

THE VOICE OF THE HEARTH, BARBECUE AND PATIO INDUSTRIES

NOVEMBER 2010

HEARTH & Home

A PUBLICATION OF VILLAGE WEST PUBLISHING

PRICE \$6

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HEARTH, BARBECUE AND PATIO INDUSTRIES

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THAN BEFORE**





King of/the Hill




“**T**he house was conceived by responding to the topography of the site,” says architect Taal Safdie. “It sits on the top of a mountain (in Rancho Santa Fe, California, just north of San Diego), and then steps down gradually, like the slope; it just follows the land.”

The house was also oriented to take advantage of the western breezes flowing from the Pacific. There is cross-ventilation in (almost) every room, as well as natural light. The air conditioning system is seldom used, and there is an in-floor radiant heating system for those chilly nights.

Teak stairs lead into the living room, complemented by the warmth of a wood ceiling with beams of fir and cedar in between.

There are five fireplaces in the house, one of which is outside (see inset image). The most striking one is a wood-burning unit with a gas starter that’s in the living room (see above). The hearth is concrete, with sheets of mica fastened to the drywall face. “Mica goes nicely with the travertine floors,” says Safdie. Those travertine floors, by the way, extend into the outdoors, past an outdoor kitchen and around the pool.

“If that same house were being designed today,” says Safdie, “we would recommend putting solar hot water panels on the roof.” 

Safdie Rabines Architects, 925 Ft. Stockton Drive, San Diego, California. Builder: Wardell Builders, Solana Beach, California.