



“Misty”

REMASTERED

architecture by Sterling|Huddleson Architecture
construction by Russo Construction & Development



“Opportunities like the Play Misty house are a challenging and exciting puzzle”

PHOTO BY MANNY ESPINOZA

The scene opens with an aerial view of the Carmel coastline. The camera pans to Clint Eastwood standing on the deck of a California Highlands ranch-style home. The view in this shot is the reason Mr. Eastwood chose this iconic house for his directorial debut, *Play Misty For Me*: it sits precariously cantilevered over a cliff's edge, where Jessica Walters' character ultimately meets her fate on the rocks below.

Fast forward forty years, and the home remained all but frozen in time, still poised proudly on the bluff but in need of many improvements. The proud new owners called on Carmel-based Braden Sterling of Sterling-Huddleson Architecture with a request to maintain the charm and scale of the 1900-square-foot cottage while updating the finishes and incorporating design features in the spirit and understated subtlety of the Big Sur region.

“Opportunities like the Play Misty house are a challenging and exciting puzzle,” he says, and Braden tackles these challenges regularly. Due to complicated planning regulations, a home like this simply could not be built today, and coupled with the client's program requiring careful consideration of budget and timeline; Braden's approach was rehabilitating and modernizing the home rather than replacing it. Joe Russo of Russo Construction and Development took on the task of construction, and his hands-on approach and team-based construction methods led to a flawless execution of the design.

When it comes to design, Braden's approach is always an uncomplicated, pared-down palette of natural materials and color tone. For the Play Misty house, steel, stone, and wood were selected to give the house presence and a visual anchor to the site. The original redwood siding was salvaged, stone cladding and new stone walls were added, and the roof was replaced with standing seam steel accenting the long, gentle slope of the broad ranch house form. For the interior, the framing was exposed to create volume and the open concept plan is finished with accents of stone and steel while maintaining a warm neutral color palette as to not to compete with the beautiful setting. Braden's favorite room is the southwest corner bedroom, where the original corner glass was expanded to allow for additional sunlight while accentuating the feeling of floating above the cliff and the canopy of a lone cypress just outside the window creates a treehouse effect.

As Principle of Sterling-Huddleson Architecture, Braden's focus is solely on the design of custom homes with a number of Peninsula projects ranging from contemporary coastal homes to Mediterranean estates. His particular niche requires intuition, dedication, and design diversity and it's because of these skills he is a favorite on the Peninsula while also catering to clients in the media and entertainment industries. It's with this approach Braden and his business partner, Hugh Huddleson, enjoy incomparable opportunities to design amazing homes and related projects, and this is what makes the office of Sterling-Huddleson Architecture unique.

