



The fourth-floor kitchen features appliances by Miele, and Heracleum II pendants by Bertjan Pot for Moooi hang over both the kitchen island and the dining table (above). The residents use either the black steel staircase or a glassed-in elevator by Witur to get around the house (opposite top). The family eats at Table B by Konstantin Grcic for BD Barcelona. The Plastic side chairs are by Charles and Ray Eames for Vitra (opposite bottom). The decking on the rooftop is Burmese teak and the colorful Picot pouffes are by Paola Lenti (left).

you usually have an apartment, but this fulfills two dreams in that you have a private house and it's still in the middle of the city."

The family had been living in an apartment in the city center, but growing children meant that they faced that omnipresent urban parent's choice between more space in the suburbs or learning to live on top of one another. Neither solution appealed to the couple—who love the rumbustious 24-hour city—so they turned to Pitsou Kedem Architects, and a three-year project began.

"We just discussed the way we live in the city," says Kedem. "They wanted an urban life but to still have [individual] privacy."

The six-story, 4,843-square-foot town house certainly meets that brief, with the white exterior and huge black-framed windows creating a contemporary update on Bauhaus forms. Inside, suspended floors mean that each level is both open and adaptable, and because the house is divided up between so many floors, the black steel staircase doubles as an

architectural showpiece and a perpetually used bit of circulation.

A garden and a pool were two of the family's must-haves; both wound up high on the roof to afford views of the city and to create a unique haven above the bustle.

"The swimming pool runs east to west, so it is like swimming toward the sea, which is five minutes away," says Kedem. "They can swim into the sunset on this east-west axis. The family lives between two conditions: One is like a vacation with the sea and the wind from the west, and the other is right in the middle of this very busy city."

For now, the town house is a private respite from the urban rush, and a perfect example of tight site-specific architecture rooted in its historical context. Ever-growing Tel Aviv may eventually crowd similar structures around it—Kedem predicts that, in ten years, all residential buildings will be as tall as the town house. But even then, this gem of a home will remain a conduit for embracing the city and the sea. ■