



## Majestic Gestures

Early on, the architecture firm **MARMOL RADZINER**, founded in 1989 by Leo Marmol and Ron Radziner, was hailed for its exquisite restoration of midcentury architectural gems like Richard Neutra's 1946 Kaufmann House in Palm Springs, which garnered a National Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects. Since that time, the firm's stature and size has exploded to include a team of architects, interior designers, landscape designers, metal fabricators, carpenters, and furniture makers. (Not to mention attracting clients such as Tom Ford, Ellen DeGeneres, Bradley Cooper, and Anthony Kiedis.)

A hefty new monograph, *Site: Marmol Radziner in the Landscape* (Princeton Architectural Press), highlights the critical importance of nature and landscape to the architects' design philosophy. Radziner has said, "As soon as we start a project, we're thinking about the exterior spaces—the views, outdoor areas, or trees on a site. They're integral to our ideas and to the experience and form of the building."

That ethos is especially evident in a Montecito residence the firm designed on a parcel of land that hosts California oaks, a running creek, and numerous Santa Barbara sandstone boulders. The sacred oaks were retained, and the boulders were quarried and integrated into the walls of the structure. "Because of the oak trees and other protected parts of the property, the house is sited in the only place it could go," says the owner, "but Marmol Radziner made it seem intentional instead of the only option. Every window takes advantage of the Santa Barbara landscape, and I feel very connected to the land here." *Marmol-radziner.com*. L.D.P.



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PHOTOGRAPHS: JOE FLETCHER



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Every window of the home takes advantage of the surrounding landscape, and sandstone boulders from the site were quarried and integrated into its walls; the firm's monograph celebrates the role of nature in design; the view from the front door perfectly captures the natural beauty outside. OPPOSITE, TOP TO BOTTOM: The soaring entryway to a contemporary Montecito home designed by Marmol Radziner; the residence is carefully sited among pre-existing trees and boulders.

