

CALIFORNIA HOMES

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California Contemporary: The Houses of Grant C. Kirkpatrick and KAA Design

By Grant Kirkpatrick

In his new monograph, *California Contemporary*, Grant Kirkpatrick explains what a house is to him and why that influences his architectural designs. "To me, a house that is open to nature is a friendly house, a lived-in house. Call me a native Californian, but I can't imagine living any other way," he says. Illustrated beautifully in this tome is this guiding principle of his: working with nature makes it possible to create something extraordinary.

California Contemporary is a personal and holistic look into his architecture with over 160 color photographs. Featured are twenty-four custom homes that are intimate views into this award-winning architect's creations. It's not surprising that A-List celebrities including Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson, Matt Damon, fashion designer Paul Marciano and the Pritzker family have used Kirkpatrick and his firm, KAA Design.

One of the featured properties in this highly personal book is his own property, Split Rock Ranch, set in a rambling vineyard in California's Central Coast. Here he allowed structures on the property to evolve gradually. His architectural philosophies are woven into the reality of life on the ranch with pictures of his family, friends and their village life on the vineyard.

Some of the other featured residences in *California Contemporary* include a nautically inspired home on the edge of the Pacific Ocean designed for two experienced sailors; an art collector's home envisioned as a three-dimensional Richard Diebenkorn painting; a cantilevered hillside home above the lights of Los Angeles; and a "tree house" set on a plateau with gardens and outdoor entertainment spaces for a couple in the entertainment industry.

As Kirkpatrick says, "It gives me a lot of joy to build homes that people love living in. It gives me even more joy when those homes also connect the owners with their love of nature — or even deepen it." **CH**

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By Grant Kirkpatrick
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TOP LEFT The abundant colors of the sky and foliage inspired the architect and landscape design. **ABOVE** The home's main living level comprises two wings anchored by a double-sided, glass-walled great room. **LEFT** Architect Grant C. Kirkpatrick.

OPPOSITE TOP NOHO in Los Angeles by Thom Mayne is half-buried in a sloping site. The house and pool court are concealed behind vegetation. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM** An axial gallery tilts up from the entry to a staircase in the Tree House in Santa Monica by Buzz Yudell.