

The Sun-Herald

sundaylife

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A close-up portrait of Taylor Swift with blonde hair and red lipstick, looking slightly to the side.

TAYLOR SWIFT

straight from the heart

FAMILIES ON THE MOVE / KATHY LETTE ON MARRIED SEX
JAMIE DURIE'S FAVOURITE GARDEN / BILL GRANGER'S CHILLI HITS
PRETTY PLEATS FASHION / MICHELLE BRIDGES / HEALTH & MORE



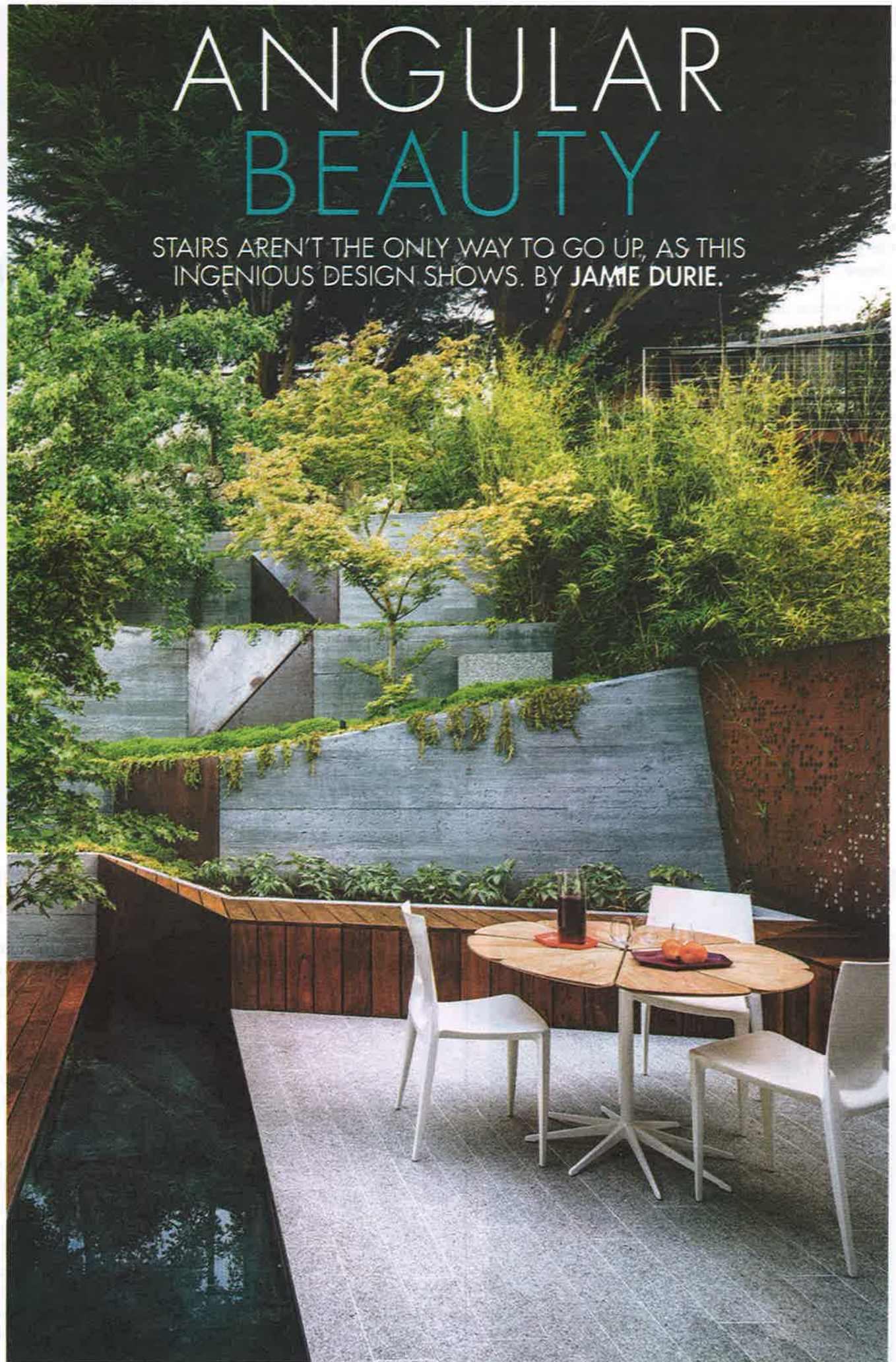
Tricky topography beautifully solved ... that's why I love this Hilgard Garden in Berkeley, California, so much. Architect Mary Barenfeld's design for this steeply sloping site at the back of a 1964 townhouse is stunning. She has made a difficult area, with a steep climb to reach upper areas, seem simple. Instead of conventional steps, which would eat up space, she has installed a ramped, meandering path through aromatic ground cover and sculptural Japanese maples.

The owners wanted an outdoor entertaining area close to the house, in addition to another accessible seating area at the top of the site. Barenfeld avoided using conventional steps, which the neighbours had done, as she felt this technique would ruin any sense of place or uniqueness on the site. Instead, she came up with this fun concept of an angular, experiential walk. As Barenfeld explains, "The garden swiftly metamorphoses from a Zen-like meditative state to a playful, active path."

I love the way she has combined clever detailing with textural materials to deliver a truly unique garden design.



A sketch by architect Mary Barenfeld for the sloping site.



ANGULAR BEAUTY

STAIRS AREN'T THE ONLY WAY TO GO UP, AS THIS
INGENIOUS DESIGN SHOWS. BY JAMIE DURIE.



LIGHT & SHADOW

The rope light that zig-zags its way down the middle of the terraced slope extends into a water feature, where the angular lighting is reflected on the surface.

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Outdoor rope lights are a great way to add definition to a space and subtle lighting effects to a garden.

JAMIE'S TIP

I always ask my clients to list the things in their garden they like and want to keep. It could be a special tree or boulder or even working with the natural slope of the land.



WHY NOT

Mix it up. Here, bare concrete walls and rusted, laser-cut steel look amazing next to each other.

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These strong, hard elements are balanced by the use of warm timber decking and a planting scheme with spill-over plants which soften all the hard edges.

