

# ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

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**S**ome architects have a dash of gypsy blood and feel impelled to move on, no matter how comfortable their present abode. No sooner have they completed one house, to the great relief of their families, than they are thinking about the next. Even one as rigorous and consistent as Jerrold E. Lomax feels that urge, and he and his wife, Sandra E. Miles, have just completed their fourth residence. All were bold modernist statements, and the latest is the most radical and pared-down of them all: a loft in a live-work complex that Lomax helped develop in Sand City, a small coastal town just north of Monterey, California. His neighbors are warehouses and an electrical distribution building, and he's matched their grittiness with poured-concrete and corrugated-metal cladding. It was quickly dubbed "industrial chic," and the owners delight in the kinetic sculpture of moving lights on the elevated freeway, even though this blocks the ocean view.

It's a far cry from the refined pavilions of steel and glass that Lomax designed for Craig Ellwood in the 1950s, a job that brought him back to his native Los Angeles from Houston, where he went to school. And it may seem an odd shift from the elegant house on a leafy view site that the couple built in Carmel Valley, California (see *Architectural Digest*, September 2001), when he wound up his practice in L.A. and moved north. Lomax sees his latest venture as a return to the frugal experiments of his early years, when idealistic young architects were striving to reshape postwar America and make well-designed housing available to all. In its collective character, the complex recalls Gregory Ain's terrace housing and, in its unabashed materiality, the live-work space that Charles and Ray Eames built for themselves.

Lomax estimates he has designed a house for each of his 53 years of practice, though he has not kept an exact count, as well as a couple of hundred inventive industrial structures. Rarely has he had the

**Architect Jerrold E. Lomax built a contemporary concrete, steel and glass condominium complex in Sand City, California, near Monterey. He and his wife, Sandra E. Miles, live in one of the six units. OPPOSITE: A commercial space is below the double-height residence.**



**LEFT:** Lomax and Miles stand on the main stair. "She has selected the furniture, finishes and accessories for all four houses that we've built during our marriage," the architect says of his wife, who specializes in midcentury furnishings. The photographs are by Berenice Abbott.

**BELOW:** "The 20-foot glass wall off the living area faces north; therefore, no sun control is needed," Lomax explains. "Privacy is not an issue." Miles added the Eames-designed table and chairs. Peter Hiers made the steel sculpture on the terrace; the large painting is by Lucas Blok.

