



suite dreams David took a significant design challenge—a bedroom completely open to the main living area—and turned it into an asset. Treating the apartment as a hotel suite, he coordinated the tailored bedroom above with the colors, scale, lines, and furniture styles of the living room. Although David splurged on the gorgeous Italian bed, you can create a similar look by upholstering an existing headboard or creating one with plywood, foam, batting, and fabric. A floor screen adds depth and architectural texture to any room and hides eye sores (a wall heater in this case). Many styles are available, or make one using doors, shutters, or plywood. Silk draperies take the place of a bathroom door, saving space and adding a touch of shimmering elegance. **savvy storage** With no medicine chest or hidden storage in the bathroom, David corals everyday grooming essentials on an attractive stainless-steel shelving system, opposite. “It’s a great little workstation that makes exposed storage look as clean and organized as possible,” he says. **clean slate** David saved money by purchasing slate tiles at a home improvement store and installing them himself in the kitchen and bath. A beveled-glass panel defines a walk-in shower, left, and the classic pedestal sink is perfect for a small space where a vanity cabinet would overwhelm. Details such as the pleated linen lampshade and brushed-metal frame are unexpected designer touches in a bathroom. □

FOR RESOURCES, SEE PAGE 92

NON RESOURCES? SEE PAGE 92



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—homemaker David Kahn



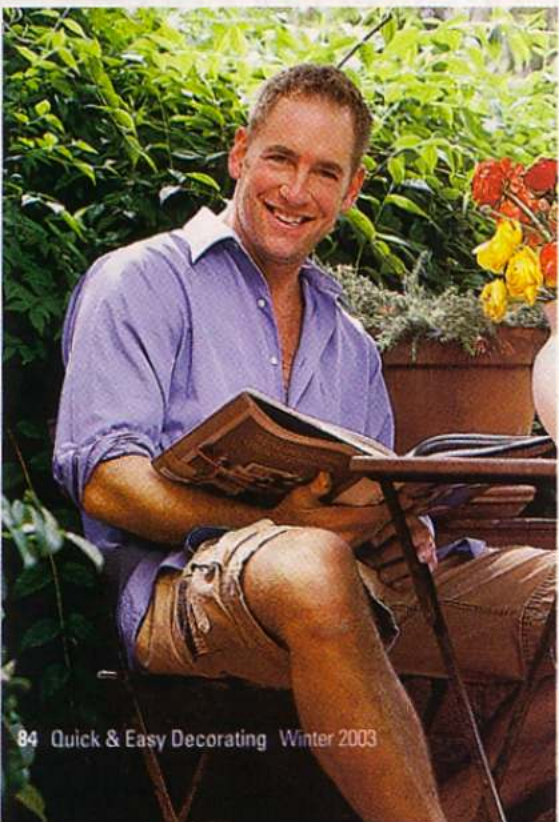
“It’s all about making a place that’s not your own feel more like home.”
—homemaker David Kahn



in focus The creamy sofa and picture mats would be lost against a light backdrop. Here, they pop against dark walls. “Don’t be afraid of dark colors, even in small spaces,” David advises. “They create so much more depth in a room.” Artwork is positioned close to the sofa, creating a cohesive design that brings everything into sharp focus.



nature house For the apartment’s cozy, earthy feel, David incorporated natural surroundings. Heater designed to resemble the hand-blended oak lampshade for its ease to pair with a contemporary urban edge, as well as a cost-effective treatment for the apartment’s many windows. **outdoor connection** Plans include a deck to frame the canyon’s wild shrubbery just outside the entry, where David, left, relaxes in the California sunshine.



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something organic, with a mix of rich woods and color tones that would meld into the greens and browns of the canyon beyond,” he says.

Cherry cabinets, slate floors, clay-color walls, and textured wool carpet provide an earthy backdrop for David’s urban-style furnishings. Colors are neutral, with the exception of a carefully edited selection of accessories, their bright tones sparking interest and excitement.

Guided by specific design concepts (“I’m huge on variety with unity,” David says), he chose a mix of furniture and textures unified by solid colors, similar styles, and consistent scale. “Size of furniture is very important. Clean, rectilinear lines suit the style of cracker box I live in,” he says. Good advice from someone who has learned to live large in a small space.

d is for david A rustic, metal D, above, makes a three-dimensional graphic impact in the living area. “It’s my unspoken signature,” David says of the decorative Ds that pepper his walls. He keeps furniture in scale with the size of the room by selecting pieces with slim arms, low backs, and sleek lines. Two-inch aluminum blinds offer consistency and a contemporary urban edge, as well as a cost-effective treatment for the apartment’s many windows. **outdoor connection** Plans include a deck to frame the canyon’s wild shrubbery just outside the entry, where David, left, relaxes in the California sunshine.

SMART HOME • DURANTA: THE PERFECT PLANT?

SAN DIEGO HOME/GARDEN

lifestyles

Sky Boxes

Hot ideas for loft living

5 big winners
Baths of the Year



DINING TO LIVING ROOM

BRIGHT IDEAS

- Use area rugs to define spaces for conversation, dining and casual seating
- To display collectibles or bar items use a pole with adjustable glass shelves
- Leave open space for traffic flow when entertaining
- Use bright paint color for just one or two walls, muted color for the rest
- Paint one wall chocolate brown for drama in the bath; decorate with vases of fresh flowers
- Install pipe drapery rods for an industrial loft look; soften with puddled silk draperies
- Use oversized bedroom furniture for more storage; balance with a tall headboard



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LIVING ROOM



MASTER BATH

#512 SOPHISTI-CHIC



DESIGNER: David Koehn
FOR METROPOLIS
FURNITURE AND
LIGHTING



CONVERSATION/BAR AREA

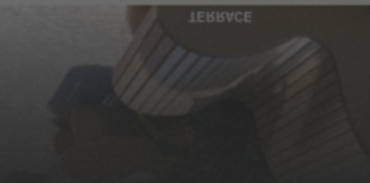


TERRACE

David Koehn has cleverly divided a west-facing loft of one long open space into very specific areas for living. Shag rugs, unusual lamps and lots of orange color with touches of chartreuse add both funk and chic. A wall of adjustable custom shelving at one end of the room holds books, photographs, art and home-entertainment systems. Another custom wall, which divides living/dining spaces from the private areas, reaches partially to the ceiling. On the dining side it is designed for built-in lighting, or as a space for art or an aquarium. On the bedroom side is a handy bank of closets and drawers. "I wanted really good movement in the space," says Koehn, "and something wonderful to look at from all vantage points."

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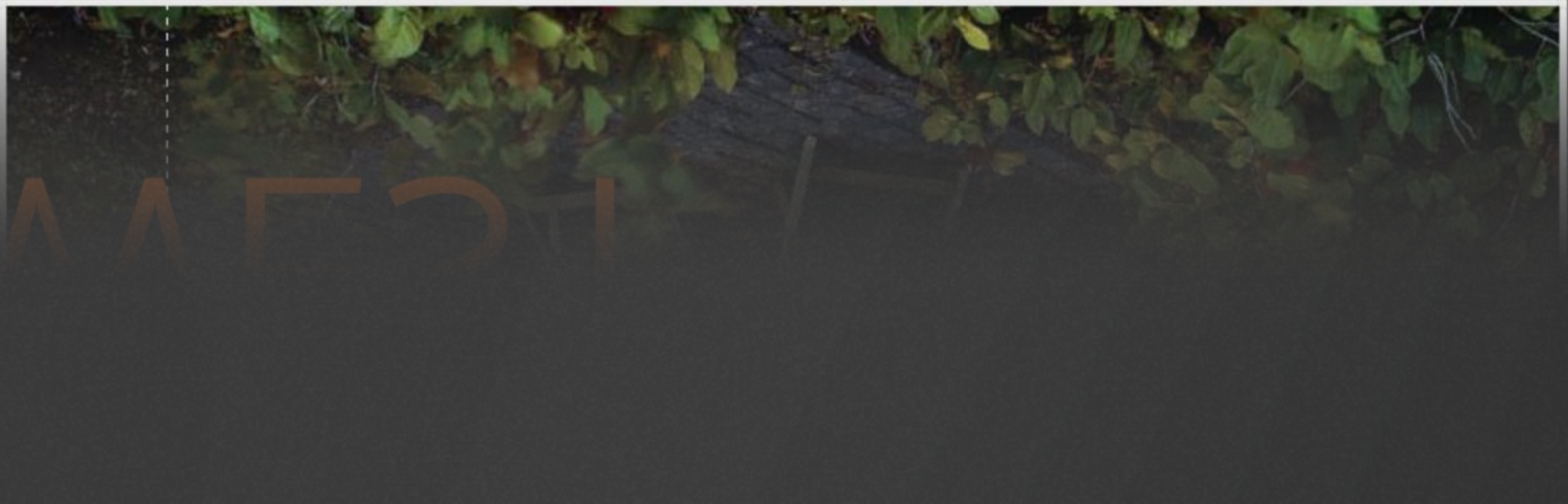
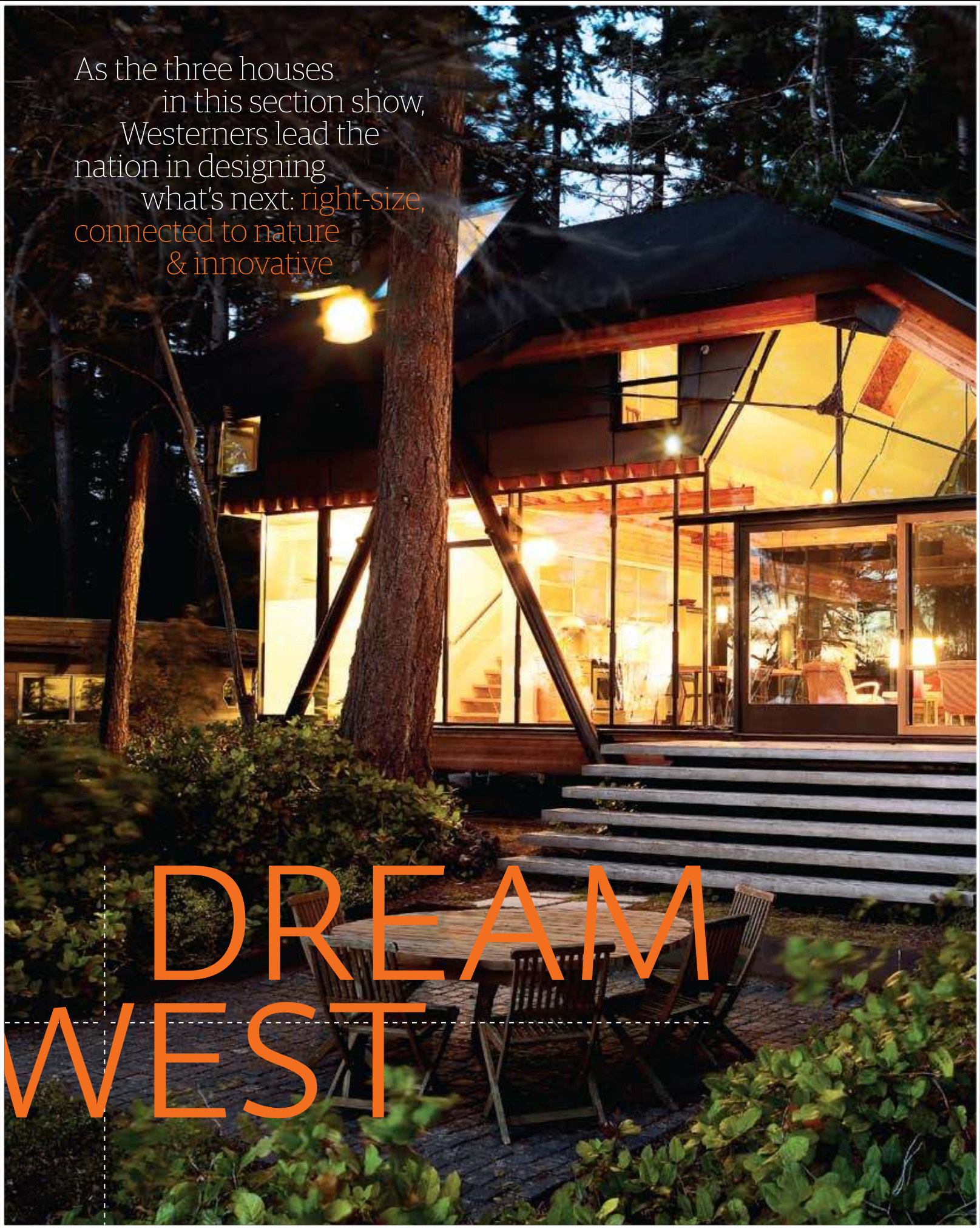
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TERRACE

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An updated classic

Then A photo (below) taken soon after the house was built shows the living room's double-sided fireplace.

Now The same space (bottom) with new wood floors and a lighter, less obtrusive shade of paint on ceiling beams and trim.



Why we love it now

Earth-friendly ideas improve (discreetly) on the past

SUSTAINABLE A sensitive 2007 update by local architect Carmen Pauli and owners Jora and Bryan Vess kept the essential character of the 3,798-square-foot residence while incorporating modern eco-friendly materials, including Brazilian teak floors and ipewood decking.

ENERGY SMART Dual-glazed and low-e windows keep the interiors cool in summer and warm in winter. The kitchen is outfitted with Energy Star-rated appliances.

WATER SAVVY Low-flow fixtures help conservation in the kitchen and bath. In the gardens, succulent aloes and agave replaced thirsty avocados and dusty jumpers. A smart irrigation system automatically adjusts to landscape needs and local weather conditions.

GOING GREEN Usable materials and items, including paneling, fixtures, and appliances, removed from the house during the redo were donated to Habitat for Humanity. —Nan Steinman

ARCHITECT Carmen Pauli, Herthagen Architecture & Planning, San Diego (herthagenarchitecture.com or 619/722-7888)

In plain sight

The renovated kitchen (above) retains the original footprint minus the overhead cabinets that isolated it from the dining area.

View master

With the main living areas (right) on the second floor, dining as the breakfast is a daily treat. Natural tones of pottery (top) complement the Southern California landscape.



Free flow Steel post-and-beam construction eliminates the need for thick supporting walls in the living areas.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS



IN 1966

Why we loved it then This midcentury home became an instant classic

AHEAD OF ITS TIME Featured in *Sunset*'s May 1966 issue, this award-winning La Mesa hillside home near San Diego was considered a model of indoor-outdoor living.

BLURRING THE LINES Thanks to architect John R. Mock's abundant use of glass, nearly every room of the two-story structure pulled you outside. Floor-to-ceiling panels of the transparent material in the living and dining areas offered a broad view of the surrounding landscape and valley below.

DIRECT ACCESS A glazed breezeway and sliding glass doors opened onto shady decks that abutted the hillside of granite boulders and meandering pathways. From the downstairs office and family room, glass doors led to an outdoor patio and beautiful gardens. [SEE WHY WE LOVE IT NOW](#) »

Old meets new

Photographed decades apart, two sides of the same hillside house (above) share a flair for indoor-outdoor living.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS