



one window house has exactly that – only one conventional window. It was designed by Touraine + Richmond Architects of Venice, in west Los Angeles, for themselves. The couple clad the first floor in seamless corrugated steel for privacy.

Floor-to-ceiling glass doors on two sides of the ground floor compensate for the unbroken facade above. “The ground floor is very public,” says partner Debbie Richmond. “It’s almost like a traditional Californian porch.”

Although there is only one traditional window, there are two skylights on the first floor and doors opening out to the roof and first-floor terrace that allow air to circulate through the building. The use of six-inch-thick insulation – twice as thick as the local average – removes the need for air conditioning, while the galvanised steel cladding is

resilient to the salty coastal air. “If you build in wood you have to repaint every couple of years,” says French-born partner Olivier Touraine.

A ten-foot-wide platform visually connects One Window House with the adjacent property, which is the practice’s studio. However, only accessible from the new building, it is a terrace rather than a bridge. The platform allows the buildings to be considered a duplex, which means that the properties are not obliged to provide as much parking space. This enabled the architects to include a garden on the house’s small plot.

Touraine + Richmond was founded in 2000. Both partners formerly worked with Rem Koolhaas’ practice OMA and now teach at architecture school Sci-Arc in Los Angeles.

Daniel West



above the windowless first floor ensures some privacy
right the ground floor is on view to the public