

CALIFORNIA HOMES

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DESIGN DIVERSITY

PASO ROBLES HEALDSBURG LOS CABOS BEVERLY HILLS

MEASURED MODERNISM

ON A RUGGED SITE IN BEVERLY HILLS,
MCCLEAN DESIGN INTRODUCES WARMTH
AND FINESSE WITH A RESTRAINED YET
VERSATILE PALETTE

TEXT **ROGER GRODY**
PHOTOGRAPHY **MIKE KELLEY**

The living room, with two retractable walls and panoramic views, optimizes an indoor-outdoor lifestyle and a pair of coffee tables echo the architect's use of



AS AN ARCHITECTURE STUDENT in his native Ireland, Paul McClean was inspired by the work of midcentury masters in L.A., and as founding principal of McClean Design, he is now imparting his own interpretation of modernism across the city. “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 McClean, whose firm is now pursuing projects around the globe.

Nestled in a coveted Beverly Hills neighborhood, where contemporary showpieces are overwhelming the original housing stock, is an 11,225-square-foot residence authored by McClean Design. The home’s clean, restrained concept includes two above-grade stories whose horizontal white stucco planes are punctuated by generous expanses of glass, with contrasting black steel elements that are both structural and ornamental.

McClean, who engages in “spatial editing” to maximize the advantages of a given site and minimize its deficiencies, squeezed additional living space out of this parcel by providing a basement. He

A basement courtyard, bathed in light from above, features a live green wall, McClean-designed bonsai tree-inspired sculpture and travertine surfaces.



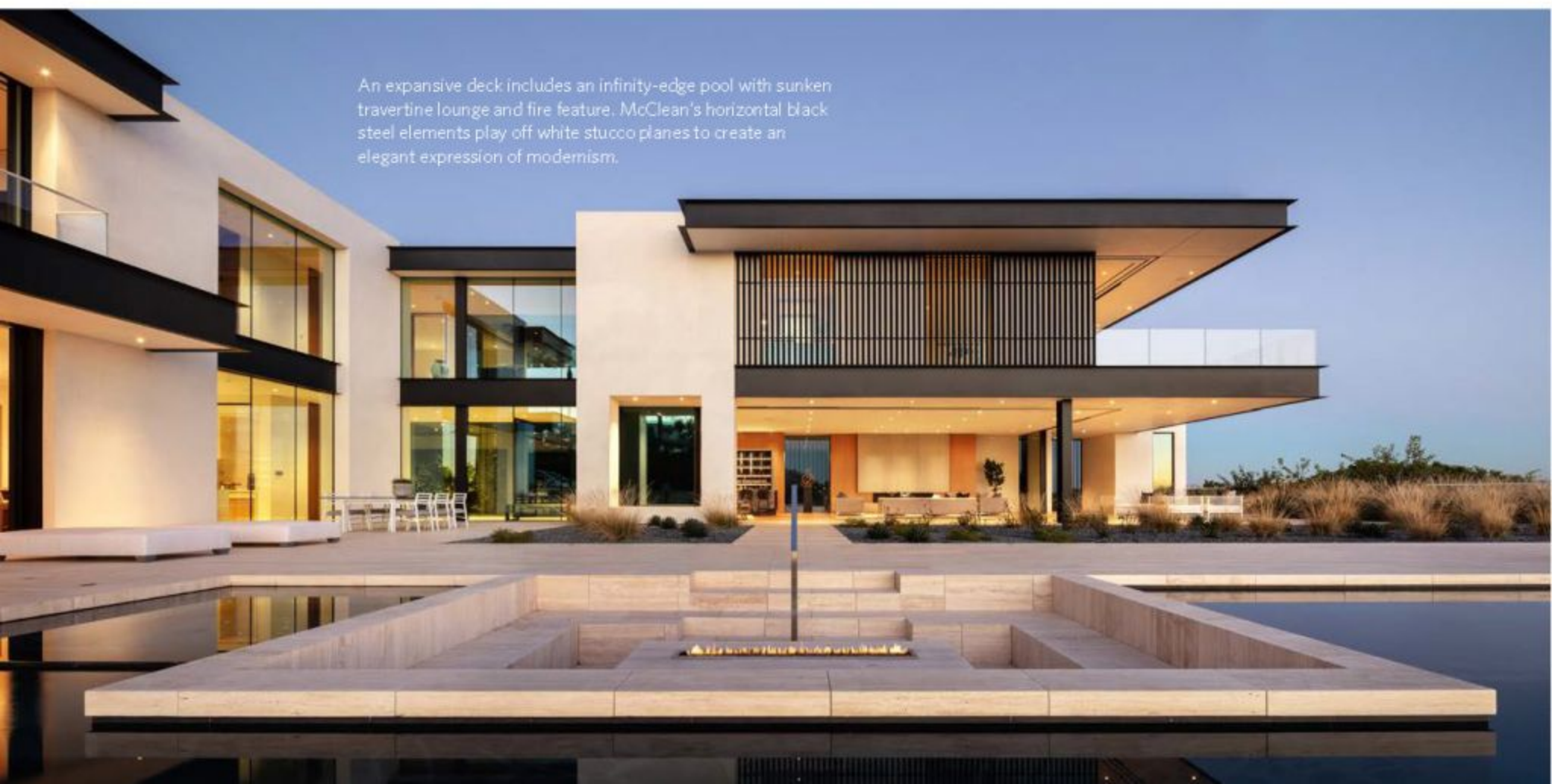
The home’s entry showcases generous expanses of glass paired with black steel elements, which are both structural and ornamental.



The architect's extensive use of walnut spills into the kitchen and adjoining dining area, featuring recessed Miele appliances and twin travertine-clad islands.



One descends to the basement courtyard on a sculptural walnut, glass and steel staircase, another opportunity to draw light from above.



An expansive deck includes an infinity-edge pool with sunken travertine lounge and fire feature. McClean's horizontal black steel elements play off white stucco planes to create an elegant expression of modernism.

also expanded the grade-level recreational area by extending the deck over the steepest portion of the half-acre site, supporting it on concrete piles. Integrated into that travertine-finished deck are an infinity-edge pool, spa and sunken lounge enhanced by a fire feature, all benefitting from spectacular views.

"Connecting people to their environment is the overarching theme to our approach," explains McClean, and in this residence the borders between indoor and outdoor spaces are practically erased, reflected in a living room whose floor-to-ceiling glass walls fully retract on two sides. Rather than a traditional mantel, the elongated fireplace features an elegantly ribbed Aleutian Leather marble element that extends to the ceiling.

Plus Design Studio—its interior specialists frequently work with McClean and other premier L.A. modernists—was able to optimize the architect's restrained material palette by varying textures and colors. Allen Plasencia, the firm's director, notes that while walnut appears throughout the home, the versatile wood conveys a sense of formality as well as a more casual vibe depending on its tone, texture or pattern.

In the spacious kitchen and adjoining dining area, custom walnut cabinetry with recessed or hidden Miele appliances complements twin travertine-topped islands with waterfall edges and travertine backsplashes. A signature staircase is

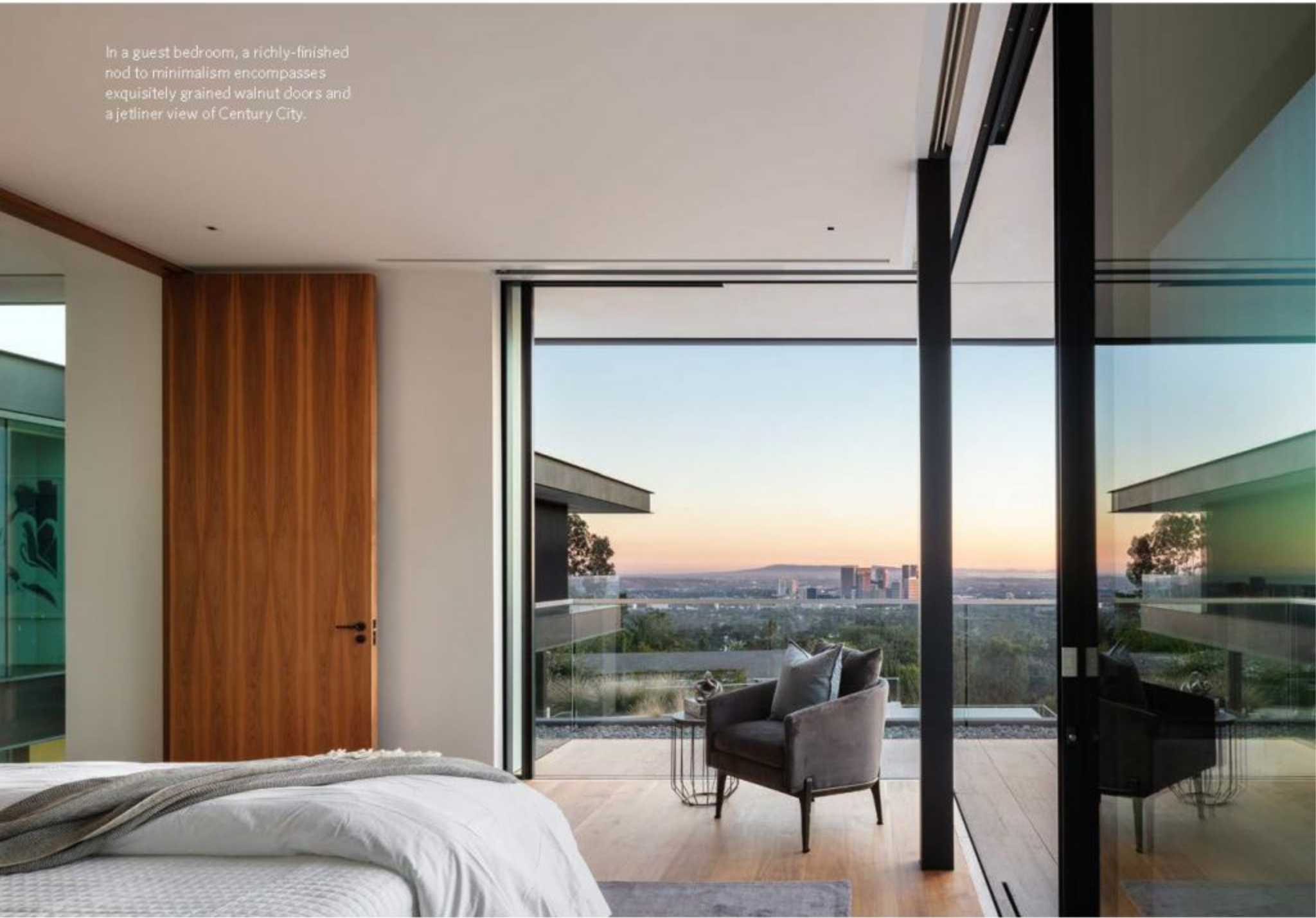
comprised of floating walnut steps and handrails of the same material, juxtaposed against black steel and glass elements. "The skylight over the stairwell was another opportunity to drop light into the basement," reports McClean.

Two walls of the primary bedroom effortlessly dissolve into a spacious terrace, a private perch with quintessential L.A. views reaching Catalina Island. A sitting area by the Grigio Nuvolato marble-framed fireplace features walnut flooring that yields to travertine as the exclusive retreat moves from indoors to outdoors. Similarly, marble flooring in the primary bath is switched out for walnut near the vanity, a transition with both functional and aesthetic merit.

A courtyard in the basement, flooded with natural light from above, features a dramatic living green wall and elegant bronze tree sculpture by McClean himself—at closer inspection the glistening leaves on the bonsai-inspired tree are actually origami-style birds—rising from a reflecting pool. That level also encompasses a media room, game room, wine cellar with an elegant Nero Marquina marble-clad tasting bar, and gym.

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In a guest bedroom, a richly-finished nod to minimalism encompasses exquisitely grained walnut doors and a jetliner view of Century City.



The wellness center, located on the lower level, presents an artistic juxtaposition of materials through western red cedar and book-matched slabs of Volakas marble.