

california

HOME + DESIGN

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ARCHITECTURE

A NEW OUTLOOK ON EVERYDAY LIVING

A renovation in Noe Valley
by Yama Mar Design
captures the view, p. 118.

TEN TO WATCH

THE NEXT
WAVE OF STAR
ARCHITECTS

EAST BAY

STYLE THAT
SPANS THE
DECADES



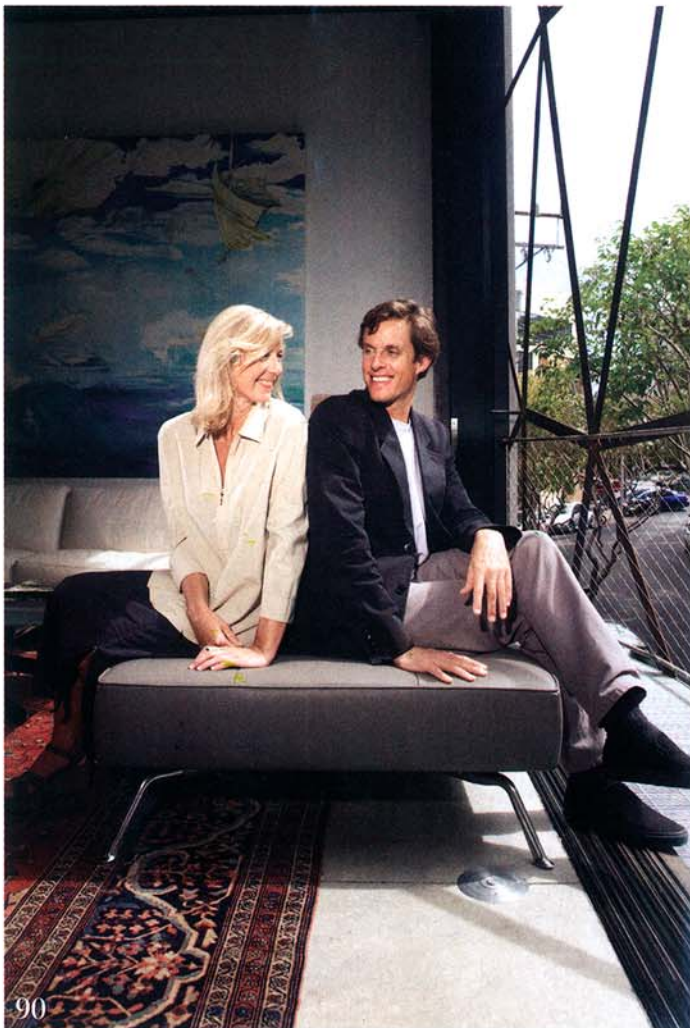
BELVEDERE
A SPA-INSPIRED
HILLSIDE RETREAT

DEPARTMENTS

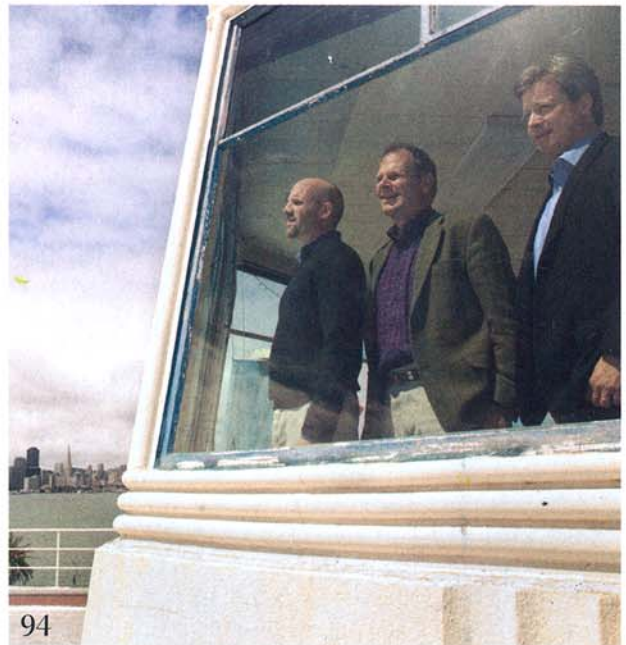
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TEN TO WATCH

Andrew Dunbar and
Zoe Astrakhan, see p. 98

Introducing the 10 firms selected for *CH+D*'s annual spotlight of what's new and noteworthy in California architecture. BY LYDIA LEE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENNIFER HALE AND BRIDGER NIELSEN



ARCHITECTS OF DISCIPLINE

ZOE ASTRAKHAN AND ANDREW DUNBAR
INTERSTICE ARCHITECTS, SAN FRANCISCO

Zoe Astrakhan and Andrew Dunbar of Interstice Architects have designed many modern landscapes. Recently, for Oakland's Kaiser Medical Center, they created a rehab garden, featuring ramps and uneven surfaces, so that patients have a safe place to learn how to navigate on crutches or wheelchairs. With stainless steel handrails and bright orange boxes filled with tree bamboo, the garden was the result of their complementary skills: He's an architect, she's a landscape architect.

"We don't see much of a difference in our two disciplines: only the material palette is specific," says Dunbar. And in a new private residence, they've been able to create the fullest expression of this belief. On Vancouver Island, a house is being built around seven

immense Douglas fir trees; thanks to a carefully placed foundation of piers, it floats above the wooded site. "Were the trees or the house here first?" he says. "We want to make people wonder."

The couple, who are originally from Montreal, came to San Francisco 12 years ago and quickly familiarized themselves with the local scene (Astrakhan worked for Cheryl Barton, Dunbar for Kuth Ranieri) before going out on their own in 2000. One of their first projects was designing new walkways for the SF Botanical Garden, and they've since taken on ever-larger institutional projects. Their latest project is the rooftop of a new research center at the University of San Francisco, where they are hoping to elevate the roof to new importance as a gathering point for the entire campus.