



## FUTURE DAYS

### A LIVE/WORK LIFESTYLE INSTALLATION FOR THE YEAR 2026

By Alice Liao

**March 01, 2006** – Fine Living: 2026 is set to debut March 27 as the premier case study installation of L.A. Design Week (2006). Occupying the second-floor exhibit hall of the L.A. Mart Design Center, the 1,300-sq.-ft. installation is being designed by the nationally acclaimed, four-time AIA National award-winning architectural firm Tighe Architecture, which is based in Santa Monica, CA. Fine Living: 2026 will explore how design, technology and new product innovations will address the transforming individual, occupational and recreational needs of the 21st-century homeowner. Producing partners, L.A. Mart Design Center, LA

Architect and LA Inside magazines will join forces once again to execute Fine Living: 2026.

For Tighe Architecture, the installation has provided an unusual opportunity to design for the way a live/work urban dweller will live 20 years from now. The architectural concept merges technologically advanced materials with organic, sustainable and rapidly renewable resources, creating a well-appointed yet environmentally responsible habitat that is imminently more fact than fantasy. "The components of the space are an integral part of the architecture, with each designated area defined by its function," said firm principal, Patrick Tighe, AIA. "The Fine Living concept, with its sinuous design, user-interface architecture and solid line-up of installation partners will illustrate this philosophy."

The central living space consists of a raised plinth that is sheathed in a translucent, honeycomb material and lit from below. The lighting morphs in color and intensity to suit the mood of the space. A Panelite raised floor system seamlessly integrates with the area's built-in lounge seating, which is upholstered in eco-friendly Knoll textiles. The system transitions into the technology control center, where an aerodynamic console is outfitted with Apple Cinema Displays and Power Mac G5 Quads. Extending over the lounge/tech center, a monolith clad with CaesarStone quartz surface material projects through the space to unite the areas while hardwood flooring from National Hardwood Flooring & Moulding grounds the space.

Having touched every aspect of life in the 20th century, technology will dominate even more in the next, operating many home features with a single touch of a button. These include heating and air-conditioning, drapery, security systems, all home appliances, bath equipment, pool, spa and water features, audio/video and home theater. "We envision the day when you can do many of these tasks by simply talking to your refrigerator, oven, microwave, spa or heating and air-conditioning," said Joseph Elihu, president of Euroconcepts Kitchen & Bath in Los Angeles.

In response to the rectilinear configuration of the exhibit hall, Tighe layered organic forms to create a counterpoint to the angular geometric lines. Enveloping the kitchen and bathroom areas are undulating walls that form an embryonic shell pierced with light portals. Penetrating the walls' skin, a SensiTile material embedded with a light-conducting matrix reconfigures shadows and redirects light, adding drama and interest to the kitchen.

A simple yet massive, stainless-steel island, designed by Italian architect Antonio Citterio for Arclinea and supplied by Euroconcepts Kitchen & Bath, provides a linear take on the kitchen of tomorrow. All functional components, including a Miele cooktop, a Sub-Zero undercounter refrigerator and sink are self-contained in the 15-ft.-long island, which seats eight. While the form suggests a more streamlined kitchen for the future, it also addresses the past by providing a gathering place for such primal activities as meal preparation, consumption and conversation.

The undulating walls break apart, separating the kitchen from the bathroom. Neo-Metro's stainless-steel toilet and sink make a dramatic statement in the bathroom and tie into the stainless island in the adjacent kitchen; Spec Ceramics tiles finish the floor. Rohl fixtures in the kitchen and bath complement the simplicity of the overall design, and a touch panel control in the kitchen allows one to view movies on the media wall.

Finally, for people who live and work at home, finding balance in life can be especially difficult. Fine Living: 2026 was built on the premise that balance does exist but requires pre-planning from a design standpoint. To illustrate this concept, the installation includes a sanctuary area geared to reenergize and relax. Natural light, a stylized garden and floating, steel hearth by Fireorb surround the Zuma airbath, replenishing strength and spirit and offering the homeowner respite after a day in the info-driven, technology-saturated 21st century.