



Scott Shrader



Leah O'Connell Textiles

Sunset WESTERN HOME & DESIGN

A W A R D S

These are the best architects, designers, and makers defining the ultimate in Western living.

Story by SUNSET STAFF

For generations, *Sunset* has chronicled the way homes and landscapes across the West reflect the spirit of this region—its openness, creativity, and deep connection to place. From airy coastal retreats to desert modern masterpieces and mountain hideaways, the built environment of the West continues to evolve alongside the people who shape it. These spaces are more than structures; they're expressions of lifestyle, craft, and thoughtful design, rooted in local culture and geography. Following the thrilling inaugural year of this awards program, we return for the second year to spotlight the wide range of talent that brings these environments to life. This year saw an increase in exceptional entries, which made judging all the more difficult. This year's honorees span architecture, interiors, landscape design, kitchens, craftsmanship, and the enduring firms whose influence has helped define Western design for decades. Together, they represent the innovation, artistry, and vision that continue to raise the bar for living well in the West.

Kalon Studios



The Green Room
Landscape Architecture



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: ANDREA CALO; COURTESY OF JASON ROHNER PHOTOGRAPHS; SCOTT WEST; LISA ROMERIN/OJITO
FROM TOP: KATRINA DICKSON; DRAPER WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY

Charles Cunniffe
Architects



Victoria Morris Pottery

**Jessica Alpert Design:
Most Impactful Use
of Color**

Glossy red tile, inky blue walls, berry velvet upholstery. This up-and-coming L.A. designer is at her best when she uses saturated shades to make bold statements. jessicalpertdesign.com



**Hawkins Interiors:
Best Tasting Rooms
that Feel Like Home**

Tasting rooms are stock-in-trade for wine country designers. Their primary goal is to make oenophiles and visitors feel welcome, comfortable, and inspired. One could argue that those priorities are also at the top of the list for home design, and no one does a cozy winery that feels like your living room quite like Napa-based Julie Hawkins. hawkinsinteriors.com



A1000xBetter: Best Romantic Contemporary

Kirsten Blazek, founder of A1000xBetter, brings a smidgeon of rock 'n' roll glamour to everything she does. Influenced by her native Scotland and her edgy personal style, you'll find dark florals mixed with sculptural vintage pieces. a1000xbetter.com



Audrey Scheck Design: Best Elevated Storage

We've praised Scheck's skill with functional, fabulous kitchens before. But have you seen her sleek built-ins and closets? This Austin-based interior designer champions workhorse spaces in the home, creating thoughtful, functional, and beautiful storage solutions for her clients. audreyscheckdesign.com

INTERIOR DESIGN

**Morrison Interiors:
Most Approachable Elegance**

Orange County-based Rachel Morrison strives for timeless, dynamic interiors that balance grace and practicality. Take this living room—where the formal molding and coffered ceiling get a coat of unpretentious aqua paint. morrisoninteriors.com



Rachel Morrison



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: SAM FROST PHOTOGRAPHY; LANCE GERBER (2)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LAURA RESEN PHOTOGRAPHY; MICHAEL P.H. CLIFFORD; CATE BLACK PHOTOGRAPHY



Shannon Niehenke



Caitlin Jones Design: Chicest Family Living Solutions

Living and working in the Bay Area has made Caitlin Jones an expert on maximizing square footage, and her breezy, elegant work has a way of making even shared bedrooms—like this kids' room with sleeping space for three—feel spacious and light. caitlinjonesdesign.com



Adamson Design Studio: Best Climate-Resilient Cabin

Shannon Adamson put the “fun” in functional when updating this home on Camano Island in Washington, which takes a beating from waves large enough to clear the house. Porcelain plank floors, sturdy tile, and water-resistant teak built-ins are as playful as they are functional. adamsondesignstudio.com



Narrative Design Studio: Best Luxury Oases with an Urban Edge

Narrative's founder Shannon Niehenke cut her decorative teeth on high-end hospitality projects, so if the well-appointed, serenely minimal rooms she creates with her San Francisco firm remind you of a particularly lovely Ritz-Carlton, that's no coincidence. narrativesf.com



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: VIVIAN JOHNSON; MATTHEW MILLMAN; ALANNA HALE (2)

Philpotts Interiors: Most Refined Island Escape

The stalwart team at this Honolulu firm knows how to weave nods to Hawaiian culture into sophisticated island properties, prioritizing comfort, livability, and access to the outdoors. philpotts.net



Redmond Aldrich Design: Most Exquisite Beach House

Combining East Coast nostalgia and West Coast ease, Chloe Redmond Warner imagined the ultimate beach retreat. With a central courtyard and access to Stinson Beach, this 1960s remodel shows what Warner does best: Creating transportive interiors that transcend trends and blend eras. Lucky for us, Warner's first book, *This Must Be The Place* (Abrams), is out this spring. redmondaldrich.com



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: MIRANDA ESTES; PHOTOGRAPHY: MICHELE LEE WILLSON; THOMAS KUOH PHOTOGRAPHY; ABRAMS BOOKS; MATTHEW MILLMAN

Sogno Design Group: Best Environmentally Conscious Renovation

Kathryn Rogers of Sogno fell in love with historic restoration working in Washington, D.C., and brings it to her Bay Area practice. Shepherding classic homes into an era of sustainability is a passion—evident in this 1930s East Bay home, updated with smart-home tech and energy systems. sognodesigngroup.com

Staprans Design: Best “Design for Good” Project

Working with the beliefs that beauty is healing and that design can impact the nervous system, Lisa Staprans created Willow Commons, a group living environment for neurodivergent adults. Its light-filled common spaces and soothing materials create a calm, nurturing space. stapransdesign.com

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & GARDEN DESIGN



Shrader Design: Best Estate-Worthy Gardens

Designing landscapes that feel like a natural extension of the home itself—calm, intentional, and deeply livable—Scott Shrader is grounded in both landscape architecture and urban planning. He crafts serene outdoor rooms that balance style with soul, from coastal California retreats to far-flung wellness destinations. shraderdesign.com



Fredrickson Landscape, Inc.: Best Low-Maintenance Outdoor Living

Crafting functional outdoor spaces, Fredrickson Landscape blends modern coastal cottage garden and minimalist luxe styles. With an emphasis on low-maintenance, water-wise design, the Oceanside-based firm creates relaxing, sensory-rich gardens for serene living. fredricksonlandscape.com

Erin and Ben Fredrickson



CLOCKWISE FROM ERIN AND BEN FREDRICKSON: CAPTURED BY KAY PHOTOGRAPHY (2); MIRANDA ES PHOTOGRAPHY; LISA ROMEREN; OTTO

Wittman Estes: Best Outdoor Rooms

Integrating architecture and landscape into one seamless, nature-connected experience, the Seattle firm creates richly detailed modern environments that blur the line between indoors and out. The studio's resilient, livable spaces prioritize comfort, thoughtful experimentation, and a deeply human connection to the natural world. wittman-estes.com

Christine London Ltd.: Best Serene Style

Blending classical European sophistication with contemporary California sensibilities, Christine London creates luxurious, functional gardens that seamlessly extend the home into elegant outdoor living spaces. Her designs pair lush, fragrant plantings with thoughtful, context-driven layouts to form serene, personalized retreats that feel both grand and intimately connected to nature. christinelondonltd.com



Bliss Landscape Architecture: Best Site-Savvy Design

Creating regionally rooted landscapes that artfully connect architecture with the natural world, Bliss Landscape Architecture is known for refined residential, estate, and winery projects across Central and Northern California. The firm excels at collaborative, full-service design that results in outdoor spaces that feel cohesive, welcoming, and enduring. blisslandarch.com

Topophyla: Best Nature-First Design

Honoring the intricate connections between land and life, Topophyla designs landscapes with a focus on site-specificity and ecological harmony. Each project becomes a thoughtful, place-driven composition that celebrates both biodiversity and the human experience of the outdoors. topophyla.com



FROM TOP: ALAN SHAFFER; ADAM ROUSE; CAITLIN ATKINSON

The Green Room Landscape Architecture: Best Climate-Conscious Landscape

Engaging the senses while honoring ecology, Green Room Landscape Architecture designs modern landscapes with thoughtful plant selection, textured hardscapes, and climate-conscious strategies. Its outdoor spaces balance beauty, biodiversity, and human experience in harmonious, livable environments. tgrla.com



Studio Campo: Best Lyrical Landscapes

Rooted in ecology, craft, and storytelling, Denver-based Studio Campo designs romantic, site-specific landscapes. Its work honors history and evolves over time, blending horticultural sensitivity with Western sensibility to create enduring gardens that deepen our connection to place and the natural world. studio-campo.com



The Well: Best Transporting Design

Layering story-driven home and garden environments, The Well by Big Daddy's Antiques blends modern design with timeless antiques. Founded by Shane Brown, the studio specializes in thoughtful product curation and sensory-rich styling, using texture, light, sound, and natural elements to create spaces that feel collected, calming, and deeply personal. thewellbybdantiques.com

David Thorne Landscape Architect: Best Hillside Design

With over 40 years of experience, DTLA shapes residential landscapes that feel personal and timeless. Marrying artistic vision with a commitment to sustainability and thoughtful collaboration, the firm crafts outdoor spaces that elevate the home while honoring how people live and connect in them. davidthornela.com



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY OF JASON ROEHRER; PHOTOGRAPHS: PAUL DYER PHOTOGRAPHY; SUZANNE STRONG



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: BLAKE BRONSTAD; CLAY GRIER; DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN



John Sharp

Studio John Sharp: Best Living Art

Fusing artistry, architecture, and a deep reverence for nature, Studio John Sharp crafts emotionally rich landscapes. The firm's evocative, lifestyle-driven designs for iconic homes bring romance, narrative, and a refined sense of place to exterior environments that feel both grounded and transportive. studiojohnsharp.com

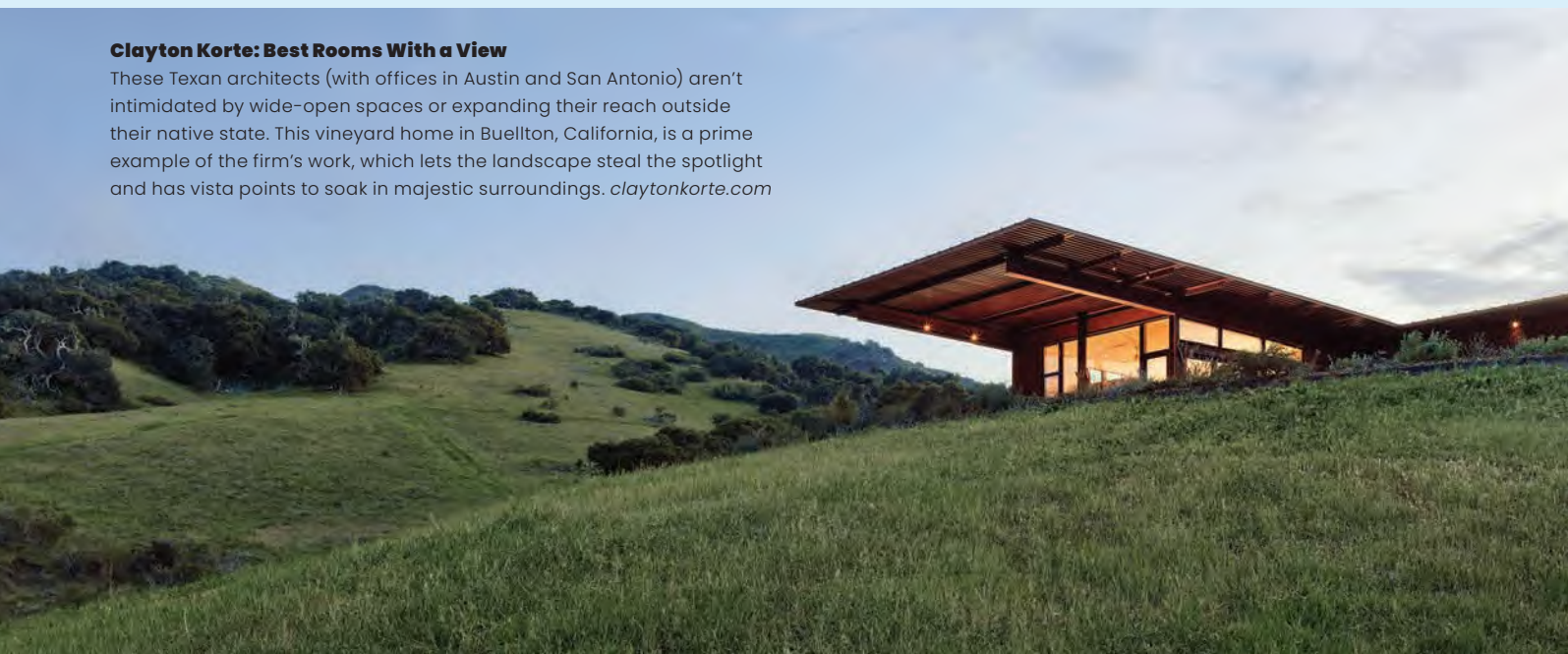
Viola Gardens: Best Regenerative Outdoor Rooms

Specializing in regenerative, art-driven landscapes that honor both people and place, Jessica Viola and her women-led, permaculture-trained team create holistic gardens that balance ecological intelligence with sculptural beauty, resulting in outdoor spaces that are grounded and alive. violagardens.com

RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE

Clayton Korte: Best Rooms With a View

These Texan architects (with offices in Austin and San Antonio) aren't intimidated by wide-open spaces or expanding their reach outside their native state. This vineyard home in Buellton, California, is a prime example of the firm's work, which lets the landscape steal the spotlight and has vista points to soak in majestic surroundings. claytonkorte.com



Harper Halprin and Aaron Leshitz



AAHA Studio: Most Inspired Use of Concrete

Leave it to the partners at AAHA Studio to make a monolith of poured concrete feel both warm and airy. The 22-foot glass doors slide into pockets to open up the first floor to the enclosed backyard, creating a seamless indoor-outdoor flow. aaha.studio



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: CASEY DUNN; ELIZABETH CARABABAS; TRINA SEVERSON

chadbourne + doss architects: Best Waterfront Modern

Cantilevered over the hillside and stretched to the sea, this coastal Oregon home designed by Seattle-based chadbourne + doss architects utilizes durable materials like zinc, cedar, and concrete to create an elegantly minimal perch that hovers over the rugged Pacific. chadbournedoss.com



FROM TOP: NIC LEHOUX; JEREMY BITTERMANN/JBSA

Signal Architecture + Research: Best Glass Box House Design

This Seattle firm treated the second-growth forest surrounding this glass box design as a collaborator, "opening it carefully, placing the house inside, and closing it again," building the home with minimal disruption to the land. Inside the house, the architecture practically disappears, and only the view and quiet embrace of the trees remain. signalarch.com



Heliotrope Architects: Best Retro-Inspired Cabin

Joe Herrin and Mike Mora of Seattle-based Heliotrope Architects think of the houses they design as frames for the surrounding landscape. This hillside residence, which overlooks the San Juan archipelago, is a prime example: Comprising two structures built around an old-growth tree and nestled into boulders, it's a low-impact home that takes major cues from the midcentury masters. heliotropearchitects.com

Feldman Architecture: Best Understated Luxury

Back in the winner's circle for the second year in a row, the San Francisco firm Feldman Architecture has mastered the art of discretion. While Feldman houses can't be described as modest, exactly, they project a relaxed confidence that's hard to find in a field of more strident competitors. feldmanarchitecture.com



FROM TOP: ANDREW FOGUE PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE FLETCHER PHOTOGRAPHY



Ashley Nath, Ron Radziner and Amy Smith

THOMAS J. STORY

Marmol Radziner: Most Iconic "Master Builders"

Founded in 1989, Marmol Radziner is a design-build practice led by architects Ron Radziner and Leo Marmol. Their multi-award winning cross-disciplinary team of 200 employees, including interior designers, landscape designers, metal fabricators, carpenters, furniture makers, and a full construction crew, has been at the forefront of the West Coast design scene for decades. This Toro Canyon pool cabana and guest house nestled into a steep 10-acre plot, with its modern geometry and quietly luxurious finishes, exemplifies their building philosophy. But their work isn't available exclusively to the ultra-rich. In 2025, in response to the wildfires in their beloved city, the firm developed a new line of prefab homes that uphold their commitment to thoughtful design, spatial harmony, and a seamless connection between indoor and outdoor living. marmol-radziner.com



**Zack de Vito
Architecture +
Construction: Best
Wine Country Escape**

Built around lichen-covered boulders and majestic trees, this St. Helena home is decidedly modern, yet it feels like it's been there forever. A special nod goes to Randy Thueme Design for assistance with this glorious pool. zackdevito.com



**Hoshide Wanzer Architects + Interiors:
Best Barrel-Roof Construction**

For this Edmonds, Washington, retreat on a narrow bluff overlooking the Puget Sound, Seattle firm Hoshide Wanzer created two barrel-roofed forms, connected at an angle, to maximize the views and reduce "visual mass." But the curvilinear ceilings remind us of a tall ship's hull. hw-architects.com



John Rowland and Sarah Broughton



**Rowland + Broughton
Architecture and Interior
Design: Best Agricultural
Estate**

The Aspen-based firm Rowland + Broughton was charged with the task of building a vineyard home that would function as both a private residence and a base for growing 8 acres of Cabernet grapes in Walla Walla. Blend barn-inspired gabled forms with modern amenities and sleek construction, and the resulting property is a wine-lover's dream. rowlandbroughton.com



Prentiss Balance Wickline Architects: Best Boathouse

Perched as lightly as a heron on the shores of the Salish Sea, this new-build boathouse is from Seattle-based PBW Architects. Its steel and glass frame may look delicate from the water, but its construction was built to withstand coastal climate extremes. pbwarchitects.com

FROM TOP: CÉSAR RUBIO; ROWLAND + BROUGHTON; LISA ROMERIN/OTTO (2); ANDREW POGUE PHOTOGRAPHY

FROM TOP: MIRANDA ESTES PHOTOGRAPHY; DRAPER WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY

**Charles Cunniffe Architects:
Best Grand-Scale "Legacy"
Home**

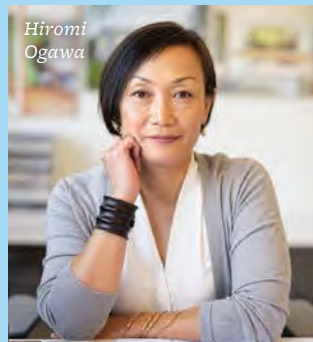
Aspen-based Charles Cunniffe Architects did not come to play. Known for focusing on the topography of a lot and maximizing killer views, this firm understands how clients with deep pockets want to spend their downtime. Each home is built with environmental sensitivity and wellness in mind, enforcing the firm's commitment to "ensuring beauty, performance, and a timeless sense of belonging." cunniffe.com





**Giulietti Schouten
Weber Architects:
Most Artistic Pacific
Northwest Retreat**

A Portland-based firm in practice for about 40 years, Giulietti Schouten Weber shows no signs of slowing down. It nominated this Kalama Ridge house as a representation of how its work has evolved. Soaring above the Columbia River Valley, the home's broad eaves make it look as though it could take flight. gswarchitects.net



Ogawa Fisher Architects: Most Seamless Midcentury Update

These Palo Alto architects are no strangers to 20th-century ranch houses, but this remodel of a classic Eichler home commissioned by a lively family of five was exceptionally satisfying. Keeping the bones and pedigree of the structure intact, they reconfigured the kitchen, dining, and living spaces to create a more open flow to suit the family's active lifestyle. ogawafisher.com

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: DAVID PAPAIZIAN; CÉSAR RUBIO; OGAWA FISHER ARCHITECTS (2)

FROM TOP: AARON LEITZ PHOTOGRAPHY; CHRIS MOTTALINI



**Gast Architects: Most Impressive
Aesthetic Range**

Whether collaborating with interior designer Noz Nozawa on a Victoria remodel or building a split-level farmhouse, Gast Architects' work is so versatile that it's hard to define. Some identifiable through lines for the Bay Area firm: Crisp, clean lines, top-shelf materials, and meticulous attention to detail. gastarchitects.com

**Standard Architecture: Best
Multi-Gen Compound**

This project by L.A.-based Standard Architecture combines two lots into a three-generation family compound. A new house was built on the east half of the property, with large flexible spaces. On the west half, the existing home was remodeled, a large pergola joins the pool deck, and a flowing landscape effortlessly connects the backyards. standardarchitecture.com

Studio VARA: Best Surprising Remodel

With its sinuous forms and black-and-white palette, the residence from the architects and urbanists at Studio VARA is a maximalist's interpretation of minimalism. This 1894 Queen Anne Victorian in San Francisco, reimagined to resemble an art gallery, is pared back but also somehow extra, a non-conformist's dream. studiovara.com



Tomecek Studio Architecture: Best Futuristic House (for Spotting UFOs)

The Denver-based team members at Tomecek Studio are unapologetic futurists, pushing the boundaries of contemporary architecture without much nostalgia for old ideas. This Skinwalker Ranch property, sited in an area famous for (alleged) paranormal activity, looks like it may have been deposited, or at least designed, by aliens. And that's just the way they like it. tomecekstudio.com



Studio Pear: Best Gold Country Retreat

Sweet, simple, and straightforward, this California Gold Country cabin by the environmentally conscious Oakland firm Studio Pear can be switched off the grid to be fully self-sustaining. studiopear.us



FROM TOP: MATTHEW MILLMAN; TOMCEK STUDIO ARCHITECTURE; KAT ALVES



Daniel Kaven and Trevor William Lewis

William/Kaven Architecture: Best Blending of the Urban-Wildlife Interface

Surrounded by towering Douglas firs and alders, and clad in dark steel, concrete, glass, and black bronze, this multi-story home designed by William/Kaven offers its residents the experience of living fully immersed in a 5,000-acre forested reserve in Portland without sacrificing the convenience of urban life. williamkaven.com

CLOCKWISE FROM KAVEN AND LEWIS: SHERIKAVEN; JEREMY BITTERMANN/JSA; KIRLEY ARCHITECTS - ARCHITECT SCOTT KUEHNE, TEAM JOHN SUAREZ, LAURA DETMER, CODY MISHAYLA BINKERD, ID: SHAYKOS, LANDSCAPE: TERRA FERMA. PHOTOGRAPHY: PAUL DRYER.



Kirley Architects: Best Small-Footprint Beach Cottage

Coming in at roughly 1,500 square feet, this Stinson Beach cottage is a masterclass on efficient design. A large skylight and motorized flip-up window open to create the impression of a large living space, and a blue-tiled fireplace at its heart makes a chic statement. kirleyarchitects.com



MMW Architects: Best Lake House

Generations of a single family have gathered on the shores of Flathead Lake at this floating home near the base of a rocky slope. MMW Architects updated the structure with glass connectors that link private and shared wings, creating sleeping quarters for a crowd. The roofline follows the hillside, helping the home blend seamlessly into its environment. mmwarchitects.com

Lewis/Schoepflein Architects: Best Flintstones-Inspired Home

At the urging of its L.A. client, a guitarist with a clear sense of humor, the firm designed this single-story modern house with a rock wall and a monolithic asymmetrical roofline—which conceals attic storage and a small workspace—that would make Fred and Wilma feel right at home. lewisschoepflein.com



JLF Architects: Best “Regionalist” Mountain House

Rustic materials meet contemporary design at this 8,500-square-foot Park City mountain house, designed with multiple connected buildings to resemble early homestead communities in Utah. Two-foot-thick fieldstone “remnant walls” were deconstructed to look like they’ve aged over time, and a water feature mimics the construction of a mining sluice box. While the Bozeman, Montana-based JLF is focused on building rural and mountain homes that feel deeply connected to place, it spares no luxuries in the process. jlfarchitects.com

FROM TOP: GIBSON PHOTOGRAPHY; ERIC STAUDENMEIER; LUCY CALL



Land + Shelter Architecture Studio: Best Low-Impact Desert Digs

This Carbondale, Colorado, firm understands that the view is always the main attraction, and the firm designs no-fuss, functional properties for enjoying a life that’s focused on, and centered in, the natural world. landandshelter.com

Rodwin Architecture: Best Updated Farmstead

Boulder, Colorado-based firm Rodwin Architecture took a 19th-century family farm and updated it for modern living, all without abandoning the property’s original charm and several working barns. The 80-acre property is being rehabbed from the inside out, now that the owners are working to restore the soil, plant hundreds of trees, reintroduce livestock, and turn it into a model of regenerative farming. rodwinarch.com



FROM TOP: DALLAS & HARRIS PHOTOGRAPHY/LAND+SHELTER ARCHITECTURE; DANE CRONIN PHOTOGRAPHY



Appleton Partners LLP: Best Midcentury Expansion

This Santa Barbara firm understands the fundamentals of a beach house and how to combine and transform existing structures to meet the benchmarks of contemporary luxury. This 1950s home, which was combined with a neighboring structure to expand the footprint to 6,500 square feet, stays true to its provenance and the original scale of the rooms. appleton-architects.com

Butler Armsden Architects: Best Urban Sanctuary

A *Sunset* regular, San Francisco-based Butler Armsden Architects reimaged this elegant Beaux-Arts home in Presidio Heights as a light-filled space with sinuous curves and floor-to-ceiling casement windows that open to a wrap porch, creating a surprisingly serene retreat in the heart of the city. butlerarmsden.com



FROM TOP: APPLETON PARTNERS LLP - DESIGN: LEAH O'CONNELL; PHOTOGRAPHY: KORT HAVENS; JOE FLETCHER PHOTOGRAPHY

MAGIC MOUNTAIN

Small, inspired slopeside dwellings dominated the entry pool. Here are the standouts.



CAST Architecture: Best Low-Impact Hideaway

The name "Icicle Creek Retreat" says it all. Built for deep snow and temperature extremes, this low-impact, resilient, small-footprint house was designed with water storage, fire-resistant details, and solar power. castarchitecture.com

Johnston Architects: Best Winter Sports Shelter

When its snow-loving clients requested a spot to store their cold-weather gear in the Methow Valley, before they committed to building a home, the Johnston team came up with a lofted shed design covering their basic needs for storage and shelter, with style to spare. johnstonarchitects.com



Grouparchitect: Best Snowbound Yoga Studio

Grouparchitect built this accessible yoga studio on a forested hillside for a very intrepid client. grouparch.com



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: RYLAND WEST; BEN DRUMMOND; CAST ARCHITECTURE/ANDREW GIAMARRCO PHOTOGRAPHY; ERIC LUCERO



Jacobs + Interiors: Best Use of Cheeky Taxidermy

This great room from Edwards, Colorado-based Jacobs + Interiors brings that kitschy Western mountain house vibe into a new era. jacobsinteriors.com

KITCHEN DESIGN



Cooper Pacific: Best California Coastal Kitchen

Inviting Malibu's coast breezes and light into the kitchen with pass-through windows, Cooper Pacific has nailed the soft, sun-washed palette and indoor-outdoor flow of the ultimate Cali kitchen. Another bonus: Wide walkways and two generous islands allow for multiple people to move, cook, eat, and live comfortably. cooperpacific.com

Rumor Designs: Best Low-Light Kitchen

Steering away from blinding white Carrara marble and creamy cabinetry, the Steamboat Springs, Colorado-based Rumor Designs team embraced the dark side for this "mountain modern" Colorado kitchen. Eggplant paint, gray-green marble, and a honed stone fireplace make this kitchen the heart and hub of the house. rumordesigns.com



Valerie Stafford and Lindsey Jamison

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MEGHAN BEIRLE-O'BRIEN; DAVID PATTERSON PHOTOGRAPHY; BROOKE WELCH PHOTOGRAPHY



Banner Day Interiors: Most Dinner Party-Ready Kitchen

Clara Jung of Banner Day pivoted her own kitchen remodel when she realized she was using the space wrong. She swapped a table for the standard island, a smart move for cooks who want to visit with guests before, during, and after a meal. Cheery paint is a bonus! bannerdaysf.com

Blythe Interiors: Best Kitchen Color Story

This compact kitchen, designed for a young San Diego family by Blythe Interiors, is as bright and cheerful as the city itself. The Kelly-green-painted door, pool-blue tile, a sunbeam-yellow light fixture, and a true-red pot on the range work together to make the small space sing. blytheinteriors.com



HERE architecture + interiors: Most Inspired Snug Kitchen

Houseboat fantasists and admirers, behold! The richly textured kitchen that Seattle-based HERE designed for a client's floating home, with handmade tile, a bespoke metal hood, and ZAK+FOX fabric, has the feel of a sprawling custom kitchen shrunken down to pleasingly cozy proportions. here.design

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: CHRISTOPHER STARK; NATALIA ROBERT; ADAM POTTS; KARA MERCER



Tierney Conner Architecture: Best Hidden Kitchen

Sleek, smooth, and stowed away, this ultra-streamlined kitchen practically vanishes into the walls. The Oakland-based, women-led team integrated this thoughtful modern home into the surrounding oak-studded landscape, but the stealth kitchen design is the star of the show. tierneyconner.com

MAKERS



Leah O'Connell Textiles: Best California Florals

Unfussy nature-inspired patterns in clean, happy colorways are the hallmarks of Leah O'Connell's fabric and wallpaper. A native San Franciscan and Bay Area interior designer, O'Connell's work embodies Northern California ease, striking the perfect balance between formality and cozy charm. leahoconnelltextiles.com

LIVDEN: Cheeriest Environmentally Conscious Tile

The sisters behind LIVDEN, a San Diego-based tile company, are committed to making the most sustainable, domestically made tile on the market. But what sets the brand apart are the joyful geometry and bold color in the patterns. livden.com



Cedar & Moss: Best Clean, Minimal Lighting

When Cedar & Moss owner and founder Michelle Aaro went looking for the perfect new fixtures for her Eichler-style home in Portland and came up empty-handed, a small business was born. For 13 years, Aaro and her team have been handmaking accessibly priced ceramic, glass, paper, and wood pendants, lamps, and sconces that put a fresh, affordable spin on modern simplicity. cedarandmoss.com



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: MICHELLE AARO; LIVDEN; ANDREA CALO



Kalon Studios: Best Locally Made Furniture

Stemming from a belief in the simple beauty and emotive power of objects, Kalon aims to deepen our relationship to the furniture in our homes. Founded in L.A. by Michaele Simmering and Johannes Pauwen in 2007, the partners are committed to carrying on American furniture traditions and modernist design. kalonstudios.com

Rocky Mountain Hardware: Best Handmade Hardware

Designed and forged in the West, this Colorado-made bronze hardware—stylish and durable pulls, handles, and locks—is so much more than meets the eye. A near-instant upgrade to built-in millwork, Rocky Mountain's work is worth the investment, and then some. rockymountainhardware.com

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: COURTESY OF OUTERCLÉ; SCOTT WEST (2); COURTESY OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN HARDWARE; © 2026 KALON STUDIOS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

OUTERCLÉ: Most Elevated Outdoor Surfaces

Deborah Osburn has spent the last few decades perfecting the art of outdoor tile and surfaces, breathing color, pattern, and high-end design ideas into an oft-neglected category. Based in Marin County, OUTERCLÉ has captured the easy, idyllic aura of stylish West Coast living. outercle.com



Victoria Morris



Victoria Morris Pottery: Most Inspiring Ceramics Artist

L.A. native Victoria Morris became the face of resilience after the Eaton Fire took her home and pottery studio. The production-designer-turned-potter was known for her graceful bowls and lamps. These days, now that she's back in production at her new Ventura studio, she's known for her heart and spirit, too. victoriamorris.com



CW Stockwell: Most Iconic Wall Coverings

Since 1905, CW Stockwell has been designing and manufacturing hand-printed fabric and wall coverings in L.A.—like its famous Martinique banana leaf print at The Beverly Hills Hotel. Now in its fourth generation, with Katy Polsby at the helm, the company has built upon its extensive pattern library, reimagining archival prints with a fresh perspective. cwstockwell.com



Submaterial: Most Creative Use of Textiles

Albuquerque-based Submaterial makes sustainable felt, wood, and cork wall coverings and room dividers for residential and commercial spaces alike. They muffle sound, create more comfortable spaces, and offer a stylish, inventive alternative to more industrial materials. But it's the new colorful, hand-built wall hangings that are capturing our attention. submaterial.com



Heather Levine



Heather Levine Ceramics: Best Rustic-Modern Ceramics

You've likely spotted Heather Levine's glorious, speckled stoneware lighting and wall hangings in many of your favorite tasteful hipsters' homes or restaurants. Each piece is handmade and glazed at her Atwater studio, and her rustic but refined aesthetic, which is deeply influenced by midcentury modernism, is synonymous with confident, unpretentious L.A. style. heatherlevine.com

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: SUSIE BRENNER; HEATHER LEVINE (2); PATRICK MCCLOY/COURTESY OF UNFOLD PROJECTS; MATT SARTAIN