The Experimental Ranch House, was originally designed by Cliff May (20th Century California Architect credited with creating the California ranch-style home in 1931) as his personal residence. It is situated in the Sullivan Canyon area of Los Angeles. The historic house was completed in 1952 and is thought to be a unique example of the evolution of Ranch House design.

All photographs by Joe Fletcher

The 2360 square foot structure centers on a spacious great room that contains the living area as well as the kitchen. The room has a large skylight that provides a view of the tree canopies above and floor to ceiling windows at the North end. The resulting effect is an indoor space that is fully integrated within the outdoor environment.

The goal of the project was to re-establish an open floor plan within the living space while preserving the integrity of May's original beams and exposed rafters, a focal point of the house. In order to retain the integrity of May's design but meet current fire code, the existing roof was replaced with a clay tile roof modeled after the wood shake that May originally used. The interior

space was finished with custom walnut cabinetry and terrazzo floors throughout. Solid walnut counter tops, a stainless steel tile back splash, and custom cabinetry give the kitchen a sleek feel and integrate it within the living area.

In addition to the main living space, the home also contains a master suite as well as a guest room and office. The master bed room contains a custom bed that merges with the walnut paneling in the room giving the space a unified feel. Custom case work on the opposite wall provides ample room for storage.

The landscaping for the project was also provided and includes an outdoor dining area as well as a private sitting area that is concealed within the hillside.