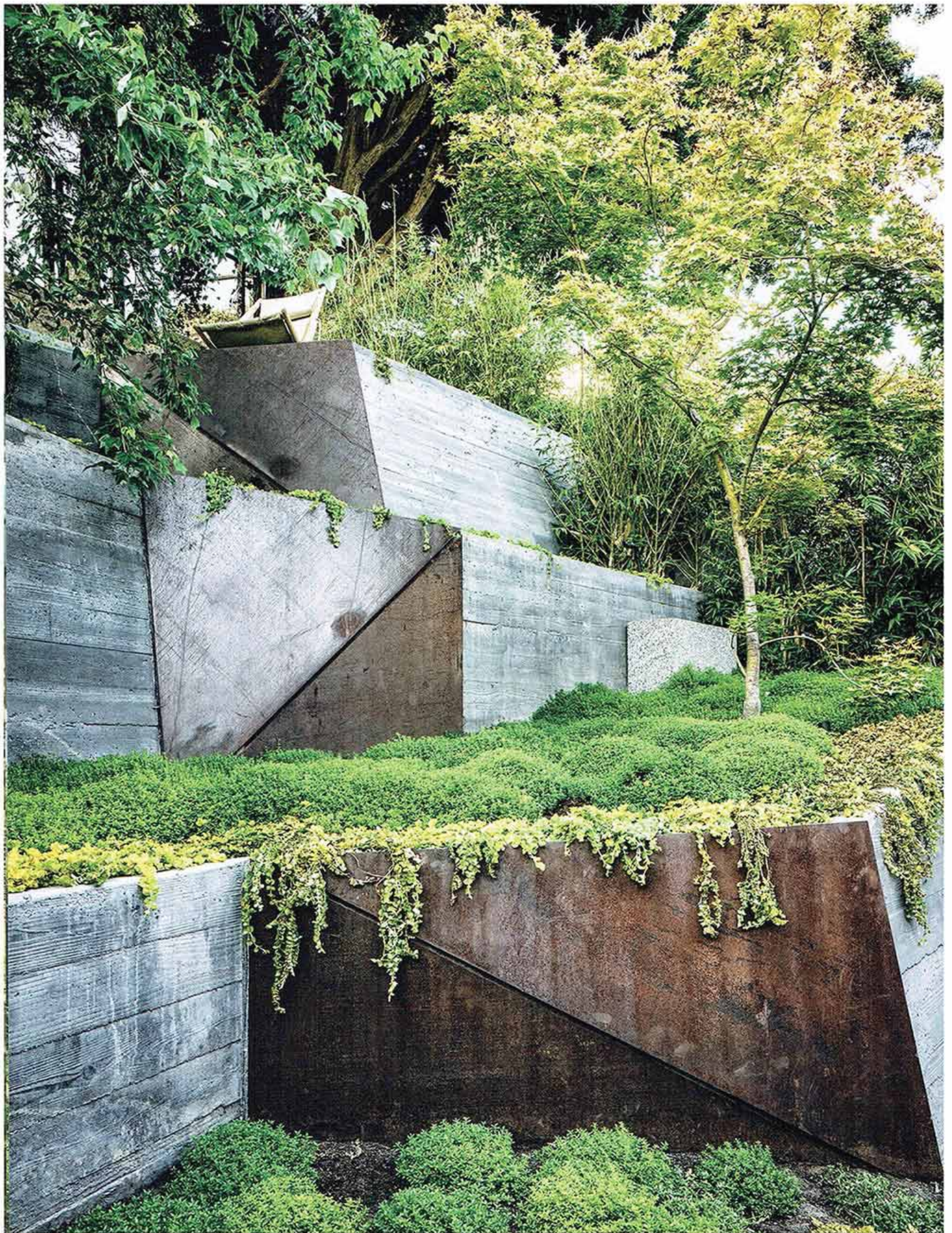


# LIVING ROOFS

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# HILGARD GARDEN

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*Berkeley, California, USA*

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*Category*

Intensive green roof

*Year*

2012

*Area*

107 m<sup>2</sup> (1,150 sq. ft.)

*Architecture / Landscape Architecture*

Mary Barenfeld Architecture

*Awards*

ASLA Northern California Chapter,  
Honor Award

*Photography*

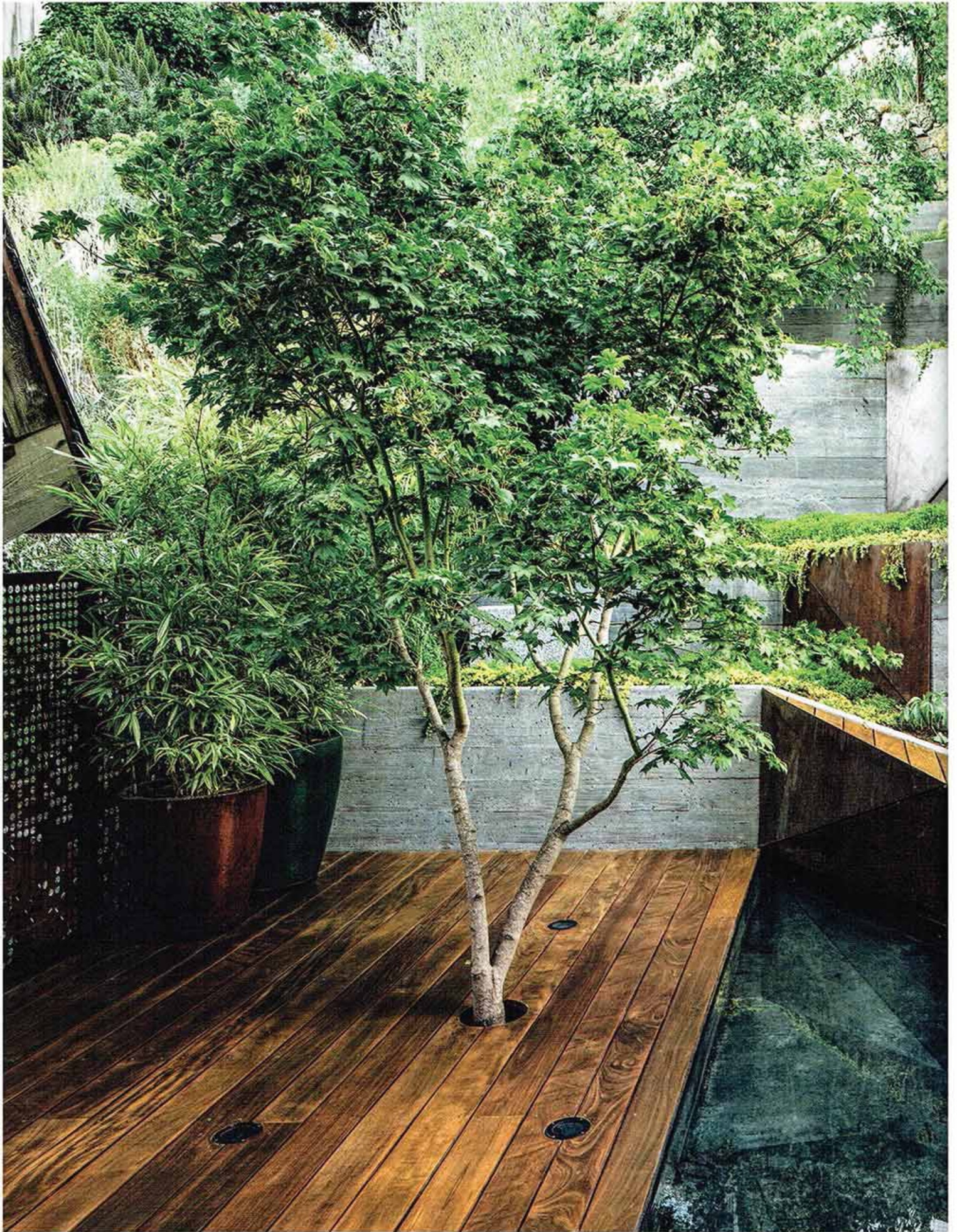
JoeFletcher.com

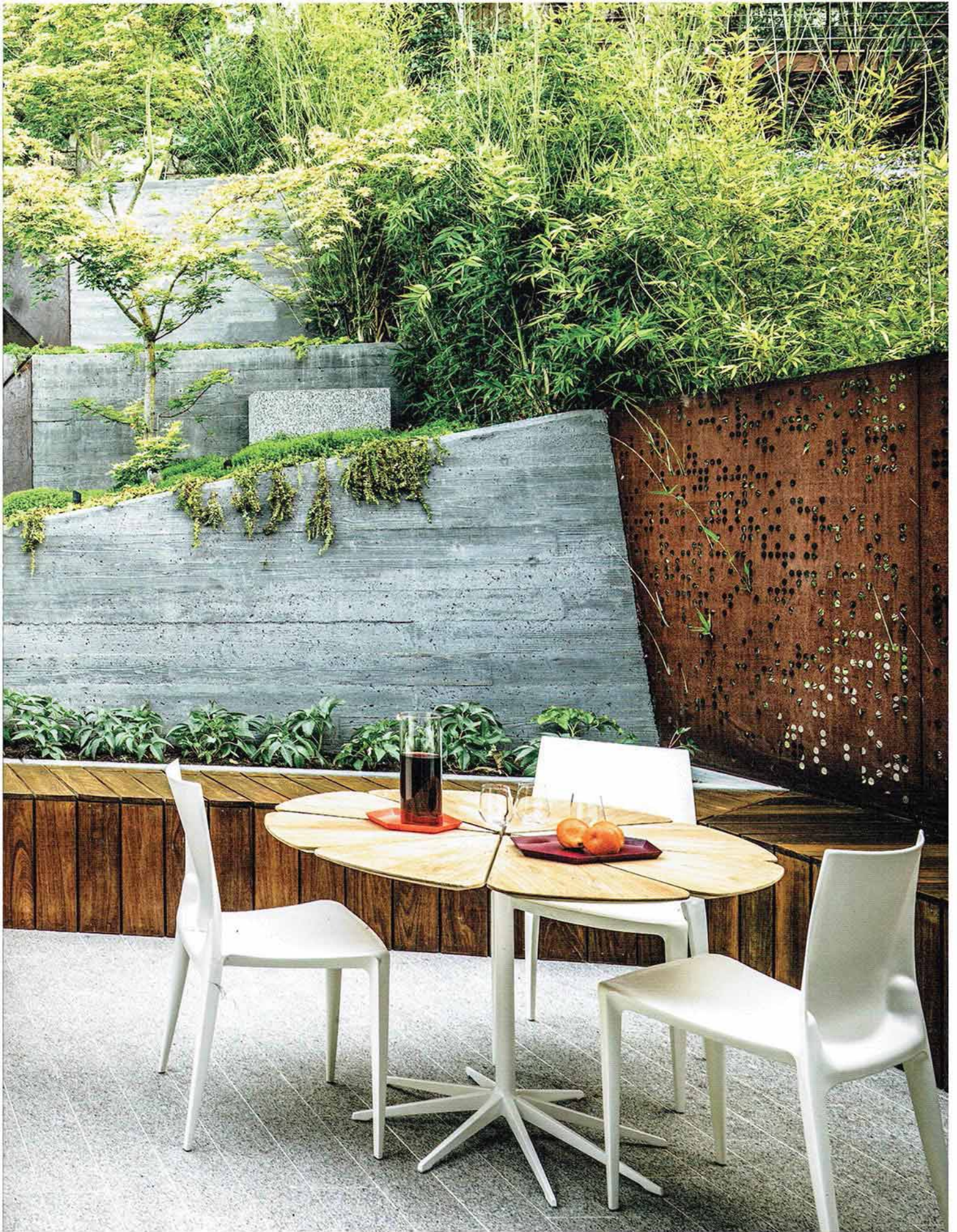
Hilgard Garden is a sublime solution to a difficult design brief. This small townhouse garden of 7 x 15.25 meters (23 x 50 feet) rises in elevation by over 5 meters (17 feet), creating a very steep slope. Rather than chose to terrace the slope traditionally and use conventional steps to access the space, the designer created a meandering ramped access to the higher level, where she placed an ipe wooden deck to provide commanding views of the San Francisco Bay Area.

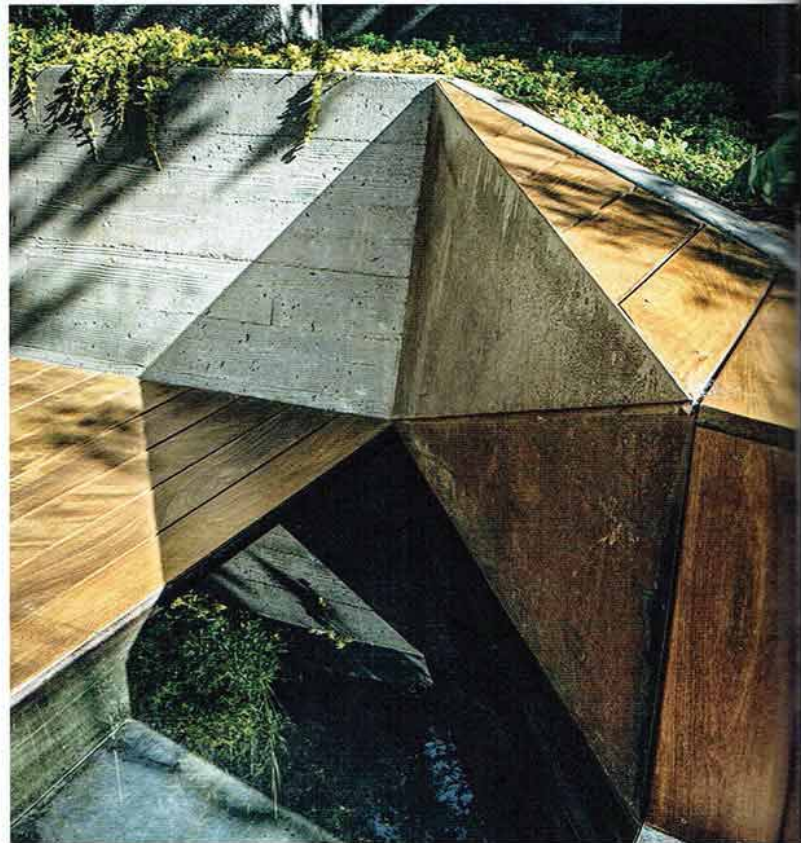
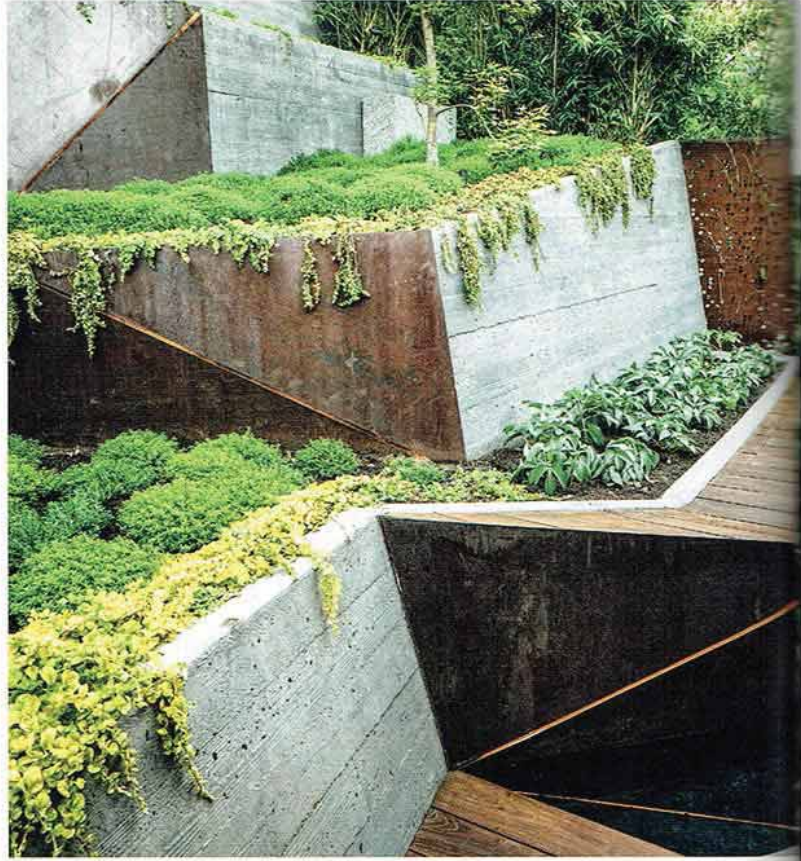
The material palette of the garden is inspired by the clients' love of modernist architecture. In situ cast concrete retaining walls, heavily textured weathered steel screening, and ipe wood decking provide rich textures, contrasted by a smooth reflective pond in the center of the garden.

The route to the upper level passes through scented lemon thyme and creeping jenny, creating a relaxing sense of journey. Structure in the planting is provided by beautiful, sculptural Japanese maples and koi bamboo which subtly reference the wooden-framed white planes of the house, reminiscent of traditional Japanese architecture.









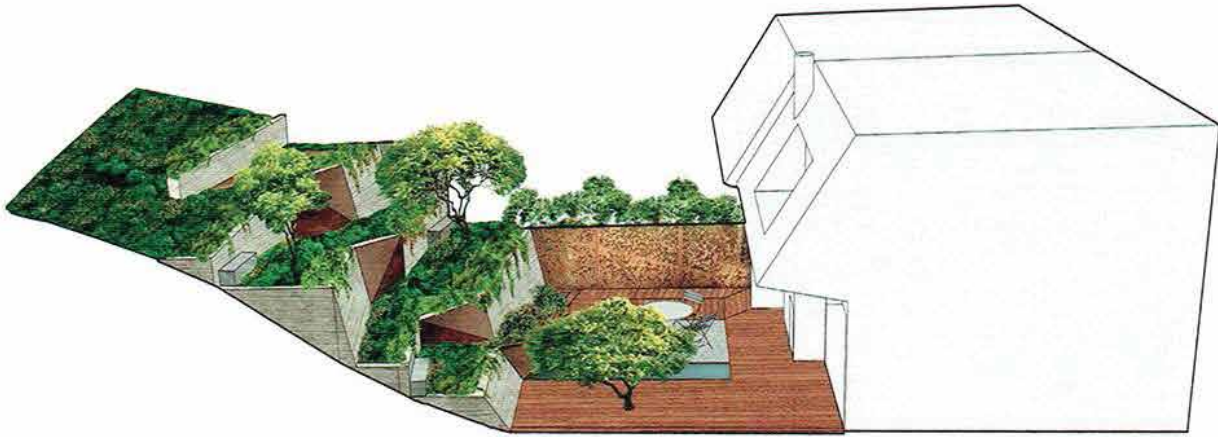


*Left and overleaf:* The center of the ramped access to the higher level is fractured by triangular steel plates that are lit from behind by LED lights, creating a river of light that cascades down the slope to the reflective pool below.









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#### Climate

USDA Zone 10a (-1.1 to 1.7°C / 30 to 35°F)

#### Plants

Creeping jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*)

Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*)

Koi bamboo (*Phyllostachys aurea* 'Koi')

Lemon thyme (*Thymus citriodorus*)

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