

805

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MICHAEL AND ROSA VAN PARYS

The owners of Van Parys Architecture + Design bring energy efficient, environmentally conscious ideals to life.

BY NANCY RANSOHOFF

PHOTOGRAPH BY GARY MOSS



VAN PARYS ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN (vparc.com) represents two marriages: one of the interrelated fields of architecture and interior design and one of the two principal partners, husband and wife team Michael and Rosa Van Parys. Their boutique firm in Westlake Village handles new construction and major renovation projects as well as interiors, furniture design, layouts, hardscapes, and landscapes.

Co-founder and principal designer Rosa Van Parys logged more than a few miles pursuing her education. She grew up in Ecuador, where she received a professional degree in architecture at the School of Architecture at Catholic University, then earned a diploma of plastic arts at Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier, France. She headed to the University of Southern California (USC) for her master's degree in building science, then went on to earn a second master's degree in design from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University. "Very few interior designers have an architecture background. It helps to see the projects in a different way," she says.

Principal architect and co-founder Michael Van Parys, AIA, agrees, noting, "Rosa's understanding of architecture and structure gives her a more holistic approach."

The couple met at USC, where Michael received his architecture degree. He also has an international background; he attended high school in Spain after growing up in Westlake Village.

Committed to sustainability and energy efficiency, Michael and Rosa are both Accredited Professionals in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED AP). "It is definitely a passion," says Michael, who has taught LEED classes at UCLA Extension and worked on LEED Platinum-certified projects. "It's always in our minds."

Among their current projects are a 10,000-square-foot full-gut remodel of a Georgian-style estate, including architecture, interiors, furniture, and décor, in Lake Sherwood; new construction of a contemporary lakefront residence also in Lake Sherwood; and large-scale new construction projects in Los Angeles and La Quinta.

Michael takes particular pride in remodeling houses in his hometown, where he and Rosa are raising their 7- and 9-year-old children. "I feel invested in the neighborhood and the community," he says. "It's good to see houses built in the 1950s and 1960s get updated and transformed into brand-new gems. It revives the neighborhood, spices things up, and raises property values. As a community, we're all working to make it a better place to live." ♦