



Slats of Verde Guatemala marble provide shade and privacy at the home's entrance; wooden sculpture by Steve Turnbull.

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

ARCHITECT PAUL MCCLEAN, WHOSE MODERNISM DEFINES
THE QUINTESSENTIAL HOLLYWOOD HILLS LIFESTYLE,
OVERCOMES A CHALLENGING LOT IN THE BIRD STREETS

INTERIOR DESIGN **COLABHOUSE**

TEXT **ROGER GRODY**

PHOTOGRAPHY **MANOLO LANGIS**

STYLING **KB KIM/LANGOWORKS**



Grand foyer furnished with two benches by Rick Owens and marble-and-metal coffee table by Vincenzo De Cotiis. In the background, a sculptural, bleached walnut-clad staircase creates drama in the soaring space.

THE MIDCENTURY MASTERS who introduced modern residential architecture to Los Angeles were inspired by the city's natural environment and creative spirit. Today, few architects rival Paul McClean in adapting that legacy to 21st century lifestyles. A residence in the Hollywood Hills reflects McClean's contemporary brand of modernism, which possesses warmth and approachability.

Like many of those 20th century pioneers, McClean's first impressions of L.A. were from afar, discovering the work of Neutra and Schindler while studying architecture in his native Ireland. "There's no better place in the world to practice residential architecture than California, because of its unique topography, openness to new ideas and enlightened clients with resources," states the architect. McClean Design, sought out by property owners seeking to maximize the potential of their hillside or coastal real estate, enjoys a global clientele.



RIGHT Portion of a 12-foot black walnut dining table illuminated by a fixture from Apparatus, with art by Matthew Brannon.

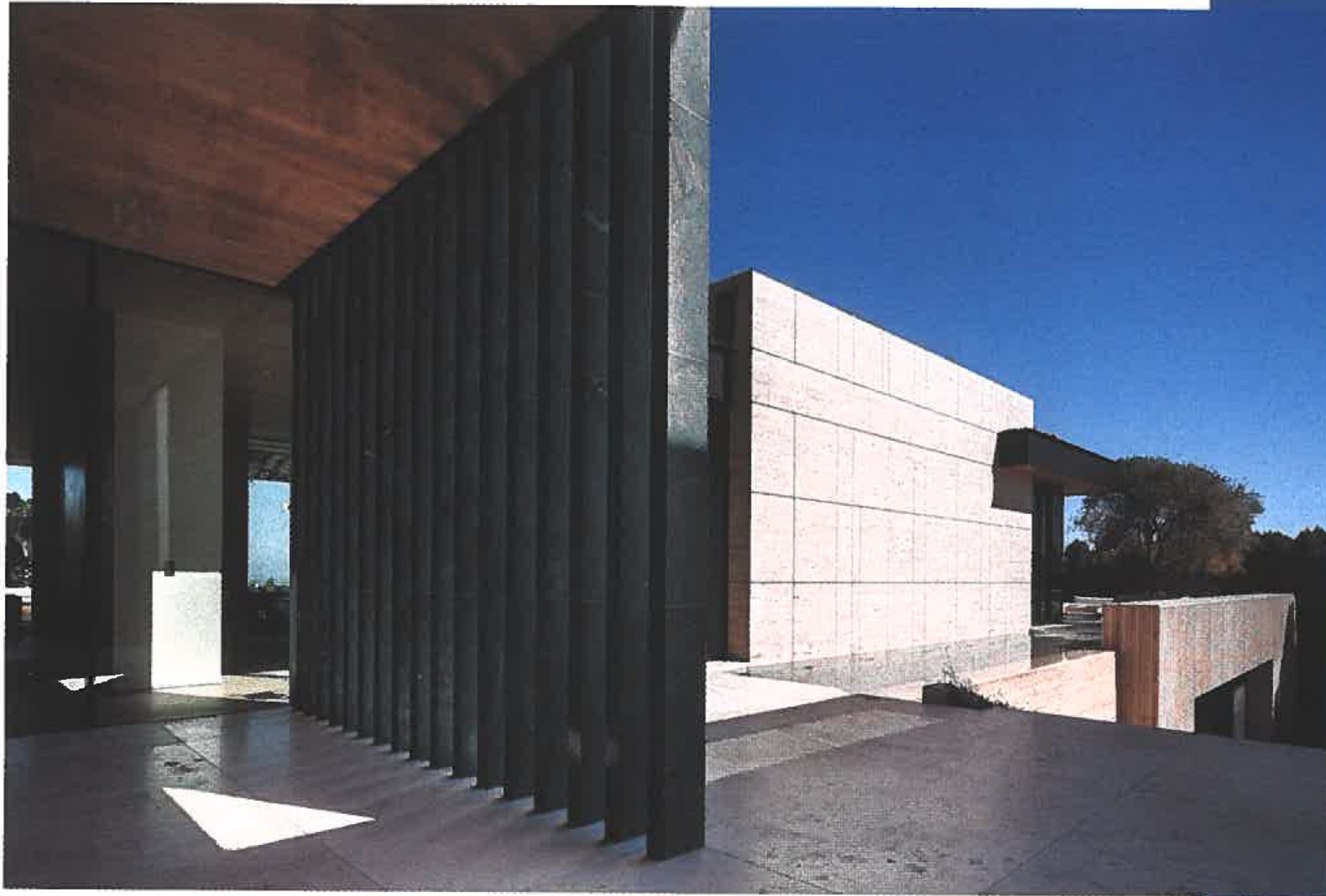
BELOW Breakfast area with custom plaster table by Rex J. Pratt, Helios Cord Pendant from Workstead and Toptun armchairs by Faina.

OPPOSITE A sleek, minimalist kitchen clad in walnut and bronze-hued marble features Gaggenau appliances, while stools from Thomas Hayes Studio line a pair of prominent islands.



With street names like Blue Jay Way and Oriole Drive, the Bird Streets has become a showplace for modern architecture and McClean's imprint is evident throughout the neighborhood. This home occupies a promontory lot whose original house was built for then-actor Ronald Reagan. McClean's client desired a home for entertaining that would take full advantage of the site's 270-degree views, spanning from Mount Wilson to the Pacific Ocean. "With those wraparound views you feel like you're in the countryside, but you also experience an urban energy," says McClean, noting the house is practically walking distance to bustling Sunset Boulevard.

The tiered parcel inspired a glass-ensconced living space surrounded by water features on three sides, with a basement accommodating additional square footage without breaching strict height restrictions. The residence is clad in travertine and various textures of the versatile stone are reprised indoors, paired with multiple applications of bleached walnut on ceilings, floors and selected walls. "The bleached walnut has a certain movement to it that's softer and presents a sense of warmth," states the architect, who suggests the restrained material palette lends itself to a soothing, tranquil quality.



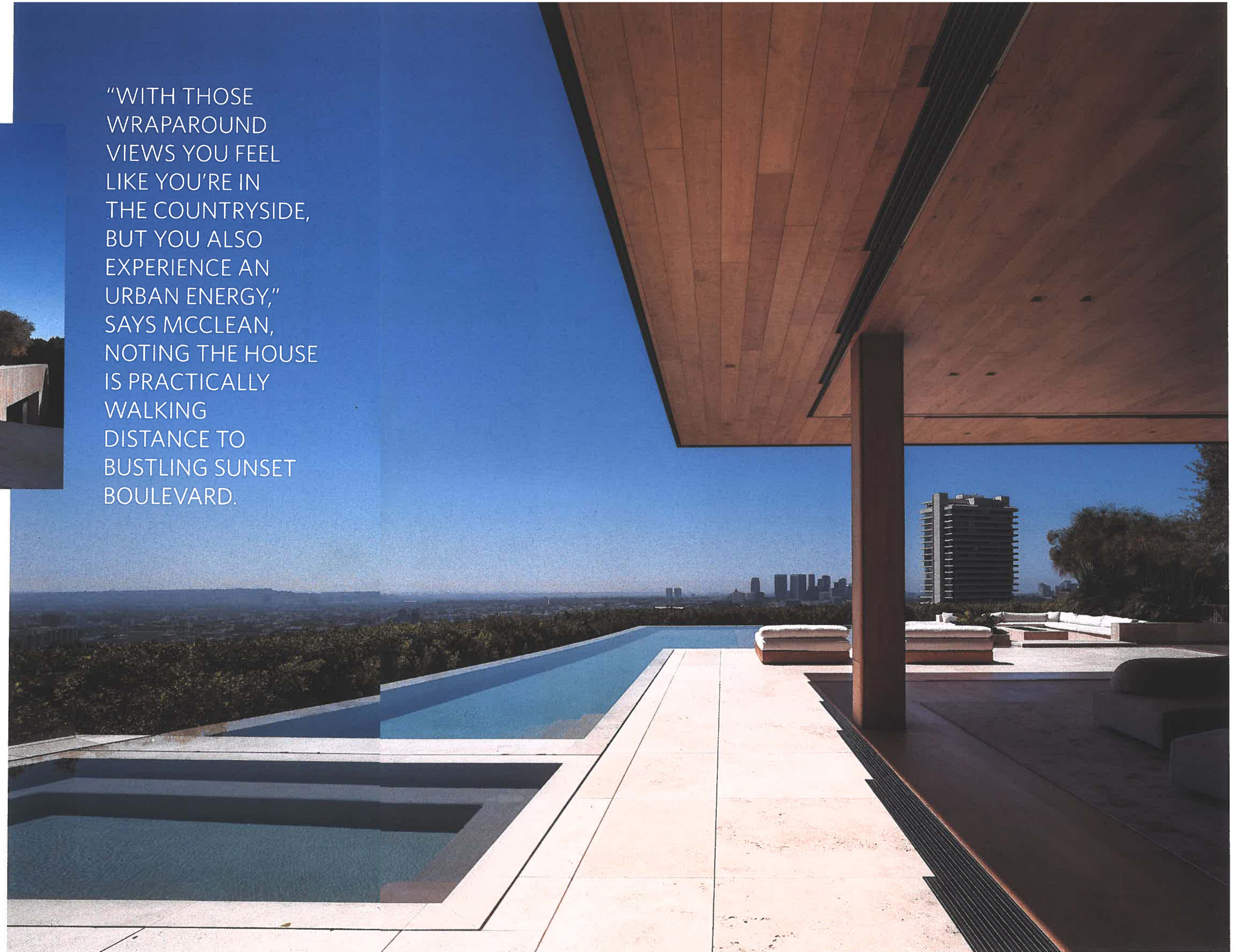
"WITH THOSE WRAPAROUND VIEWS YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, BUT YOU ALSO EXPERIENCE AN URBAN ENERGY," SAYS MCCLEAN, NOTING THE HOUSE IS PRACTICALLY WALKING DISTANCE TO BUSTLING SUNSET BOULEVARD.

The front entrance, screened by green marble slats for privacy and shade, sits atop a dramatic stairway ascending from the motor court, a feature driven by the existing topography. In the grand foyer, a two-story glass wall reveals a lushly landscaped courtyard with 20-foot-high marble waterfall. A walnut interior staircase, an element that is as sculptural as it is functional, provides a dramatic focal point.

The kitchen and adjoining breakfast area open onto the pool deck, while the family room shares a two-sided fireplace with an outdoor garden. The upper floor contains the primary living quarters and two additional suites, overlooking a landscaped roof garden and the city beyond. The basement, bathed in natural light from the east, features three bedrooms, a media room, spa/wellness center, billiard room, and wine cellar, as well as a tricked-out commercial kitchen for ambitious entertaining.

ABOVE Verde Guatemala marble slats shade the home's entrance, atop travertine stairs ascending from the motor court.

RIGHT The Hollywood Hills home maximizes an indoor-outdoor lifestyle while showcasing spectacular views from a promontory site.



BELOW A view into one of two primary bathrooms, clad in Calacatta Oyster Marble, with iconic photo by Milton Greene.

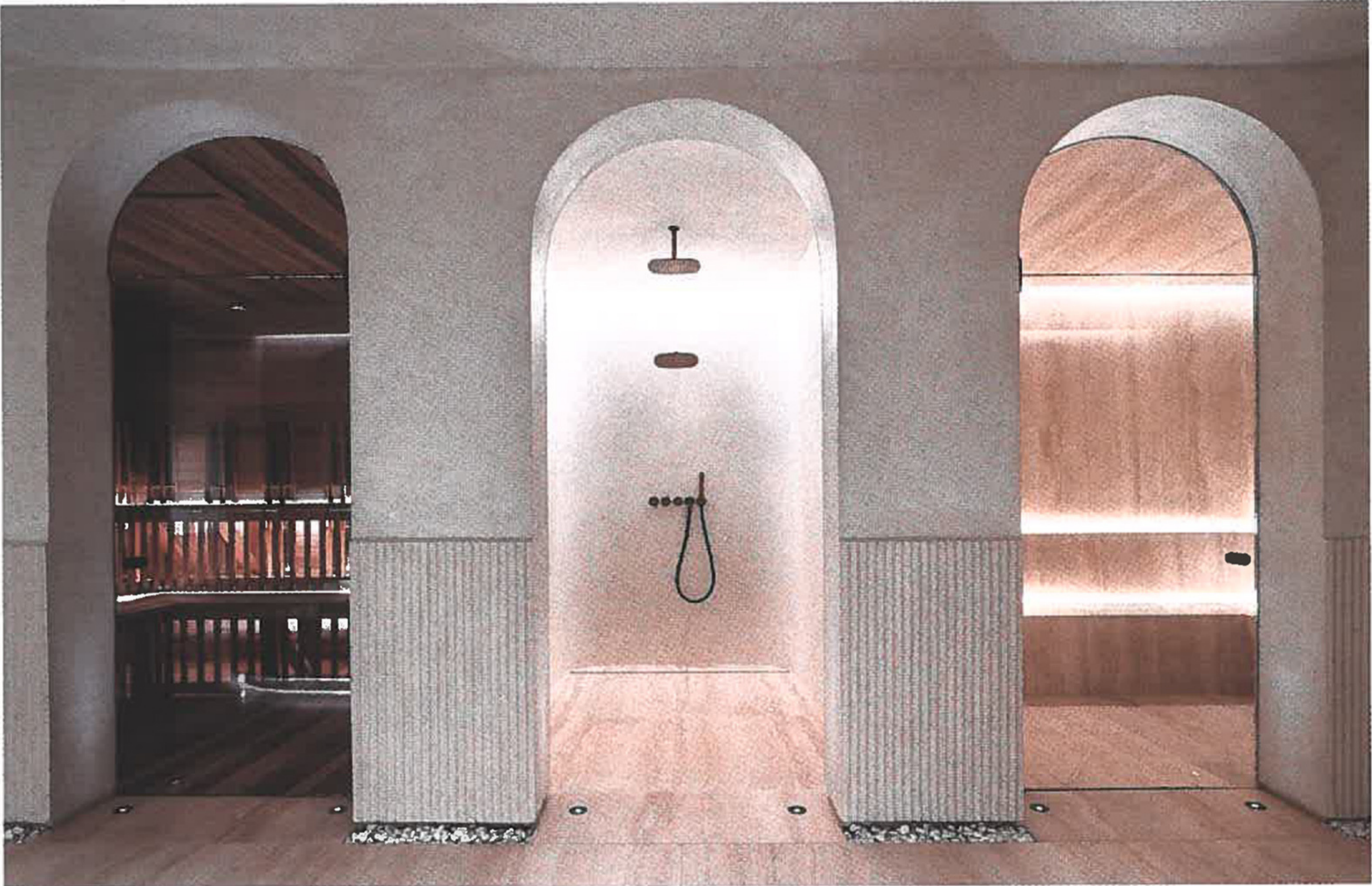
BOTTOM A generous use of water elements connects the residence to nature, softening the modern architecture.



“IN TERMS OF ITS LOOK AND FEEL, THIS HOME IS VERY MUCH WHAT WE ASPIRE TO,” SAYS MCCLEAN, WHO REPORTS THE DESIGN WAS A SYNERGETIC PROCESS WITH A VALUED CLIENT.

The landscaping, integral to the design, was created by Garden of Eva Landscape Design Group, while ColabHouse brought warmth to interior spaces and collaborated with McClean Design on all interior and exterior finishes. “We introduced green marble columns with diverse textures and a patterned travertine-clad exterior with bleached walnut and plastered interiors to create a warm, understated palette to complement Paul McClean’s strong, modern architecture,” says Sarah McKay, founding principal of ColabHouse.

“In terms of its look and feel, this home is very much what we aspire to,” says McClean, who reports the design was a synergetic process with a valued client. He adds, encouragingly, “Since COVID, people have become more invested in the design and aesthetics of their properties.” **CH**



ABOVE LEFT The spacious primary bedroom features ribbed bleached walnut walls, mohair rug by Woven and Rojo Alicante marble bedside table. In the background, Sacha chaise from Shine by S.H.O with “Collabs in Clay” side table by MQuon Studio.

LEFT A travertine-clad spa/wellness center is among the luxury amenities provided on the home’s lower level.