

FAST TRACK

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY CIRD COELHO

RICHARD MORIARTY HAS TRAVELED THE WORLD, AMASSED A COLLECTION OF CLASSIC CARS AND THROWN SOME OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR PARTIES IN ORANGE COUNTY. But when the vintner behind Newport Beach Vineyards & Winery envisioned the house he would build on a three-acre lot overlooking Upper Newport Bay, he pictured a serene, modern sanctuary—a home where he and his fiancée, Loren Blackwood, would feel connected to the natural beauty of the land.

Moriarty turned to longtime friend and architect Fleetwood Joiner, of Corona del Mar-based Fleetwood B. Joiner & Associates, Inc., to design his new home. "I've known Richard for 35 years, and know he loves the good life," says Joiner. "He entertains a great deal and wanted an open floor plan that flowed." Simplicity was key. Joiner used just three materials—glass, steel and concrete—to create a sparse aesthetic that would

ARCHITECT Fleetwood Joiner

HOME BUILDER Robert McCarthy

BEDROOMS 3 **BATHROOMS** 4 **SQUARE FEET** 5,200





WALL COVERING

A loft-like space showcases objets d'art—from sculptures perched in niches, to a contemporary sofa that offers a splash of color, and the homeowner's retired Lamborghini.



STYLE SELECTION

Designed by Timothy deFiebre and inspired by French seating of the 18th century, this barrel-backed chair honors its lineage with graceful curves. *Emile chair, price available upon request; geigerintl.com*



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let the home function as a backdrop for Moriarty's furnishings and artwork, much like a gallery. "Architecture shouldn't overpower everything," says Joiner. "It should create light and shadows and heights. Richard has a collection of antiques as well as contemporary art; the house is designed to showcase all of that."

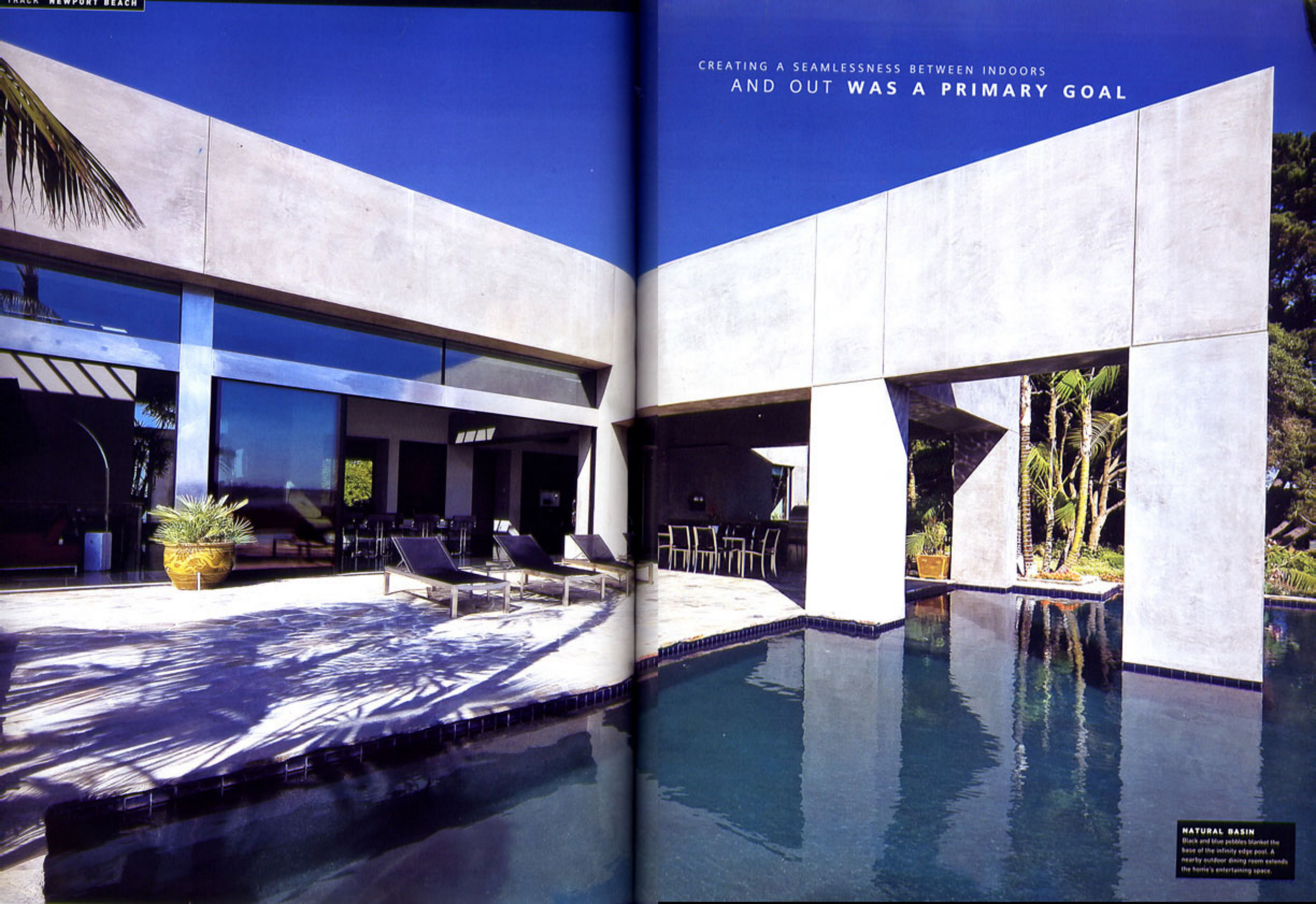
Green sensibilities were also part of the plan. Glass and steel produce no scraps that might end up in a landfill, for example, and much of the property's hardscape was created using recycled scrap concrete. Solar panels were added to the roof to generate clean energy. During construction, every piece—including 375 pieces of steel—had to be measured to perfection.



WOOD WORKING

Loren Blackwood designed the Macassar ebony and Wenge wood platform bed custom-made by cabinetmaker Thom Gall. Deep red walls warm the room.

CREATING A SEAMLESSNESS BETWEEN INDOORS
AND OUT WAS A PRIMARY GOAL



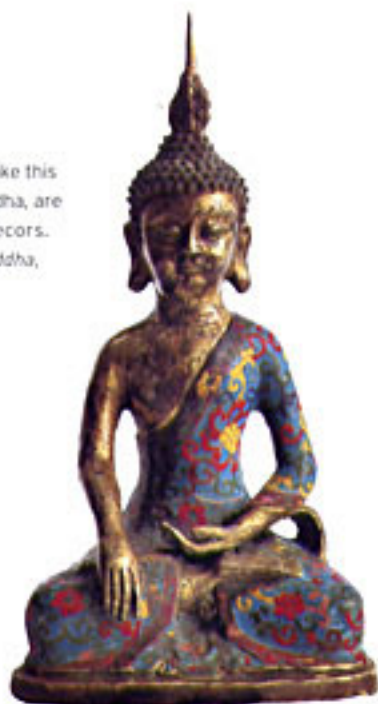
NATURAL BASIN

Black and blue pebbles blanket the base of the infinity edge pool. A nearby outdoor dining room extends the home's entertaining space.



STYLE SELECTION

Asian-inspired accessories, like this decorative and colorful Buddha, are must-haves for Zen-like decors. *Bronze Floral Cloisonné Buddha*, \$480; twoscompany.com



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"Contemporary homes are much more difficult to build than traditional homes because the interior and exterior planes have to match exactly," explains home builder Robert McCarthy, president of Costa Mesa-based RDM General Contractors. To get the vast interior spaces Joiner wanted, the entire house was built like a commercial building. "Steel beams throughout the roof system allowed us to make large spans in the great room," notes project manager Scott Willson, also of RDM.

Moriarty's fiancée, Blackwood, is studying interior design, and it is she who coordinated the furnishings and other interior touches. "Because the house is contemporary, I knew it would be cold if I didn't use the right



GEOMETRIC PROOF

Bold concrete exterior forms contrast with the home's light, airy interior. The 35 palm trees that dot the property were all grown from seeds by the homeowner.

**STEP UP**

A custom-designed structural glass staircase offers an underfoot view of the wine cellar. The transparency of the glass offers a striking contrast to the Countach hanging above.

**CAR SHOW**

A 2,800-square-foot display garage showcases the homeowner's car collection. A HEPA air filter system protects the cars from dust that might otherwise drift in from the orchard outside.

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palette," she says. "I looked at over a hundred shades before finding the mushroom beige for the walls, and I used an oxblood red in some areas to add warmth. Richard's style is mid-century modern, and he has original furniture from the '50s and '60s. We added just a few new pieces."

The idea for a piece of "found art" percolated when Moriarty considered that his beloved 1974 Lamborghini Countach spent more time in the shop than on the road. "I decided to display it in the house," he says. A 70-ton crane lowered the car into the space through a skylight; it was then anchored to a specially reinforced wall. The engine, meanwhile, was made into a table base. "It has a gas tank and a battery, so you can still fire it up," he quips. "Of course, you can't talk over dinner if you do that."



GREAT WIDE OPEN
Generous windows in the dining room give the illusion of continuance into the pool doors. The vintage Pace table was outfitted with a custom glass top, which expands its length from six to twelve feet.

**WILD ORCHARD**

Homeowner/vintner Michael Moriarty spends his days tending to his elaborate gardens and small-production winery, which peacefully coexist on his three-acre lot.



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The property itself, once just a dirt hill, is now resplendent with exotic greenery—a testament to Moriarty's 30-year career as an international landscape designer. The grounds comprise everything from palms to banana trees (20 types) and beyond. Creating a seamlessness between the indoors and outdoors was a primary goal, and Joiner drew influence from his travels to Spain and Greece, as well as Thailand and Burma. The final effect is exactly as the homeowners imagined it. As Blackwood says, "Everything's so open. You see nature everywhere. I feel completely at home here." **L**

UNDERGROUND SPIRITS

Dinner parties and other events are hosted in the 1,000-square-foot wine cave. Because the cave is subterranean, its temperature remains constant throughout the year.