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GARDENS
NORTH & SOUTH

Gardens



STUDIO WILLIAM HEFNER

Thinking beyond the garden, Studio William Hefner fully integrates architecture, interior design, and landscape for what the firm calls a holistic practice. Hefner's own home and garden in Montecito, set on over an acre of land, is a perfect example of this full-service approach. He designed around seven oak trees that are nearly 250 years old on the property and took it another step further, overlaying a new group of coast live oaks in with the native trees to continue the existing random pattern across the site. "The inspiration for the project was the character of the native vegetation of the central coast," Hefner says, using *Agave franzosinii*, *Calamagrostis foliosa*, and *Stipa ichu* in the garden as well as native stones.

In grading and excavating for the pool, they unearthed an abundance of local stone and boulders "as large as small cars." Those thousand-year-old stones were used on the buildings and as gravity walls to retain and level portions of the site. Between the walls are level areas for fruit orchards and vegetable gardens with connecting pathways built big enough for bikes and go karts. A large pool is scaled to the property and anchored by the lawn. The sleek pool lounge lets the family catch the last light of the day when the mountains turn pink and the sun falls over the new and old oaks—trees he says, "that make the elements of the house feel like they've been there for generations."