

westside story

LONG-TERM STAYS GO GLAM, ECO-SMART HOMES, AND A CELEBRITY MALIBU RETREAT. BY KATHY A. McDONALD

For those who want to experience the Beverly Hills lifestyle without the buy-in costs (often hovering above \$2,000 per square foot), a new project welcomes part-time residents via a splashy, thoroughly accessorized and remodeled apartment building. On North Crescent Drive, AKA Beverly Hills is an upscale cross between a boutique hotel and a furnished apartment. AKA provides hotel-style services—a 24-hour concierge service, for instance—throughout stays, which must be booked for a minimum of 30 days.

Best known for its New York properties, AKA has a total of eight extended-stay buildings, with a London outpost opening in October. Like fine homes, apartments feature plush bedding, a washer/dryer, a housekeeper on call, and all have fully wired electronics, ready to go at move-in. (No calls to the cable guy.) All of these conveniences add up: Rates average \$400 a day, based on a 30-day stay.

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN and eco living are prized on LA's Westside. Two recently completed homes showcase how far architects and designers can go with sustainable ideas and low or net-zero energy use. OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network's Lisa Ling worked with designer Marco DiMaccio of Punchouse eco-design group for three years when planning her eco-smart, Santa Monica home. She wanted a New York-loft feel for the downstairs, with the space flowing from entry to dining room to kitchen and living room.



Ling's two-story eco-smart house features a solar-paneled rooftop deck.

Lisa Ling wanted the free-flowing feel of a New York loft for her Santa Monica home's downstairs.



The bedroom of Vision House Los Angeles overlooks a living roof planted with succulents.



AKA Beverly Hills offers the best hotel amenities as part of its glamorous apartment residences.

A sunken, Smart Grass synthetic turf-lined conversation pit at the front entrance is one of the home's more interesting features. Solar panels on the roof shade an outdoor rooftop deck, and a white wall above the pool serves as an outdoor movie screen. Bathrooms are surfaced in Silestone natural quartz or sparkly Eco by Cosentino, a durable, stonelike surface made from recycled glass, mirrors, and porcelain. Wannabe buyers, take note: Ling says she plans to never sell her custom-built residence.

IN THE PACIFIC PALISADES,

Structure Home and GreenBuilder Media have put a 4,300-square-foot sustainable demonstration house on the market for \$3.65 million. The super-insulated Vision House Los Angeles—from KAA Design group and P2 Design, with interiors and architectural finishes by designer Jill Wolff—proves that high style and energy smarts can coexist.

The Palisades property boasts a whole-house air and water filtration system, 39 rooftop photovoltaic solar panels, and a bedroom that overlooks a succulent-planted living roof. Both eco-forward homes come with a must-have accessory: the high-tech Kohler Numi Comfort Height commode, controlled by a digital touch screen.

TO MOST PEOPLE,

Malibu's indulgent beachside homes epitomize Southern California's indoor/outdoor lifestyle. Inside the gated Malibu Colony (perhaps they should just rename it "Movie Colony" for its showbiz residents), actor Jim Carrey has listed his five-bedroom, five-and-a-half-bath beachfront pad. This movie star's dream come true—cue the rooftop hot tub and glass screens—is on the market for \$13.95 million. **LAC**

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF AKA (AKAY, MICHAEL KOVAC/FILMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES (LING); COURTESY OF JACK LANE (PUNCHOUSE); COURTESY OF LATHAM ARCHITECTURAL.COM (VISION HOUSE).