

MODERN LUXURY

# Interiors

CALIFORNIA

GREEN  
WITH  
ENVY  
MG+BW'S  
SUSTAINABILITY  
REIGNS  
SUPREME



STRIKING  
HOMES BY  
ELECTRIC  
BOWERY,  
CHET  
CALLAHAN  
& MORE!

## FORCES OF NATURE

TOP TRENDS, INSPIRING IDEAS & TASTEFUL TOMES TO  
TRANSFORM YOUR GARDEN

BY THE PUBLISHERS OF ANGELENO, SAN FRANCISCO,  
MODERN LUXURY RIVIERA, MODERN LUXURY SAN DIEGO  
& SILICON VALLEY MAGAZINES





# resources

**AVIARA PAVERS**

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[aviarapavers.com](http://aviarapavers.com)

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San Francisco  
[dzineliving.com](http://dzineliving.com)

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[flexform.it](http://flexform.it)

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**HARBOUR OUTDOOR**

Helms Bakery, Culver City  
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**LIGNE ROSET**

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[minotti.com/en](http://minotti.com/en)

**NICHE BEVERLY**

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[nichebeverly.com](http://nichebeverly.com)

**TOMMY BAHAMA HOME**

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## FRESH TAKE

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*As we land upon a significant milestone*—about one year since the pandemic began—it’s only natural to reflect on how much the world has changed. Despite the immeasurable tragedy and loss so many have experienced, there have been some positive things to come out of this most bizarre year. For myself, I’ve forcibly slowed down in many ways. Even as things start to ramp up and resemble the “before times,” I hope to hold onto some of what I’ve learned to appreciate, including long walks in my neighborhood, cooking more and, of course, enjoying the Golden State’s incredible weather through 15-minute lie-downs in the backyard, a space that we tended to shy away from pre-COVID.

Our annual Outdoor Issue couldn’t come at a better time. Spring is here, the flowers are blooming and the weather is pretty perfect—all the more reason to celebrate outdoor living. In “Garden Variety,” we’ve compiled a bevy of inspirational alfresco projects showcasing stunning landscape architecture, striking pools, craveworthy outdoor kitchens and more. A tiered, eco-minded Rustic Canyon outdoor space by landscape architect Patricia Benner stuns with multiple levels filled with various “rooms,” an outdoor shower, a meditation space, and plenty of California native and drought-tolerant Mediterranean plants. The space is an essential part of Benner’s client’s everyday life now, and one he enjoys from day to night.

Other stories throughout the issue, including features on a Venice abode by Electric Bowers (shown at right) and a Laguna Beach family retreat, focus as much attention on outdoor spaces as they do on the interiors. Flip through to get inspired, and, as always, please reach out to share your thoughts on what you love, what you don’t and what you’d like to see more of in *Modern Luxury Interiors California*.  
Happy spring!

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Design firm Electric Bowers worked with Terremoto on the landscaping of this Venice home in Los Angeles.

FROM TOP PHOTOS BY EDEN DOEBEL, LAURE JOUET



LANDSCAPE

# architecture



From left: Patricia Benner transformed a Santa Monica home's steep outdoor space into a lush, multilevel garden; among the different areas is an outdoor dining room, a cozy living room, a meditative garden, an outdoor shower and more.





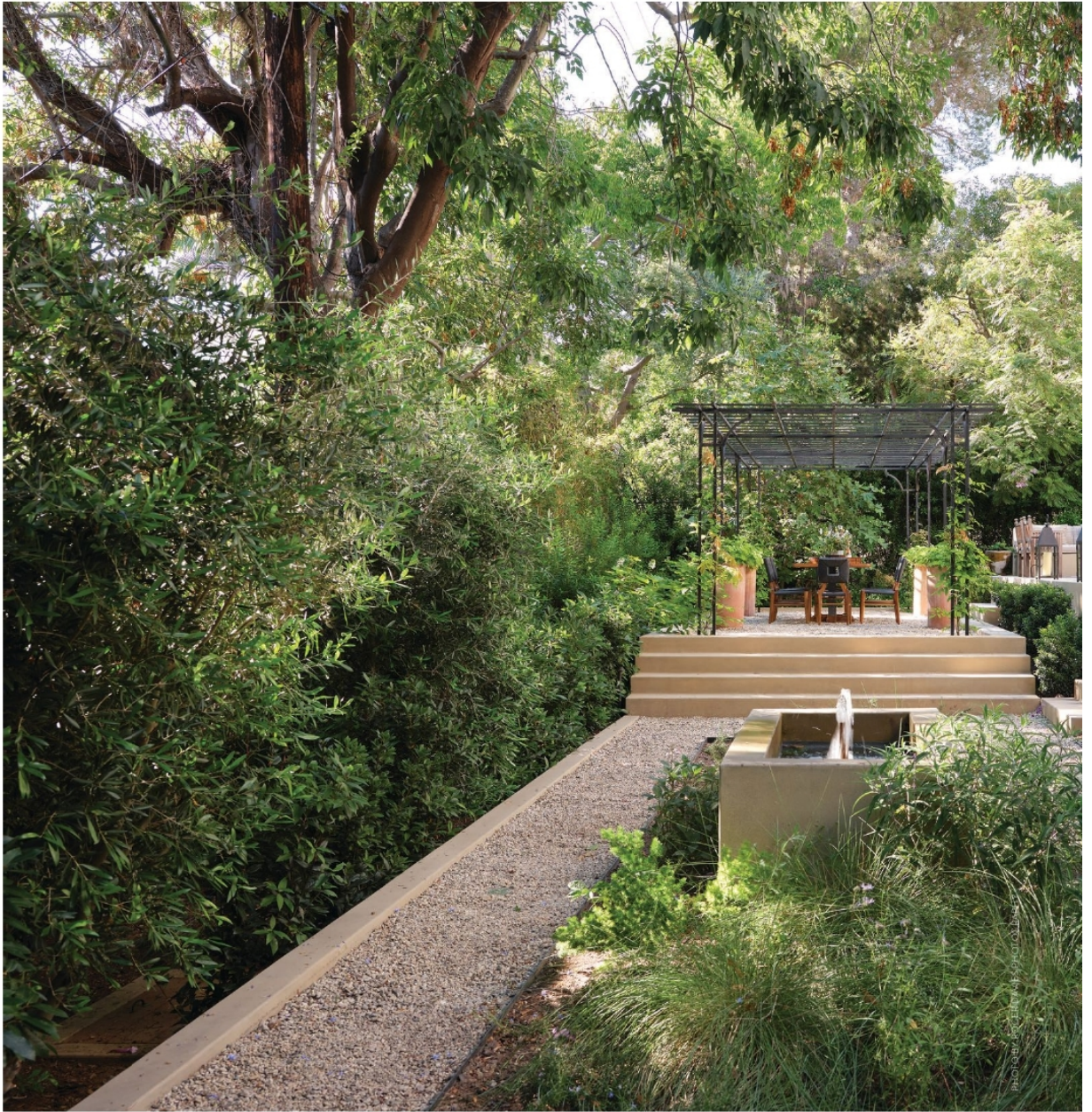
Los Angeles-based landscape designer Patricia Benner of Benner Landscape Design ([benner-design.com](http://benner-design.com)) isn't one to shy away from a challenge. Such was the case with a recent project she took on in Santa Monica, a complete home remodel—interior and exterior—that took about 20 months to complete. Along with the land being extremely sloped—requiring the homeowner to use a steep staircase to access the usable parts of the garden—the space was narrow and difficult to figure out. “My main objective was to create an inviting, usable garden and outdoor living space that was easily accessed from the main living areas of the house,” Benner explains. “Outdoor spaces are needed more than ever in our current times.”

To achieve her goals, Benner decided to not fight the land, but instead to work with its quirks. “I set out to make the garden’s difficult attributes work for us,” she says. “I created different garden rooms that were linked by a series of stairways that served as a ‘spine’ to unify the different levels and areas of the garden.” Now outfitted with switchbacks and landings, the once-scary staircase has been transformed into a key feature of the outdoor space, encouraging the homeowner and his guests to pause and enjoy the garden’s different levels.

At the top, there’s a deck off the kitchen—perfect for casual meals—that comes with a gorgeous view over Santa Monica Canyon, while below there’s a cozy outdoor living room with a fireplace. A few steps down is the lowest level. “It offers a private, quiet space for contemplation, with a central fountain and a bench that looks back into the garden along its main lower axis,” Benner says. “In [this area], lush surrounding greenery gives privacy and focuses your view inward while the sound of water muffles any noise from a public right-of-way to the beach nearby.”

While certainly beautiful, the project—filled with California native and drought-tolerant plants—is also sustainable. And due to landscape lighting in the trees on the slope and large garden lanterns, it’s cozy day and night. “We created a gracious and beautiful garden whose alfresco living spaces are as important to the client and as well used as his interiors,” Benner says. “These garden rooms succeed as beautiful parts of a well-integrated whole.”





This tiered outdoor space in Santa Monica from Benner Landscape Design features a babbling fountain and dining and seating areas.