

RESTLESSLIVING

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FORT 137 RESIDENCE

Las Vegas is usually synonymous with gambling and entertainment. However, Las Vegas Valley also presents an incredible desert landscape which offers a silence in complete contrast to the fast-paced Las Vegas stereotype where immersive environmental experiences can be cultivated and embraced for an active lifestyle. Blended into these rugged natural surroundings, Fort 137 Residence is a contemporary home enabling such memories.

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“Our clients selected a site that was intentionally remote, located near the top of a hillside at the furthest edge of the city, bordering federally preserved land. They sought a residence where they felt embedded in the landscape with a design that was unobtrusive and sustainable”, architect Daniel Joseph Chenin says. To realize this vision, Daniel went back in history to find inspiration. “I immediately gravitated towards the ‘Old Mormon Fort’, one of the oldest

Las Vegas, Nevada, United States

remaining structures from Las Vegas’ early settlement days, as a source of inspiration. The historic fort dates to the 1800s and exemplifies the vernacular architecture of the period, which relied on site sourced materials and passive strategies to mitigate the harsh desert sun, wind, and heat”, Daniel tells. Although Old Mormon Fort and Fort 137 share little resemblance, Fort 137 establishes itself as a stronghold in the middle of Nevada’s desert.

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“Sightlines from the home were strategically placed to focus on the landscape allowing the family to connect with each other and their natural surroundings. Clad in regionally available stone and weathering steel, the structure is terraced into the hillside and blends into the desert context”, Daniel adds. Inside, the interior design follows a similar pattern. “The retrained palette, that strikes a balance between raw and refined, is carried into the interior of the residence with travertine slab flooring, unlacquered bronze hardware, reconstituted oak veneer, hot rolled steel, and onyx slabs that reflect the stratification of sediment visible in the walls of the nearby Red Rock Canyon”, Daniel notes. In addition to the sleek and

timeless aesthetic, sustainability deemed important for the execution of Fort 137. “I have always been a proponent of sustainable design. With a scarcity of water and an overabundance of sunlight, the desert Southwest climate can be challenging, so it is essential to mitigate the negative impacts of the elements while harnessing their beneficial characteristics”, Daniel highlights. Therefore, Daniel ensured to make Fort 137 responsive to its hot, arid environment. “Our process started with a site study to inform building massing and orientation. Fort 137 was designed to work with the climate using both passive and active strategies”, Daniel continues and elaborates: “One-foot-thick wall assemblies are comprised of

stone over continuous ridged insulation, with an air gap that eliminates thermal bridging, to create an airtight building envelope. Fenestrations are deep-set, shaded, and strategically placed to maximize daylighting and views while minimizing heat gain.” At the same time, prevailing winds cross the northern and southern glass walls to provide cross-ventilation and eye a layered perception. “Much like cinematic layering, the design equally considers the foreground, middle ground, and background to deliver an immersive architectural experience”, Daniel ends.

Architecture by **Daniel Joseph Chenin**

Photography by **Stetson Ybarra**

