

# ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

THE INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AUTHORITY

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## THE POWER OF DESIGN

**SPECIAL FEATURE:**  
CUTTING-EDGE  
ARCHITECTURE



# AD



Warm welcome: Sunlight dapples the limestone entrance of a home in Northern California.

# FEBRUARY

# CROSSING BORDERS

Vintage Michael Taylor–designed sofas anchor the living room of the Woodside, California, residence of Anne and Edward Storm, which was conceived by Backen, Gilliam & Kroeger Architects, with interiors by April Powers and landscaping by Andrea Cochran Landscape Architecture. The fireplace wall is lined with Texas shell stone, the floor lamps are by Chakib Richani, and the sisal is by Restoration Hardware. For details see Sources.

Combining bold horizontal volumes and serene earth tones, architects Howard J. Backen and Loren Kroeger adapt Mexican modernism for a Northern California house offering seamless indoor-outdoor living

TEXT BY PATRICIA LEIGH BROWN PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROGER DAVIES PRODUCED BY HOWARD CHRISTIAN



"HOWARD'S HOUSES HAVE SUCH A RESPECT FOR CALIFORNIA, BUT THEY NEVER TIPTOE AROUND," EDWARD OBSERVES.

them 11 feet tall—slide into wall pockets to open the house to blue sky, billowing trees, and rustling grasses. Limestone floors extend outward to become terraces for dining, living, and relaxing, fusing the natural and man-made environments.

"Howard's houses have such a respect for California, but they never tiptoe around," Edward observes. Particularly bold is the main entrance. At the end of a long stone walk, cantilevered stairs ascend to broad stepping-stones that cross a pool of water and lead to a sun-dappled porch with monumental teak doors. Water reappears on the porch, filling a basin set flush with the floor. It also courses into a wide channel that skirts the living room's grand L-shaped terrace and cascades into the sparkling infinity pool—the water feature that happens to be the favorite of the couple's seven grandchildren.

The constant presence of water gives the Storms' residence an ethereal quality, as if it were floating on a pond. That feeling increases during the winter, when a pearly mist rises off the swimming pool, and the landscape, seen from the comfort of an armchair, grows more stark as the temperature drops. "You are constantly stimulated by the outside elements, but there is a secure feeling," Edward says. "You feel safely aboard." □

**Clockwise from top left:** In Edward's bath, the shower is equipped with Dornbracht fittings; garden views can be enjoyed from the cushioned bench and contiguous tub. A Boffi limestone tub with Dornbracht fittings graces Anne's bath. The master bedroom takes in a vista of the Santa Cruz Mountains; the throw and cushions are made of a faux fur by Sahco. A collage by Joan Brown overlooks the custom-made bed; a Rose Cumming silk upholsters the bed and is used for the coverlet and pillows.

