

Signature ripple house by US designer celebrates the house as art



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Mario Romano's signature architecture is much in evidence in his latest project - a 529 square-metre house in Venice, California.

Designer-builder Mario Romano has already turned heads around the world with his Wave house, and his latest project takes the sculptural form even further.

Romano has just listed his newest home, Preston House, in Venice, California with Halton Pardee + Partners, for US\$5,445,000 (NZ\$7.7 million). And there's no doubt the 529 square-metre, five-bedroom home is something special.

For starters, there's the huge, reflective aluminium roof that curves down to create a strong sculptural form. It reads as a series of complex overlapping ripples or "paintbrush" strokes. Zillow Porchlight says Romano refers to the process as "master builder expression".



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The brushed aluminum roof that appears to ripple in the light was designed to reference paintbrush strokes.

The roof has a rainscreen, which provides a one-inch gap that allows hot air to rise and escape.



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Mid-century furniture enlivens the living room.

The brushed aluminium is teamed with Simowood at the front of the house. This is a recycled rice husk from Germany that's particularly resistant to mould, mildew and termites. But the special treatment doesn't end there. This house also features Corian, a material used for high-end kitchen benchtops. On this house the walls are Corian, which is a solid-colored, UV-rated material that doesn't require paint or sanding.

Romano took the high-tech approach to the inside as well. The kitchen benchtops incorporate nanotechnology, so minor scratches can be buffed out with a little applied heat.



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The sculptural steel and timber stairs are a feature of the open-plan living area.

The ripple-like texture of the exterior is also echoed on the interior. There are curving lines that create the sense of wavelets that appear to move as you move through the house. The stairs also appear to move as the timber curves seamlessly from one tread to the next.

The house comes with a covered outdoor cinema room with a fireplace, and there is a heated pool and spa.



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Even the kitchen has a bold, sculptural quality.



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The walls follow the line of the roof to create intimate living spaces.



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Even the bathroom tiles appear to be rippling as you walk into the bathroom.



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This setting could be straight out of Palm Springs.



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A covered outdoor cinema is another drawcard for potential buyers.



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A large outdoor entertaining area is provided at the rear of the house.



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By night the house glows like a foreign object in the landscape.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/home-property/91056644/signature-ripple-house-by-us-designer-celebrates-the-house-as-art>