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Books

REVIEWED BY **KATHY BRYANT**

California Houses: Creativity in Context

Text by Michael Webb

Author Michael Webb, almost a legend in Southern California for his encyclopedic knowledge of architecture, has penned this compelling, illustrated journey through 36 unique houses built in the past decade that capture the spirit of California. Included with the dramatic images of the houses are floor plans.

As Webb says in the Introduction, "Nearly all were shaped by a dialogue between owner and architect, as well as site and budget. Large or small, urban or rural, they demonstrate the extraordinary range of invention emerging from established and younger architects."

The houses are grouped in three thematic sections: Engaging Nature, Weaving the Urban Fabric and Viewing Town & Country. Each home has its

own personality, though most are characterized by a free flow of space, abundant natural light and openness to nature.

In California, a high level of sustainability is mandated by progressive legislation. This is reinforced by the desire of architects and owners to do the right thing.

Notable for the diversity of homes it presents, *California Houses* will inspire anyone interested in both modern architecture and the draw of California living. **CH**

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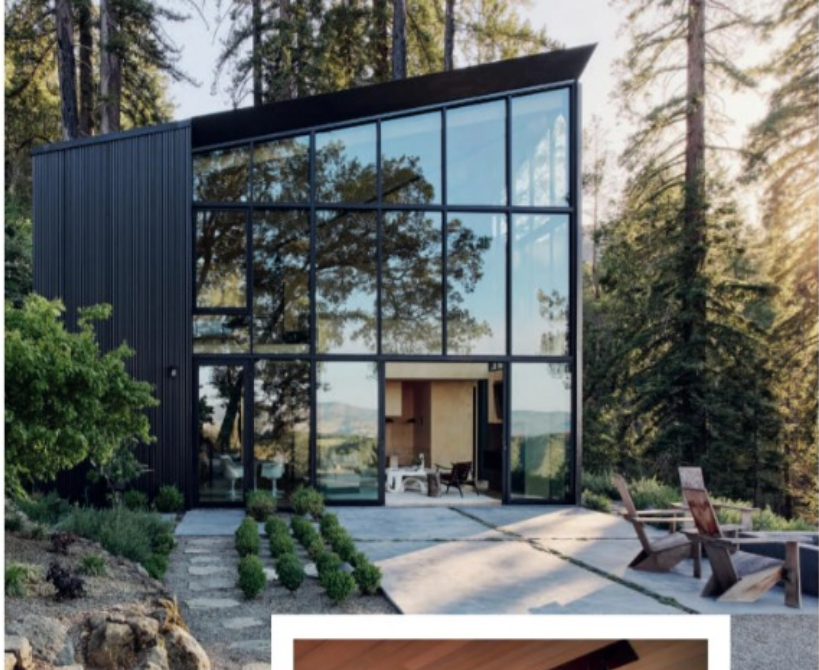
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ABOVE Mount Veeder Outpost in Napa County was designed by Atelier Jorgensen.

RIGHT Olson Kundig designed Collywood in West Hollywood. This house could be described as kinetic sculpture.

BELOW Ogrzydzak Prillinger Architects (OPA) created this hidden house in San Francisco behind a cedar-wood windscreen.

BELOW RIGHT Veev Design created this Light Box house in San Francisco. This is a house of layers, from the internal shear walls to the transparency of the glass enclosed bedroom.





LEFT This Santa Monica house has a wooden bridge crossing the pool. A lush garden of Mediterranean trees and succulents fans the pool.



ABOVE Enveloping a tree, a curving steel-and-wood staircase sweeps upward in this South Bay Retreat which overlooks the Pacific Ocean.

Residing with Nature: The Houses of KAA Design

Text by Grant Kirkpatrick and Duan Tran

Foreword by Mayer Rus

This monograph of recent houses by a leading California architecture and landscape firm, KAA Design, celebrates sophisticated modern living and that ethereal California dream. Here Grant Kirkpatrick and Duan Tran of KAA Design share their process for creating personal environments that conform to each client's lifestyle and setting.

As Mayer Rus writes in the Foreword, "There is nothing superficial about the relationships of KAA's houses with their surroundings. The buildings are deferential to their sites while also standing out, enhancing their natural environs, a respectful meeting of equals. Houses grow from their sites as trees grow from rock and soil."

These stunning houses exemplify why California is important in modern living. The houses are inspired by early California modernism and Asian traditions. The Strand in Manhattan Beach rises out of a berm of sea grasses; the Tree House is nestled in an array of mature cork oaks, rare Torrey pines and Southern magnolias. Multiple views of each house and plan give readers inspiration.

As Grant Kirkpatrick says: "We see ourselves as perpetuating and morphing the modernism that started with Wright and his disciples... California modernism has so much to do with relationship with nature." And this book illustrates their dynamic connection to nature and provides ideas to dream about. ❧



BELOW In Aspen, Colorado, this residence, without compromising its modernist principles, speaks the language of a contemporary ski chalet.



Residing with Nature: The Houses of KAA Design

Text by Grant Kirkpatrick and Duan Tran

Foreword by Mayer Rus

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