

World of Exteriors

Merging material research and the art of industrial design unleashes the possibilities for striking outdoor furniture.



1 2



1
Planter

Made by hand in California, the TH2, or Hourglass planter, was designed by La Gardo Tackett in 1950 for the Architectural Pottery collection. Today it's made by Vessel USA; each one takes up to two weeks to produce. architecturalpottery.com

2
Armchair

In 2000, Kartell introduced the Bubble Club line of polypropylene furnishings designed by Philippe Starck. Comprising a sofa, a table, and a chair, the line has been a best seller ever since. Olive green, shown here, is one of the latest shades. kartell.com

3
Hammock

This is the first such perch for Paola Lenti, the purveyor of fine handmade furniture for the outdoors. Designed by longtime collaborators Bestetti Associati, the multicolored textile is made of rounded rope yarn cords woven on a loom in Italy. paolalenti.com

4
Light

Giravolta is a wireless lamp that, thanks to a 60-watt LED and a battery, keeps full power up to eight hours. Its extruded aluminum handle, meant to evoke an oil lamp of yore, joins the base, while the swiveling light can turn 360 degrees. pedrali.com

5
Rocker

Designed to sport ultra-comfy cushions or exist simply without, Sebastian Herkner's MBRACE rocker for Dedon is a statement piece with an extra-wide back and a solid teak base. dedon.com



6
Rug

Thank your neighborhood Swedish superstore for this flat-weave rug that's easy to vacuum, easy to dry out, and easy on the wallet. ikea.com

7
Chair

The Broom chair by Emeco is a sustainable choice that's made in America from 75 percent waste polypropylene and 15 percent reclaimed wood fiber that would normally be swept into the trash. emeco.com



6



7

OUTDOOR FURNITURE



Located in Orinda, California, a three-bedroom house by architect Greg Faulkner took its first aesthetic cue from a large oak tree on the site. Cor-Ten steel panels clad the exterior, while white oak offers a material counterpoint on the interior. A 12-foot-wide sliding pocket wall opens the living/dining area to a terrace with a Wave chaise longue by Paola Lenti. The landscape design is by Thuirot Associates.

Tree

The

Giving

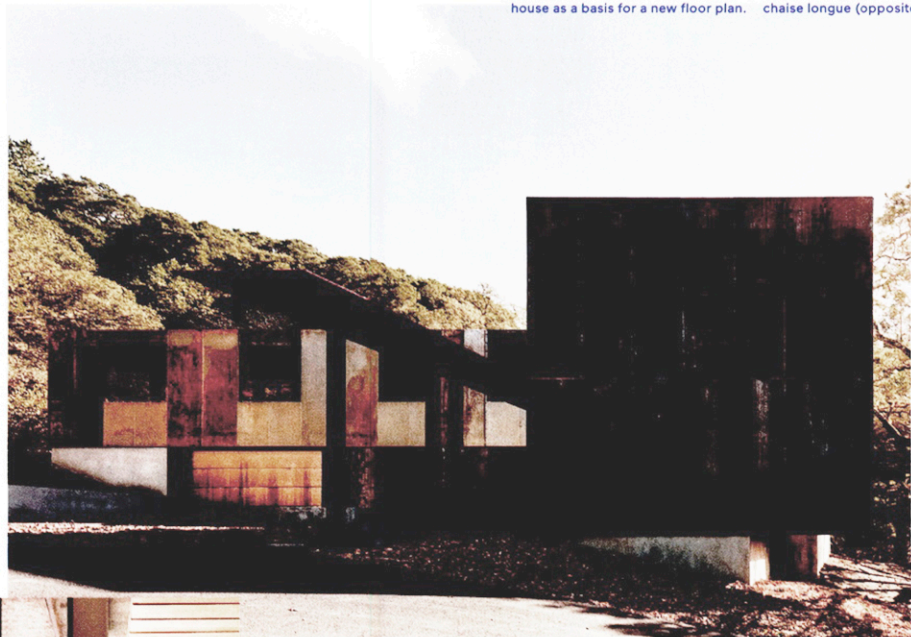
Nature informs every aspect of a Northern California residence.

TEXT BY Laura Mauk PHOTOS BY Joe Fletcher



The property is on an ex-urban infill site located on almost eight acres of a Bay Area suburb (below). Technically a remodel, the house utilized the footprint of the existing house as a basis for a new floor plan.

In the master bathroom, a tub and sink from ADM join Cifial fixtures (bottom). An opening in a Cor-Ten steel-clad wall on the terrace frames the Paola Lenti chaise longue (opposite).



the husband says. "They have a high rating for retaining heat and reflecting solar gain. They're going to pay off in spades."

Faulkner dressed the exterior of the house with Cor-Ten steel—another material that will pay off in spades since it's relatively affordable and requires practically no maintenance. "For me, the materials aren't optional," the architect says. "They come from a feeling I get when I'm on the site. You really feel the changeable character of this landscape. These rusting masses of steel refresh every time it rains, just like the landscape." The steel is a textural counterpoint to the unfinished white oak that Faulkner applied to the ceilings and some of the walls and floors. "You see the tree and smell the oak when you walk in," he says. Basalt flooring and white gypsum walls in some areas help to break up the oak, making it more of a focal point.

But the landscape steals the spotlight at almost every turn, especially in the main living area, where a 12-foot-wide opening ties the space to the outdoors. "There's a seasonal creek on the site and strong

breezes flow down its path, so I opened the house with big pocket doors to the south and a private yard," Faulkner says, adding. "My clients say that opening those doors cools the house instantly, so they don't have to use the air conditioner very often."

Faulkner also designed a rainwater collection system for the toilets, washing machine, and landscape irrigation. An 8.1kW photovoltaic system provides energy for the house, and ECM motors and variable-speed heat pumps limit energy use and control heating and cooling. "The mechanical and electrical systems were designed at 44.9 percent improvement over code," Faulkner says.

In the end it's a house that satisfies. "My husband and I both grew up where there was a lot of land, and we have careers that focus on the environment," the wife says. "A house that brings the outdoors into our lives seemed critical." It was a need Faulkner took to heart. "If you count glass as just space, we built this with four materials," he says. "Any pretense is stripped away. Then, it's just living." ■

*"Those big trees felt like refuge
before we even built anything.
They're a free material
that became part of the house."*

GREG FAULKNER

