

# CALIFORNIA HOMES

THE MAGAZINE OF ARCHITECTURE  
THE ARTS & DISTINCTIVE DESIGN

**Gardens**  
Culinary  
Sustainable  
Classic

LOS ANGELES  
SAN FRANCISCO  
SONOMA

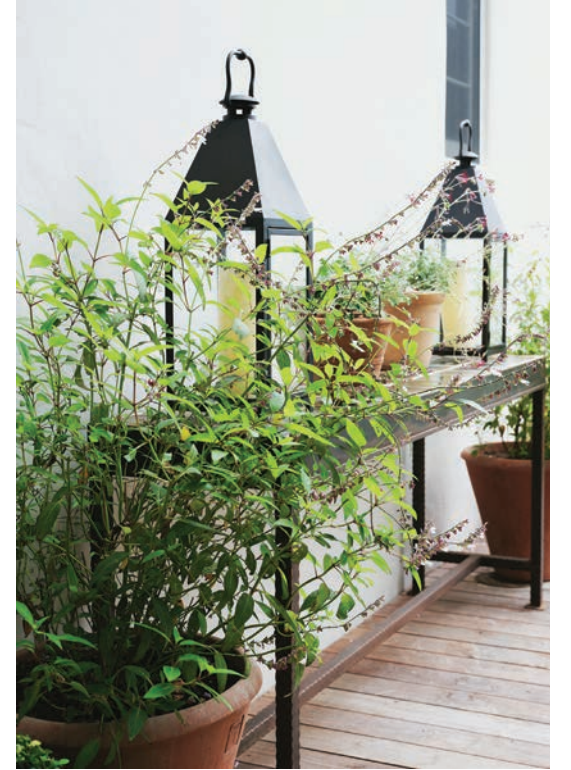
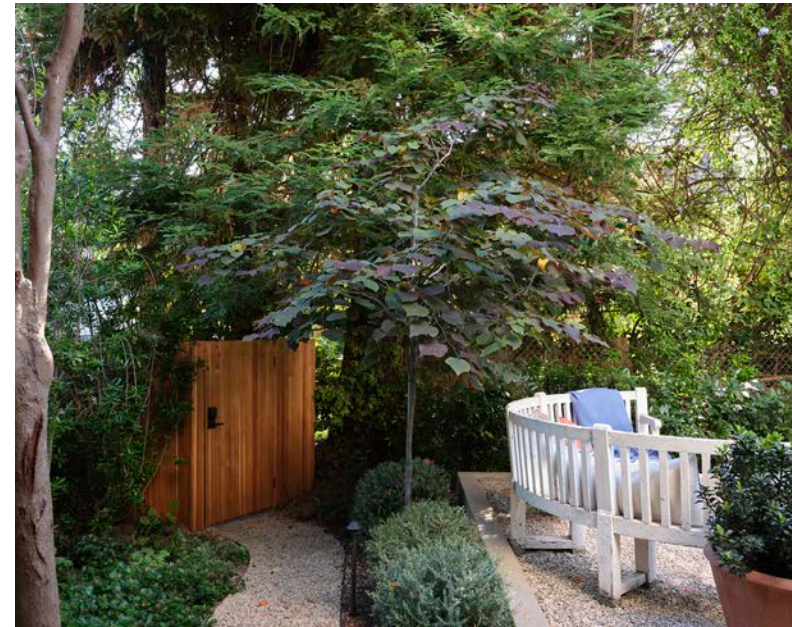
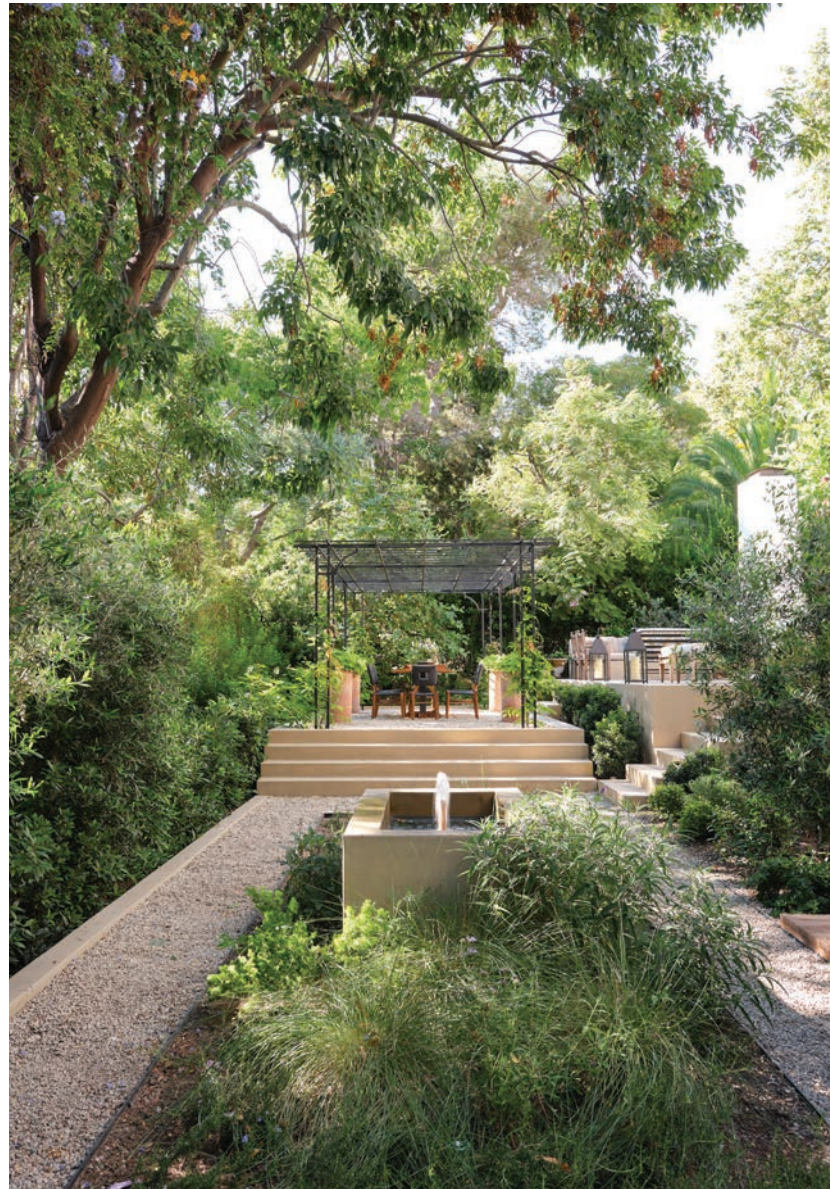


## CULTIVATING CONSCIOUSNESS

A STRONG CURRENT in landscape design, especially in a state perennially confronted by drought, is sustainability. This naturally involves the incorporation of native species that place fewer demands on the existing ecosystem. But sustainability transcends conservation to include elements attracting birds and bees, promoting a biodiverse environment. Landscape designer Patricia Benner, whose Benner Landscape Design maintains offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco, explains, “We’re sensitive to site-appropriate design and are highly knowledgeable about sustainable landscape practices.”



On a challenging site in Santa Monica’s Rustic Canyon, Benner essentially doubled the residence’s living space by creating a pergola-topped dining area, fireplace-warmed outdoor living room, fountain-enhanced meditative garden, and even an outdoor shower. The designer transformed a steep slope, previously considered unusable, into a series of spaces that comprise a memorable outdoor living experience. “We created a rich, experiential journey along a stairway that features an unfolding series of lovely viewpoints along the path,” reports Benner.



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-LANDSCAPE DESIGNER PATRICIA BENNER

