

# San Francisco Chronicle

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CONTAINS RECYCLED PAPER

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## D.A. shrank unit probing police

Critics say lack of staff signals Jenkins isn't committed enough to officer accountability

By Joshua Sharpe

In the seven months since she became San Francisco's district attorney, Brooke Jenkins has sharply reduced the unit re-

sponsible for investigating police violence and misconduct, The Chronicle has learned.

While Jenkins said Thursday that she intends to add staff to the Independent Investigations

Bureau created under former District Attorney George Gascón in 2016, two former Gascón lieutenants expressed concern over whether the depleted unit would be able to function as it was intended to — as an independent and robust check on potential abuses of police powers.

"I've been very concerned with how this work has slowly been dismantled," said Cristine Soto DeBerry, a chief of staff to Gascón who personally helped set up the IIB.

Those concerns come as Jenkins announced her intention to drop a historic police shooting prosecution over doubts about

its origins and as her office has sought delays in another police prosecution inherited from her recalled predecessor, Chesa Boudin.

In an interview with The Chronicle, Jenkins defended the state of the unit and insisted that it is working to hold police **Jenkins continues on A12**

## Chefs obsessed with local company's comfy chairs



Photos by Carlos Avila Gonzalez/The Chronicle

## Hottest seats in the house

By Elena Kadvaný

When acclaimed chef Corey Lee started furnishing his new San Francisco restaurant, San Ho Won, he had his eye on a chair that was cropping up at the Bay Area's hottest restaurants.

If you've dined recently at popular San Francisco spots such as Flour + Water, Nari, Ernest or Handroll Project, you've sat in the chair. You may have been one of the diners who got up and turned the chair over to find out where you could buy one. Some chefs

**Derek McCall (top), product development lead at Fyrn furniture company, demonstrates how one of the company's chairs is assembled in San Francisco. Fyrn's chairs are popping up in restaurants in the Bay Area, including at San Ho Won (above left) and are popular for their modular design. Chair component templates (above right) hang on a wall at Fyrn, whose chairs can be customized and their parts quickly replaced.**

like the chair so much they've bought it for their own homes.

But Lee was reluctant to join the pack, worried the chair could become a tired sign of a homogeneous restaurant design trend, like exposed brick walls or the now-decried, once "industrial chic" Edison lightbulb.

Then he sat in the chair, and everything changed. He bought 46 chairs and stools for San Ho Won, which opened in the fall to long lines and just won its first Michelin star.

**Chairs continues on A13**

## Thousands of buildings in S.F. facing quake risks

By Claire Hao

San Francisco has an estimated 3,900 buildings that have the same vulnerability as many of the structures in Turkey and Syria that collapsed during the recent 7.8 magnitude earthquake.

The buildings, which are mostly commercial but also include residential structures, are made of non-ductile concrete, said Brian Strong, who heads a city planning office that is developing a yet-to-be-finalized retrofit program to boost the safety of concrete buildings.

Neighborhoods with the largest concentration of non-ductile concrete buildings include the downtown area, South of Market and the Tenderloin, said Strong, who runs the Office of Resilience and Capital Planning.

"There should not be the kind of reaction that there has been over the last week of 'Well, (Turkey is) a developing country, we have better codes, we have better construction practices, we could never get an earthquake that large.' None of that is true. We have all of the same issues that they have there," said David Friedlman, a retired structural **Buildings continues on A8**

## Urban Alchemy worker arrested in S.F. shooting

By Mallory Moench

An Urban Alchemy worker allegedly shot a person while on a break during a shift outside a San Francisco homeless shelter run by the nonprofit in November.

Joseph Perry was arrested and has been in custody since December. He was charged with attempted murder, great bodily injury, assault with a semiautomatic firearm, discharge of a firearm at an occupied motor vehicle, and possession of a firearm by a felon, among other felonies, in January.

Urban Alchemy fired him after he did not return to work the day after the alleged incident, according to the organization. Urban Alchemy and the city's Department of Homelessness and Supportive Services said they found out about the former employee's alleged involvement in the Nov. 3 incident in January. **Shooting continues on A12**

## Scooter company zooming out of city

If San Francisco City Hall had a Department of the Nonsensical, it would be a very robust agency touching all corners of local government.

It would surely have a hand in the way the city treats its businesses. Overly punitive fines. Confusing regulations. Lack of clear communication. The message that you're lucky

**HEATHER KNIGHT**  
ON SAN FRANCISCO

to be doing business in San Francisco, so suck it up.

These are among the reasons cited as San Francisco learned it's losing another innovative company, this one focused on the crucial task of

getting people out of their cars and onto other modes of transportation as climate change worsens and our streets feel like one huge traffic jam.

Bird, a scooter company permitted to operate 1,500 electric vehicles for rent in the city, is scooting out of town. It **Knight continues on A11**



**Bird, a scooter company operating worldwide, blames San Francisco's fines and rules for its decision to leave the city.**

Gabrielle Lurie/The Chronicle 2022

Datebook .....G1  
Food + Wine .....H1

Insight.....J1  
Jobs.....J4  
Obituaries .....F1  
Sporting Green.....B1



**WEATHER:** Mostly sunny. Highs: 58-70. Lows: 34-45. **A15**



**UPCOMING AUCTIONS**  
**March Gallery Auction**  
Friday, March 17; 10am  
Preview:  
Thursday, March 16; noon - 5pm  
Friday, March 17; 9am - end of auction  
**March Classic Sale & Collectibles Auction**  
Monday, March 20; 10am  
Preview:  
Thursday, March 16; noon - 5pm  
Friday, March 17; 9am - 5pm  
Monday, March 20; 9am - end of auction



**ADRIEN MOREAU**  
(French, 1843-1906)  
Figures Strolling in the Park  
Classic Sale | March 20th  
Estimate: \$4,000 / 6,000

Antique Carved Wood  
Madonna with Child.  
Classic Sale | March 20th  
Estimate: \$300 / 500



19th Century Tibetan  
Ceremonial Snow  
Leopard Hand  
Carved Wooden  
Mask  
Gallery Auction | April 14th  
Estimate \$3,000 / 4,000



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**ELLSWORTH KELLY**  
(American, 1923-2015)  
Black/White/Black  
Luxury Sale | May 22nd  
Estimate:  
\$10,000 / 12,000



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# Real Estate

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE AND SFCHRONICLE.COM | Sunday, February 19, 2023

## From artist to architect

Geddes Ulinskas heads firm known for dramatic, stylish designs. K3



JACOB ELLIOTT

The 12,000-square-foot home designed by Geddes Ulinskas Architects boasts a dramatic, voluminous entryway and natural light pouring in through large windows.

**Sound Off:**  
How to build a professional network. K2



Bart Edson

### Getaway

Available for rental, Sea Ranch Abalone Bay features sweeping Pacific Ocean views. L1



Shutterstock

### Home Improvement

Ready to renovate? Not so fast. Here are six vital topics to discuss first.

K20

The Best Homesite in Brentwood:  
U-pick it.

Sales: Shea Homes Marketing Company (CalDRE #01378646); Construction: Shea Homes Limited Partnership (CSLB #653368).



ORCHARD TRAILS  
BY SHEA HOMES

SheaHomes.com/OrchardTrails

## COVER STORY

# Architect Geddes Ulinskas makes his mark across the country

By Jordan Guinn

CENTRAL VALLEY NEWS-SENTINEL

Thoughtful, artistic and driven, Geddes Ulinskas has been making his mark as an architect in the Bay Area, and beyond, since starting his own firm in 2005. He's participated in the San Francisco Decorator's Showcase multiple times, and he's collaborated with major developers like Troon Pacific on multimillion dollar projects.

A native of La Jolla, Ulinskas migrated to the Bay Area because he wanted to be part of a thriving, diverse landscape with a rich tapestry of architectural styles.

"What I love about the Bay Area is that it's a place that has an amazing natural environment," he said. "It combines a unique urban landscape with beautiful natural features like the bay and Marin Headlands. It's simply one of the most stunning places on the planet."

Originally a commercial illustrator, Ulinskas crafted artwork for graphic novels before pivoting architecture.

The Pratt Institute, a private university based in Brooklyn, gave him a merit-based scholarship to their architecture program. After graduating, he honed his skill with architectural mentors Fumihiko Maki and Ricardo Legorreta.

Ulinskas' vibrant portfolio includes commercial, residential and community projects such as places of worship.

*Geddes Ulinskas continues on K4*

## Details

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**Phone:** 415-904-0483

**Email:** contact@ularch.com.

**Website:** www.ularch.com.



JACOB ELLIOTT

**Above:** Completed in 2021, this Pacific Heights residence designed by Geddes Ulinskas Architects features retractable glass walls that open to a landscaped garden. **Below left:** A gracious, open floor plan defines the interior of this Pacific Heights home designed by Geddes Ulinskas Architects. **Below right:** For this pool indoor pool, Geddes Ulinskas Architects employed a spa-inspired zero edge design commonly used in high-end resorts.



JACOB ELLIOTT



BLAKE MARVIN/BLAKE MARVIN PHOTOGRAPHY

## COVER STORY

**About: Geddes Ulinskas**

A veteran of more than 20 years, architect Geddes Ulinskas boasts an extensive portfolio of residential, commercial and leisure projects. Originally a commercial illustrator working on book covers and graphic novels, Ulinskas began his career in architecture after receiving a scholarship from Brooklyn's Pratt Institute.

He opened his own firm in 2005 and oversees a diverse team coordinating a variety of projects. His work is found throughout the Bay Area, as well as in Los Angeles, New York City and Hawaii. He has architectural licenses in California, New York and Hawaii.

*From page K3*

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He isn't beholden to one particular style of architecture. Instead, he takes his cues from his clients and the structure's surroundings to inform how he'll proceed.

"What I am excited about is the variety of all the things we've done," he said. "There's many different ways we've expressed and detailed architecture, and I'm very happy to say we handle it well."

In his office on Clementina Street, Ulinskas' firm houses a senior project manager and a team of six project designers. Together, they guide clients through the entire process.

A true artist, Ulinskas routinely picks up his watercolors when it's time to conceptualize a project. The soothing medium helps him get an initial feel for the project and he'll often produce a more detailed painting of the project when completed. Some of those watercolors can be found on his firm's Instagram page, he said.

In this interview with the San Francisco Chronicle, Ulinskas talks about his passions, his portfolio and a piece of technology that's changed the way he looks at design.

**Q:** Do you create a watercolor for every project? How did that start and how does it help you envision what you want to achieve?

**A:** I'll often do one in the early stages and then another in the finishing stages. The first will be

*Geddes Ulinskas continues on K6*



CHRISTOPHER STARK

Architect Geddes Ulinskas has participated in the San Francisco Decorator Showcase multiple times. This soak room was designed for the 2019 showcase in collaboration with Clara Bulfoni.

## COVER STORY

From page K4

a very loose kind of watercolor sketch that's the mood, as opposed to specific details. I'm mainly getting the color and form. As we're finishing the design, I will do a more detailed, informed watercolor of what the project will look like.

**Q:** What are some of the materials you enjoy working with and why?

**A:** I really like using decorative concrete because it can be formed and detailed in a way where it looks like a finished material. Glass is another material that can take nearly any form. We like to use them in ways that tend to surprise people. I enjoy using a rich vocabulary of different materials.

**Q:** What's a piece of technology you can't imagine working or living without?

**A:** The CNC router, it's a Computer-Navigated Cutting machine. It's truly an incredible thing. I used to feel guilty drawing intricate screens and lattice work because it meant someone

was going to have to do very intensive labor to pull it off. It could be something that takes someone several weeks to carve. But with the machine, we get rich texture and intricate work without someone slaving away at it.

**Q:** What's your favorite and least favorite parts of the job?

**A:** My favorite part is hearing clients talk about their dreams and how they envision things. I enjoy helping people bring about their dreams. It's absolutely fantastic. My least favorite part of the job is trying to find the talented people who can do everything I want. I'm very picky. Luckily, the Bay Area has so many talented people to choose from, so we're very lucky in that regard. However, the unfortunate part is there's a lot of wealthy people who can afford those same skilled artisans and craftsmen. So they can be hard to book. We like to make sure we stay on the radar of our creative partners and commission talented people for our clients.



DREW KELLY



DREW KELLY

Left: The freestanding bathtub in this spa bathroom designed by Geddes Ulinskas Architects enjoys views of the Transamerica Pyramid through floor-to-ceiling windows. Above: Rich wood flooring lines the bedroom of this primary suite designed by Geddes Ulinskas Architects.