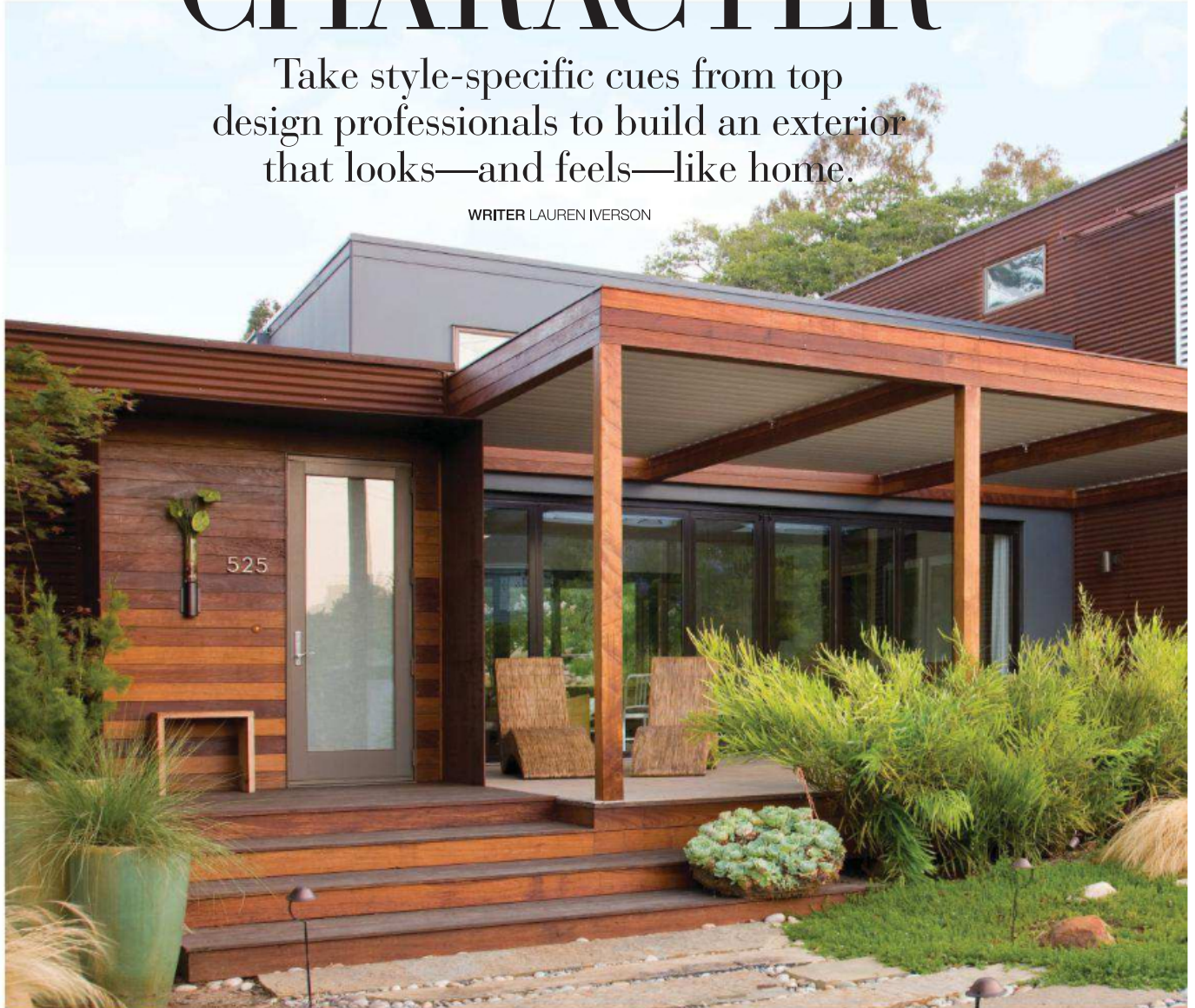


CURB APPEAL

CRAFTING CHARACTER

Take style-specific cues from top design professionals to build an exterior that looks—and feels—like home.

WRITER LAUREN IVERSON



PHOTOGRAPHER ED GOHLICH



WATCH YOUR STEP

Guide guests around your property with sturdy stepping-stones. Stonehaven Sand Stepping Stone Pack (\$299). **Home Depot;** homedepot.com



FRESH GREENS

Blend inside and outside with low-maintenance plants that are ideal for harsher climates. 3-count 11-ounce Monster Assorted Cactus (\$27). **Lowe's;** lowes.com



STRONG SUIT

Weathered-steel siding is durable and modern. Precision Series Wall Panels in Highline M1 (prices vary). **Petersen Aluminum Corp.;** pac-clad.com



Contemporary Cool

Builder Dennis Allen, who worked on this California home, *left*, shares tips for designing sustainable energy-efficient structures with a modern edge.

Q: What elements are quintessential to achieving a contemporary look?

A: A lot of clean lines, sharp corners, large glass areas, and, frequently, flat roofs. A lot of times you'll see doors and windows without muntins, or you may see large expanses of accordion doors opening up to the outside. Those kinds of doors create a great flow so it feels like the inside extends to the outside. Materials tend to be glass or steel, and smoother textures and uncluttered elements are more prevalent in general.

Q: What have you found to be some of the best "green" building tactics?

A: Creating as tight of a shell as we can. Some people think that's not a good thing because you're cutting down on ventilation, but we've found a structure needs a tight shell to be energy-efficient. Then you can take care of ventilation in different ways. We also try to orient a house with energy efficiency in mind. If you're harnessing the sun to bring in its energy for the winter months, then you also need a strategy to keep it out during the hot months. In addition, we look for materials with recycled content or those made from renewable natural resources, such as wood from a sustainable harvested forest. And I always try to have a minimal number of finishes in a single design—that means less energy to produce the materials, and it also requires less maintenance for the homeowners.



HELLO, LIGHT

Welcome light inside with a steel-framed glass-panel front door. Profiles Steel Door #118 in Onyx (\$793). **Therma-Tru Doors;** thermatru.com



MODERN IDENTITY

Maintain a simple profile with streamlined house numbers. 6-inch Modern House Numbers in Flat Black (\$59). **Rejuvenation;** rejuvenation.com



SALVAGED GLORY

Go natural with wood siding. AquaFir Redwood siding (starting at \$3.50 per board foot). **Montana Timber Products;** montanatimberproducts.com