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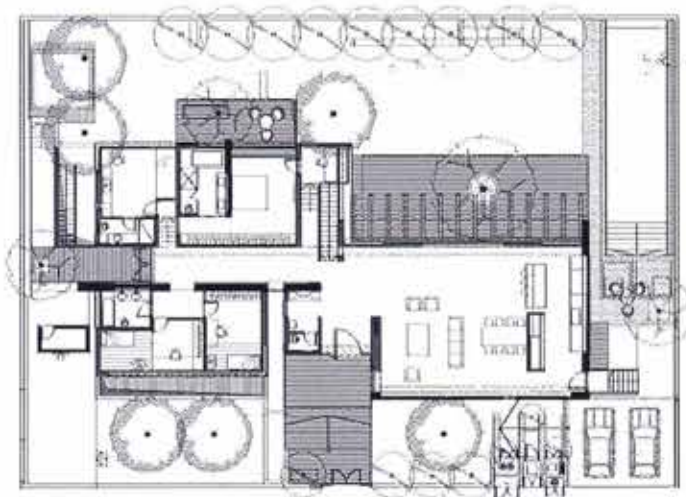


## afeka house

The aesthetic of light and Mediterranean sunshine and the minimalist discipline of line and plane. Those were Irit Axelrod's guiding principles when designing Afeka House in the vicinity of Tel Aviv.

**Above: the living area of the Afeka villa designed by Axelrod Design of Tel Aviv and Los Angeles. The interior is a play of lines and light in which the dark furniture adds a pleasing contrast.**

**Below right: Irit Axelrod and, next photo, the entrance to the house: a symphony of concrete, wood and trees.**



Above: the plan of the ground floor.  
Next: one of the three children's bedrooms.

Below that: the living area looking through to the kitchen. Light clearly plays an important part, and to full effect here, as it shines through the blinds. Right: the swimming pool at night, framed securely by the contours of the house.

#### Overleaf

Minimalism prevails in the design of corridors, which serve a multiple purpose with their shelving.

The staircase and the master bedroom also epitomise minimalism, even in the detailing. Large numerals indicate the various storeys.

Axelrod Design, Irit Axelrod's architecture and design studio with offices in Tel Aviv and Los Angeles, was commissioned to design a modern family home combining the warmth of the Mediterranean with the taut lines and planes of minimalism.

In her design, Axelrod opted to use concrete as the basic material which she dashingly moulded into shape: the horizontal planes define the spaces and the vertical planes accentuate the axes of the house. The linear severity is reinforced by the crisp lines formed by a neat progression of chairs, tables and sofas. She has chosen furnishings from the collections of B&B Italia, Cassina, Moooi and MDF; for the kitchen Boffi, and lighting by Ingo Maurer.

It might seem like a recipe for coldness, but Irit Axelrod has taken rigorous steps to avoid that. She has incorporated large expanses of windows in her design, adding sunblinds that conjure up long shadows on the grey and white floors and walls. The light makes for a gentle ambience evocative of the Mediterranean. In addition, she has subtly drawn the garden and the pool into the interior, by designing a large glass façade reaching from the floor almost to the ceiling and stretching almost nine metres along one of the long sides of the house. The

window can be rolled back in its entirety, meaning that interior literally form one space. In other places she has narrow vertical windows which appear to frame the view outside and to articulate the space indoors.

The layout of the house, with a total floor area of some 300 square metres, is defined by two axes. One runs lengthwise through the living area and into the open kitchen, the other is at right angles to the long axis. The second axis connects the front door with the back of the house. A long skylight extending the full length of the roof echoes the longitudinal axis.

Inside, the architect has accommodated six bedrooms. The master bedroom is situated on a mezzanine floor and gives the impression of floating within the house. A floor slab extending outwards from the house suggests a weightlessness that contrasts with the solid concrete of the design.

In addition to three children's rooms, the house has a full suite of rooms for guests. The house itself has been designed with a minimalist aesthetic, but so too have the surrounding gardens with sun deck and swimming pools.







