



Lily pad Homes

Bios

Rachel Ginis, Executive Director



Rachel Ginis is Lily pad's visionary and has no reluctance to making waves when substantive changes are needed. Her education, advocacy track record, and professional and personal experience led to the founding of Lily pad Homes and form a solid foundation for Lily pad's mission. Her study of global housing patterns at the University of Maryland provided the background she needed to recognize that the predominant US housing options were out of alignment with changing social patterns and left many groups underserved.

Rachel has distinguished herself as an effective activist on sustainability issues at the local, state and federal levels. She trained with Al Gore for the Climate Reality Project, and founded the Marin Chapter of the Citizen's Climate Lobby. She advocated to establish the first Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) in California that allows Marin to aggregate its energy interests and purchase clean, renewable power, and she helped pass the most progressive grey water code yet established in California.

Rachel is a LEED-accredited designer. With over 15 years in high-end residential design, she has experience in all phases of remodeling, including design, specification, product sourcing, project management, and construction. She has a passion for small spaces and a talent for optimizing their livability. Rachel is also a licensed general contractor in California.

It was Rachel's own experience as a single mother wanting to hold on to her home that led her to develop an innovative model for flexible infill housing that offers a more affordable housing option to both homeowners and renters. She founded Lily pad Homes to help redevelop the way we are living in our homes while addressing climate change and resource limitations.

Ellen Nicosia – Director of Finance and Operations



Ellen Nicosia brings over thirty years of corporate experience to Lily pad Homes, with a focus on detail and balanced deliberation. Along with a strong business background, she brings a love of design and home improvement, and a long-standing commitment to sustainability. Ellen holds a BA in Economics from UCSD, where she served as the manager of the campus recycling center, and an MBA from UCLA.

At IBM, Ellen gained experience in course development and delivery, consulting, financial analysis, and project management. At Autodesk she worked in software engineering, operations, and IT and gained a broad business perspective while managing projects, optimizing productivity, and leading company-wide efforts and teams. Her talent

for organizing information along with her process management experience are key as Lilypad extends its reach.

Ellen's passion for design and efficiency allows her to also participate on Lilypad's creative endeavors. She studied design during her corporate years, taking classes on nights and weekends through Berkeley's Extension Program. She applied her design skills to improving her own home and the homes of others. She employs her problem solving abilities by formulating design solutions within space constraints to create sustainable solutions in housing.