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LIVING

Home
+ Garden



One With Nature

A home in Mission Canyon takes indoor-outdoor living to heart.

BY JOAN TAPPER



A flagstone path lined with greenery beckons visitors to enter a contemporary Mission Canyon residence designed to blend in with the natural environment. On the grounds, a chiseled stone-block firepit (opposite) is flanked by vintage root stools for sitting and savoring the view.

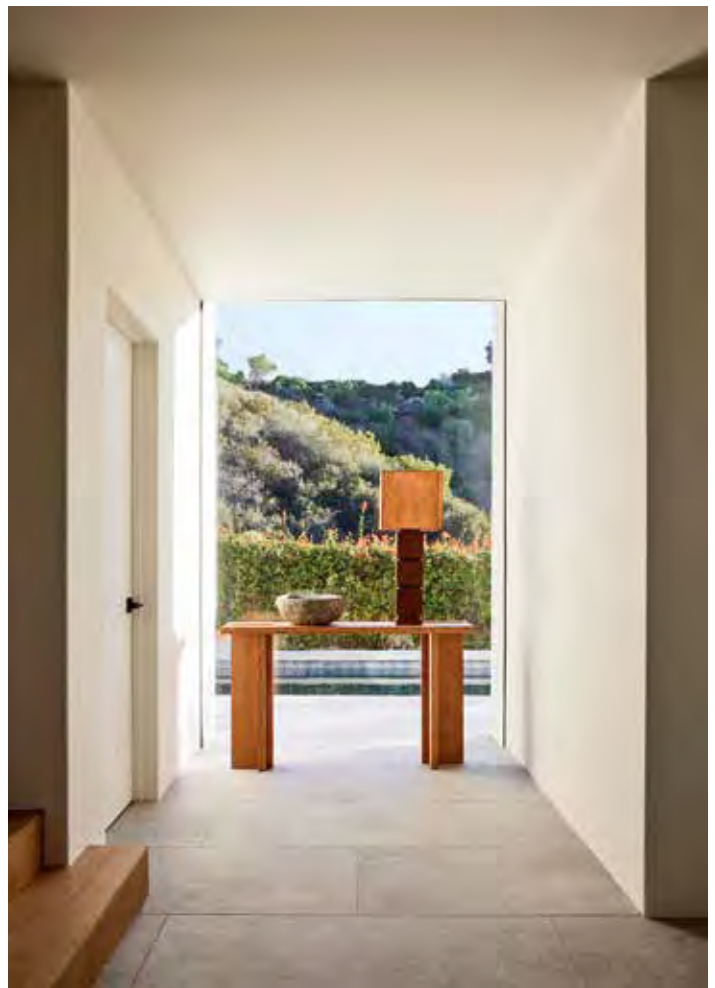




WHEN A COUPLE FROM DALLAS connected with Santa Barbara-based interior designer Corinne Mathern (corinnemathern.com), they were excited about the home they'd bought in Mission Canyon. They had visited the area frequently, fallen in love with it, and "were happy to live in the hills," Mathern remembers. "They loved the views, which overlooked the city." But they also hoped to put their own stamp on the contemporary, geometric 3,000-square-foot residence—"a series of boxes," in the designer's words. "They wanted a calm, clean, relaxing environment and a link from the interior to the exterior," says Mathern.

When the designer asked the couple for pictures of environments they liked, their images were of wood, stone, and other elements from nature and included a picture >

The view of the landscape beyond the entryway (right) underscores the owners' penchant for indoor-outdoor living. A stone bowl and a vintage lamp add accents to a custom wood console by Christopher Norman. In the living room (above), a plaster fireplace with a limestone hearth provides a focal point, while floor-to-ceiling windows and doors draw attention outward.



A mix of textures enlivens a neutral palette in the dining room where *Rio Viejo Monument*, a mixed-media artwork by Gala Porras Kim, presides over a custom white-oak table with an obsidian quartzite top, and a light fixture sports a silk shade.




of the Aman Kyoto hotel, which resonated with Mathern, whose minimalist approach also favors natural materials and earth-toned aesthetics.

The house had an open floor plan, which worked well for the new owners, who love to entertain. Working with Allen Construction (buildallen.com), they upgraded the home, added a roof deck, and converted a guest room in a separate building to a freestanding primary suite with a bedroom, bath, and additional living area.

The home's existing floor-to-ceiling windows and sliding doors made it easier to maximize the views from every angle and enhanced the connection to the surroundings. The indoor-outdoor approach is apparent from the steps leading to the home. Mathern consulted with the landscaper to ensure that the entry was an extension of the environment, and indeed, just inside is a view straight through to a hillside.

The central part of the home is spacious and open, encompassing the kitchen, living room, and dining area. A neutral palette unites it and accents of color evoke spices, earth, and trees. Natural materials dominate: The ceilings are white oak—as are the custom dining table and chairs—the cabinetry and shelving are walnut, and the counters are honed sea pearl quartzite. Chairs in front of the plaster fireplace swivel to the kitchen and dining area, helping to connect the flow of conversation. The impressive custom hearth is chiseled out of Indiana buff limestone. A chiseled stone basin similarly provides a focal point in the >



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At the heart of the home, the kitchen opens to the dining area, encouraging casual entertaining and free-flowing conversation. Dishware and mugs by Luvhaus ceramics grace two-toned walnut shelving and cabinetry.





downstairs bath, where it sits on a contrasting oak base.

Also downstairs is the media room with an inviting sectional sofa and ottomans, all covered in dark green linen. “The owners wanted a big pile-in room,” notes Mathern, “where they and their guests could watch TV and movies together.”

The primary suite is up the stairs and outside the main house. Floor-to-ceiling white oak millwork by Allen Construction not only provides a backdrop to the bed it also hides the plumbing for the bath beyond. Oak doors can block off the bedroom from the sitting area, where a pair of deep blue chairs provides a contrast to the neutral tones throughout. Vintage ceramic lamps add a lighthearted touch.

“The owners are fun personalities,” says Mathern, “very social. They love to party, and they use the house as it was intended. It was a great partnership.” ♦

The primary suite serves as a separate space (clockwise from above): A sitting area features a Luth sofa, while two linen-covered Nickey Kehoe armchairs add pops of deep color. Custom millwork covers the walls and nightstands. Restful tones and rich textures abound in the bedroom. A stone countertop in the bath is surrounded by white oak cabinetry.



