforced concrete beam structure which suspends the convex-reinforced concrete roof shell.
“In the place John Hejduk inhabits, the earth is at the center of the universe and the world is flat. Man and his perceptions are measure and maker of all things.”
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