

VIEW

OFF-USE

LOS ANGELES

Each day, barely more than 15 feet from where architects Linda Pollari and Richard Somol sit down to breakfast, 80,000 cars zoom by on L.A.'s notoriously busy Olympic Boulevard. Yet the couple savors the spectacle from their combined office and house (hence their name for it, Off-Use), located on a previously undeveloped corner lot. The architects saw an opportunity for creativity. A 104-foot-long steel wall insulates the building from the noise of the six-lane thoroughfare, while two 18-foot-long ribbon windows transform the traffic into a continuously changing cinematic event. "The wall is not only shielding and protecting us from the street, but also celebrating it," says Pollari. The structure, completed in 2002, is part of this year's AIA Los Angeles Spring Home Tour. —Erin Feher

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRADLEY WHEELER
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