

### DESIGN FORM



## HAVING A MOMENT

With posts at renowned firms in Boston, San Francisco and Los Angeles, Echo Park architect-designer Emily Farnham had worked on high-profile projects, but longed for a closer connection to design and clients. She's now making her mark on projects such as actor Mandy Moore's midcentury Pasadena home, designed by Harold Zook. Drawn to spaces with a notable past, Harvard-educated Farnham reinvigorates them with a thoughtful, elegant style. "I push for one big gesture in a space while seeing the value of the quiet background." Raised in New England, her influences range from architects



Kazuyo Sejima and Rudolph Schindler to the sculptural style of Japan's Naoshima Island—as well as her adopted home, California. "Architects and designers come here drawn to the concept that your house doesn't stop at the envelope of a structure," she says. "It's seductive. That's why I'm here. That, and the avocados." emilyfarnham.com. K.C.





Architect Grant C. Kirkpatrick has delighted clients, including Tom Hanks and Matt Damon, with his unique brand of modern living. After 30 years and hundreds of custom residences, he showcases six of his designs in *California Contemporary: The Houses of Grant C. Kirkpatrick and KAA Design* (Princeton Architectural Press, \$55). "The sunlight, the color of the sky, the California canvas, that is the inspiration for my work," says the third-generation Californian.

"It's the golden land of dreams and these are dream homes." Among the sublime spaces: a nautically inspired home perched on the Pacific, a tree house connected by pavilions and gardens, and the author's own property, Split Rock Ranch, set against a rambling Central Coast vineyard. "Our environments connect us to essential elements of life," says Kirkpatrick, "nature, legacy and delight." *kaadesigngroup.com.* K.C.



# SHARED *Interests*

Mexico-born architect Ezequiel Farca and his design partner, Cristina Grappin, bring a cultured, urbane cool to hotels, restaurants and stunning residences south of the border with their eponymous practice, founded in Mexico City in 1995. Even with new offices in Milan and Santa Monica, their home country ties remain strong, manifesting in collaborations with traditional artisans and wide-ranging projects such as the recent proyectosLA, a Downtown L.A. pop-up of Latin American galleries. ezequielfarca.com. J.R.

#### EMERYVILLE

## OPEN Plans

East Bay-based firm Swatt Miers Architects distills the region's modern spirit with a deep respect for each



project's setting. "The key is to make the architectural move, which is structurally challenging, appear effortless," says Robert Swatt, FAIA.

swattmiers.com. J.R.