

CALIFORNIA HOMES

The Magazine of Architecture
The Arts & Distinctive Design

A Global Influence In
BRENTWOOD

Romance In
SAN FRANCISCO

Tuscany In
TOPANGA

the Best of
NAPA

Chef Kostow's
Kitchen at Meadowood

The Redesign of
Auberge du Soleil

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OCTOBER 2012

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A TASTE OF TUSCANY

The Biglin Architectural Group Creates A Villa Of Great Charm And Character With A Panoramic View Of The Mountains

TEXT BY MICHAEL WEBB
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KARYN MILLET
STYLING BY DARRA BAKER

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PACIFIC HEIGHTS CHARM

Kendall Wilkinson Design Creates a Romantic Home for a Transplanted Southerner

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GLOBAL INFLUENCE

Interior Designer Kim Alexandruik Blends Art and Antiques To Create A Personal Decor For This Brentwood House's Owner

TEXT BY KATHY BRYANT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIGUEL FLORES VIANNA



ABOVE The Tuscan-style villa in Topanga, designed by architect Brian Biglin features close to a self containing home with an abundant year round vegetable garden, fruit trees and plenty of fresh eggs. The above image shows one of the many outdoor dining areas. Rustic stone, pale blue shutters and vivid strands of bougainvillea accent the ochre-toned stucco. Photography by Karyn Millet. See story beginning on page 74.

LEFT The entry hallway of the Brentwood home designed by Kim Alexandruik features a clever mixture of styles and periods including an 1850 Indonesian bench, Khatan rug circa 1890 and Uzbek pillows circa 1850. Photography by Miguel Flores Vianna. See story beginning on page 92.

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Usually I am ready to move on by the time each issue has gone to press, but this one is so special with interesting articles on food and wine, great hotels and lifestyles that I found myself wanting to linger over each story. I love the Napa Valley. There is nowhere else like it in this country. Yes, it's hot in the summer but that's one reason the Cabernets are so wonderful from this part of California. Our food story on Chef Christopher Kostow at Meadowood and his new kitchen supreme, and the article on Auberge du Soleil and Suzanne Tucker's redesign of the hotel, with



Susan McFadden
Editor in Chief

beautiful images of her work, personifies just what Napa is all about. And if that isn't enough about food, we have chosen a travel story on the wines of Oregon's Willamette Valley and the opportunity to learn about other wine regions along the West Coast.

In keeping with the food theme our feature on the Tuscan style estate in Topanga, designed by architect Brian Biglin, brings us a home that has an almost self sustaining environment with gardens, chickens and a state of the art solar system. And with the story on designer Kendall Wilkenson's beautiful design of a romantic San Francisco residence and designer Kim Alexandruik's wonderful work on the Brentwood home we think you'll like the variety of the different homes featured. We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we have producing it.

Happy Fall.



KATHRYN MACDONALD

Kathryn is a San Francisco bay area native who has been shooting interiors and portraits for 20 years. About this fun project beginning on page 84 of this issue she said "I really enjoyed photographing with Kendall Wilkinson on her recent design project. The home was a classic San Francisco building with a single woman as the owner and a house cat named Grace Kelly. The décor was totally girly, yet really elegant. Hits of vintage and pops of modern that all blended beautifully making it inspiring to photograph."



LAURA RAFATY

Laura Rafaty is a national award winning Napa Valley newspaper columnist, a resident of St. Heena, a Tony nominated producer, author, attorney and online retailer at PennalunaNapaValley.com. Her story on Chef Kostow's kitchen at Meadowood begins on page 66.





a Taste of **TUSCANY** IN TOPANGA CANYON

The Biglin Architectural Group Creates A
Villa Of Great Charm And Character With
A Panoramic View Of The Mountains

TEXT BY MICHAEL WEBB

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KARYN MILLET

STYLING BY DARRA BAKER

Architect Brian Biglin was trained as a modernist, but taught himself the principles of classic design, and understands how to adapt the classic Tuscan villa to the relaxed lifestyle of Southern California.



THE TUSCAN-STYLE VILLAS that dot the hills of Southern California come in shapes and sizes that would astonish a native of that Italian region. Architect Brian Biglin has strong ties to Italy and he goes to the source for his inspiration. Though he was trained as a modernist, his tastes are eclectic, and he knows how to fuse old and new. That made him a good choice for a professional couple who had acquired a spectacular view site high up in Topanga Canyon. They specified a house that would combine their love of Florence and the earth tones of its surroundings, with an airy informality that they, their four small children and many friends, could enjoy year-round. The Biglin Architectural Group created an unpretentious villa of great charm and character that opens up to gardens and a sweeping panorama of mountains. Arched openings and a pedimented portal embrace the entry court and provide a graceful welcome to arriving guests. Rustic stone, pale blue shutters and vivid strands of bougainvillea accent the ochre-toned stucco. To the rear, loggias shade expansive windows and provide a snug shelter for outdoor dining, even in winter.





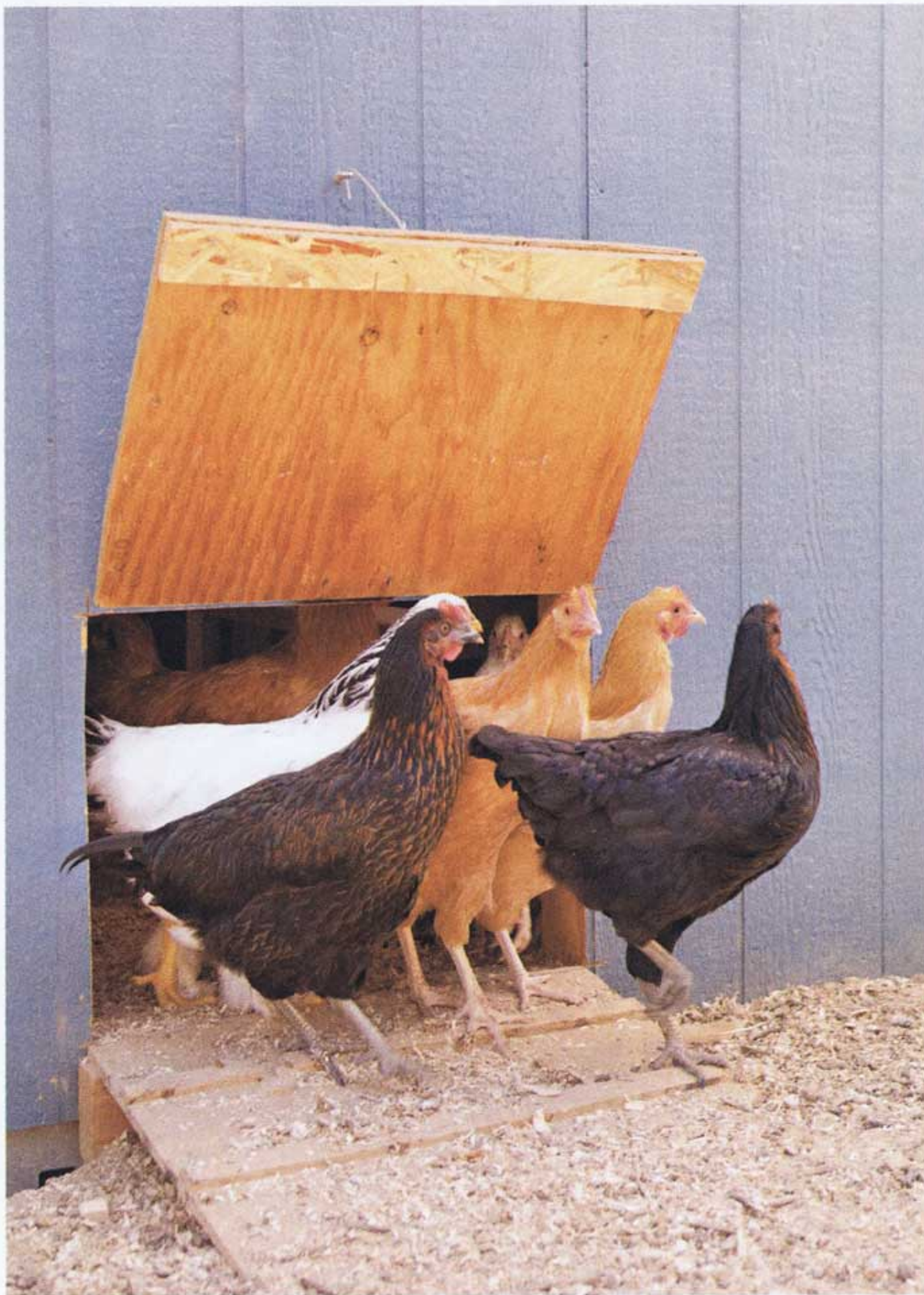
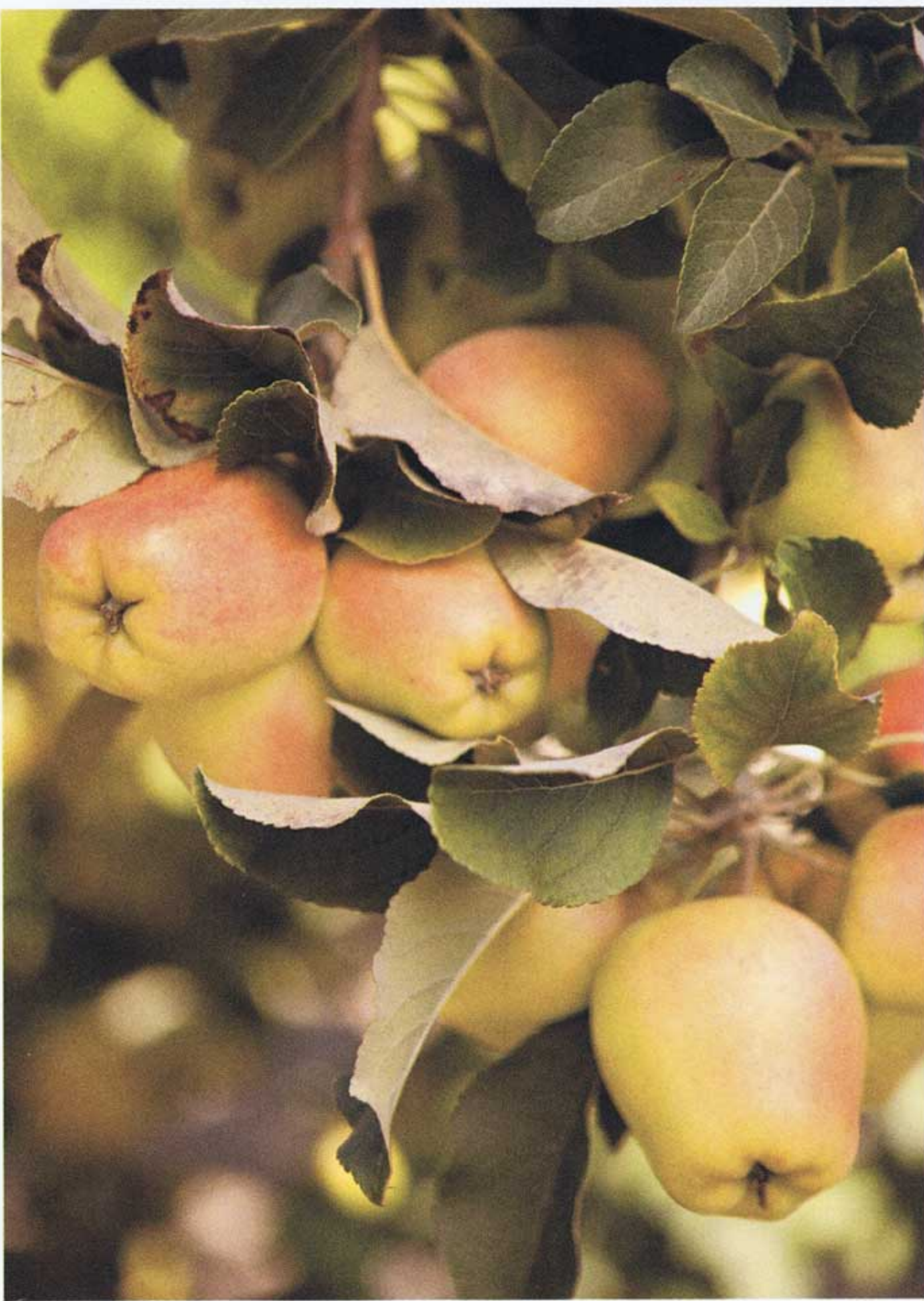
OPPOSITE A groin-vaulted entry hall links the entry courtyard to the great room in which a floor of polished hickory boards plays off the mahogany beams of the coffered ceiling.

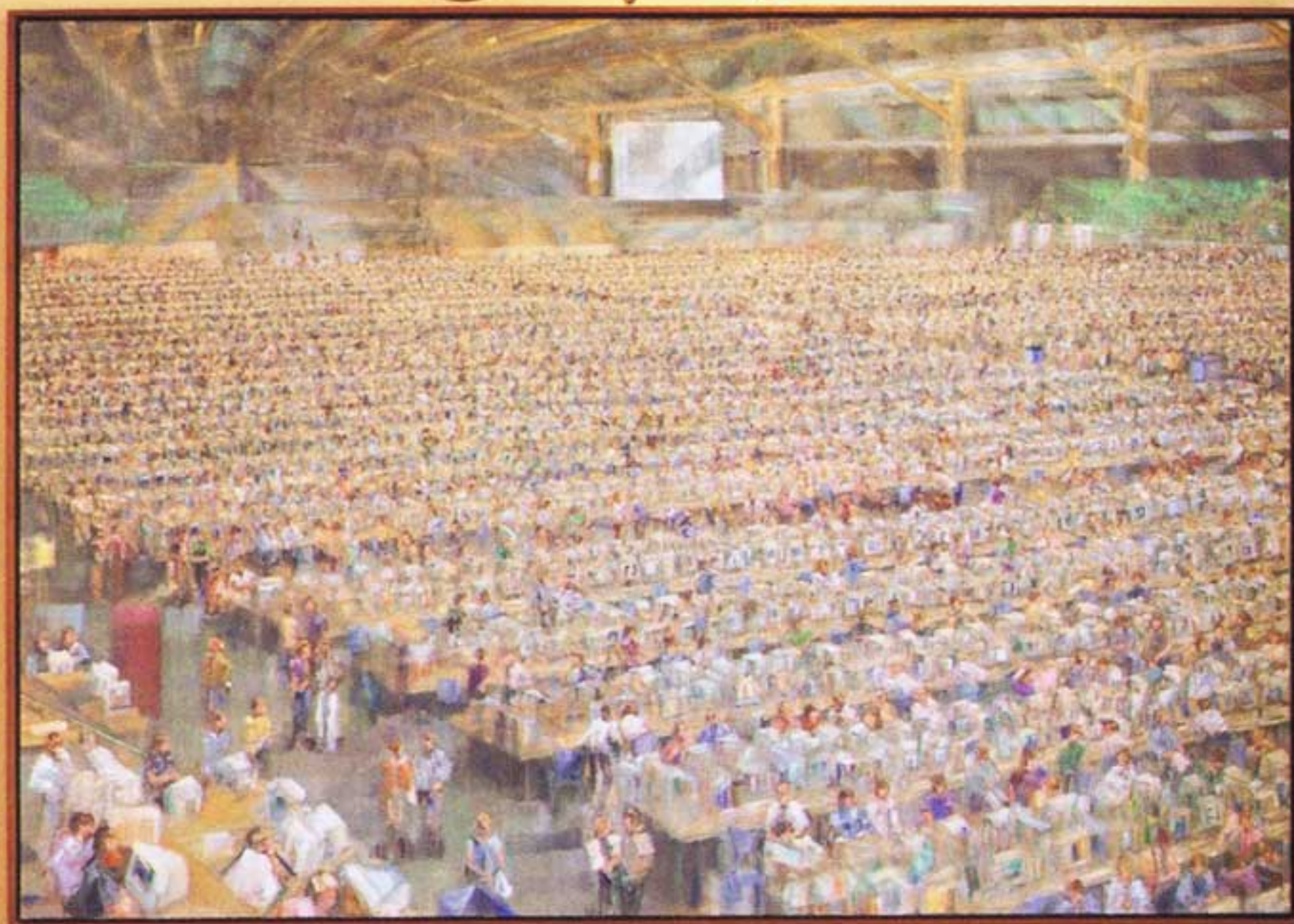
ABOVE The media room opens out of the great room and provides an intimate retreat for the family.



Blue shutters and rustic stone accent the ochre-toned stucco of the façade with its porticoed entry hall.

OPPOSITE The family take pride in their kitchen garden and hen coop.







ABOVE The understated master bedroom is animated by bold colors and the subtle grace notes that recur throughout the house.

STEMWARE Linen tablecloth and napkins by Huddleson Linens available from huddlesonlinens.com. Blue and clear wine glasses are from Le Cadeaux available from www.lamaisonware.com



In designing the villa, Biglin was inspired by Italian farmhouses that grow incrementally to accommodate an extended family or a new workshop. A wing containing a garage and service areas with an upstairs guest apartment extends forward from the main block, which is picturesquely massed to suggest that it has evolved over time. The family raises their own chickens and vegetables, and spends much of their time outdoors, playing soccer on the expansive lawn, and entertaining friends in a vine-covered pergola. There's even a screen porch, an essential feature of summer houses across the country. The couple often host benefits for the foundations they chair, and on those occasions the house opens up to provide multiple serving areas for food and drinks.

The cross-axial interior has a strong period flavor. The lofty groin-vaulted entry hall is hand-plastered, and the staircase has a wrought-iron balustrade. Tuscan columns and thick walls mask the steel frame that gives the house resilience and supports the long spans of the living spaces. A kitchen/dining area flows easily into a great room and a media-games room at the far end. Doors disguised as bookcases conceal intimate retreats and a small office. Floors are covered with





OPPOSITE The portico to the rear provides a shaded gathering place and a snug retreat for candlelit dinners.

ABOVE The pool complements the expanse of grass and the wilderness that extends to the boundaries of the estate.