

When my husband and I moved back from Europe, we spent a year looking for a home. We wanted a modern-look with an open floor plan. Sustainability was important, but given the low volume of sustainably-built homes in the Bay Area, we focused on our first two preferences.

We looked in San Francisco and very quickly determined that most of the properties with the characteristics we preferred were way out of our price range, what else is new when it comes to SF! We searched in Emeryville and always just missed the opportunity to bid on a property.

But I, for one, believe everything happens for a reason, so when I saw the photos for 2211-B on Craig's List, I dragged my hubby over to Berkeley to take a look, despite the fact we were leaving for a cruise the next day!

What we found was our dream house.

A cool, contemporary home in an urban oasis surrounded by lush gardens filled with Japanese maples and beautiful bamboo. We were immediately taken by the privacy. The grounds afforded our unit such a serene environment.

Then we opened the front door.

Not only was there a spacious, open floor plan and a sleek design with many modern features, BUT it was built green!

Our home is a sustainably built, environmentally friendly live/work loft with high-end materials and diverse outdoor space that emphasizes sustainable materials and energy conservation. It was built by an award-winning husband and wife team – Liz Miranda (the developer) and Tim Rempel (the architect) – who actually lived on site before eventually moving to Marin County to build homes there. Their focus on sustainability, durability and creating a high-quality urban residential environment is obvious when you see our home's design. We've got the "wow" factor and anyone who visits falls in love immediately.

Tim also designed the home to make it as low maintenance as possible, using materials that are exceptionally easy to clean, which as a busy corporate couple, we appreciated!

One of our favorite things is the amazing natural light. There's light. Lots of light! From big windows on every floor to the ability to follow the sun throughout the house on a daily basis, there is natural light everywhere. In the morning, it's in our front garden view patio, and later in the day, you'll find it on the upper deck. Either spot in the house is perfect for sipping coffee and reading the paper or a book, which we often did.

Another feature we love is the radiant heating, we rarely used it (it doesn't get that cold in Berkeley) but the few days a year we did, I loved the feel of the warmth under my feet. And it doesn't get super hot either, so the Design Within Reach ceiling fans we installed are the perfect remedy for cooling off and circulating air.

As an added bonus, our solar panels ensure that our PG&E bill is around \$7-11 a month!

We made our house a home by adding touches like light switch plates from ASPIRE in Silver Granite which add a clean look to all the walls. (All paint on the walls is eco-friendly and non-toxic from EcoHome Improvement in Berkeley.)

We added beautiful shades on every level, including an exterior solar screen shade from Blue Sage in Emeryville. Their glare, UV and heat protection made our living space extremely comfortable. You will be able to monitor just how comfortable it is on the Nest Labs programmable, self-learning, Wi-Fi-enabled thermostats (we have Nest Labs smoke and carbon dioxide detectors as well).

It was important to honor the intentions of our builder and architect by decorating the home with furniture that lived up to their philosophies. We love Room & Board, so most of the pieces are from this store in San Francisco. Room & Board focuses on sustainably designed, American-made home furnishings with natural materials. We feel the furniture is an integral part of the soul of our home, so carefully selected pieces are available with the property.

Practically speaking, we are 5 minutes from the freeway entrance, which is perfect for getting to our jobs in San Francisco. We are also 7 minutes from the North Berkeley BART station, once on-board; you are in the city in 22 minutes!

Our location is fantastic, right in the heart of one of Berkeley's hippest neighborhoods. We walk to the Fourth Street Shops for coffee at Peet's (although we are loving the new coffee shop, Catahoula Kaffeegarten, a block before the main 4<sup>th</sup> Street Shops); or a burger, steak or fresh oysters from Café Rouge; a pizza from Zut! or the makings of an Italian picnic from The Pasta Shop. Sometimes we stop at the new Sierra Nevada Torpedo Room for a beer before heading to dinner at Vik's Chaat House, the possibilities are endless.

We have a gorgeous grocery store, Berkeley Bowl, less than a mile away, with some of the best fresh fruits and vegetables in town. If we get "bored" with 4<sup>th</sup> Street, we head 10 minutes up the road to the Northbrae, Westbrae and Solano Avenue area, 10 minutes down the road where you have the Monterey Market plus 25 more options for restaurants such as Korean, sushi and great bistros. We also like the Japanese Fish Market on San Pablo Blvd – it is great if you love to make your own sushi at home. Lastly, every Saturday morning we have brunch at the Emeryville Marina where we eat dimsum with a view of San Francisco!

With all of that delicious food at your fingertips, you'll be happy to know that we are 2 blocks away from the Bay Trail bike and running route, we used it often for biking (we can go 16 miles all the way to the Richmond marina) and jogging straight from our front door. We can also hop in the car and hit the hiking trail in Tilden Park in the hills of Berkeley.

We are six units, a small community of professionals, who all aspire to embrace a low carbon footprint lifestyle. You will not find a more knowledgeable group of people when it comes to sustainability and when we first moved in they showed off their PG&E bills, the green cleaning products they used, and their favorite vendors. It's a community that believes in environmental responsibility, collaboration and good wine!

Our eight years here at the Greenpads have been amazing. We truly feel like we have lived in a green oasis and know that you as the next owner will fall head over heels as we did.

Best regards,

Andi Fisher, current lover of 2211-B