

INSPIRED

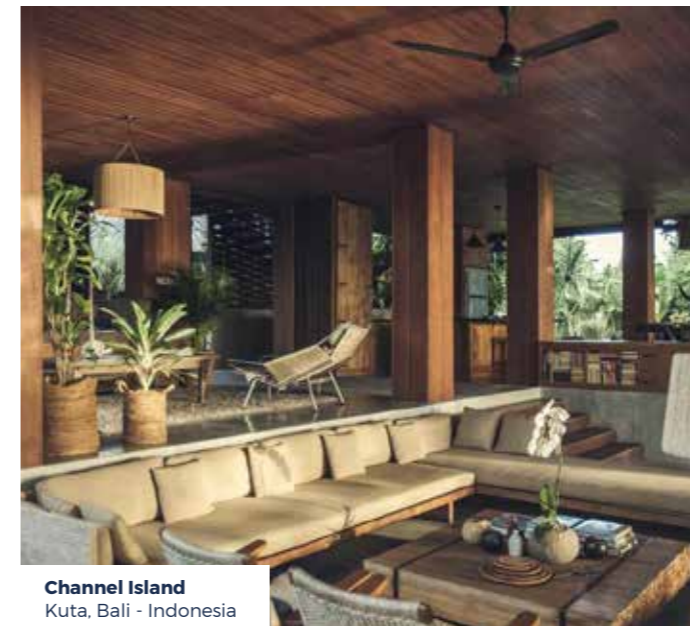
24

17 Landscaping Ideas for a Low-maintenance Yard
The 10 Best Housing Designs of 2017, According to the AIA
40 Sectional Sofas for Every Style of Living Room Decor
Visually Inspired





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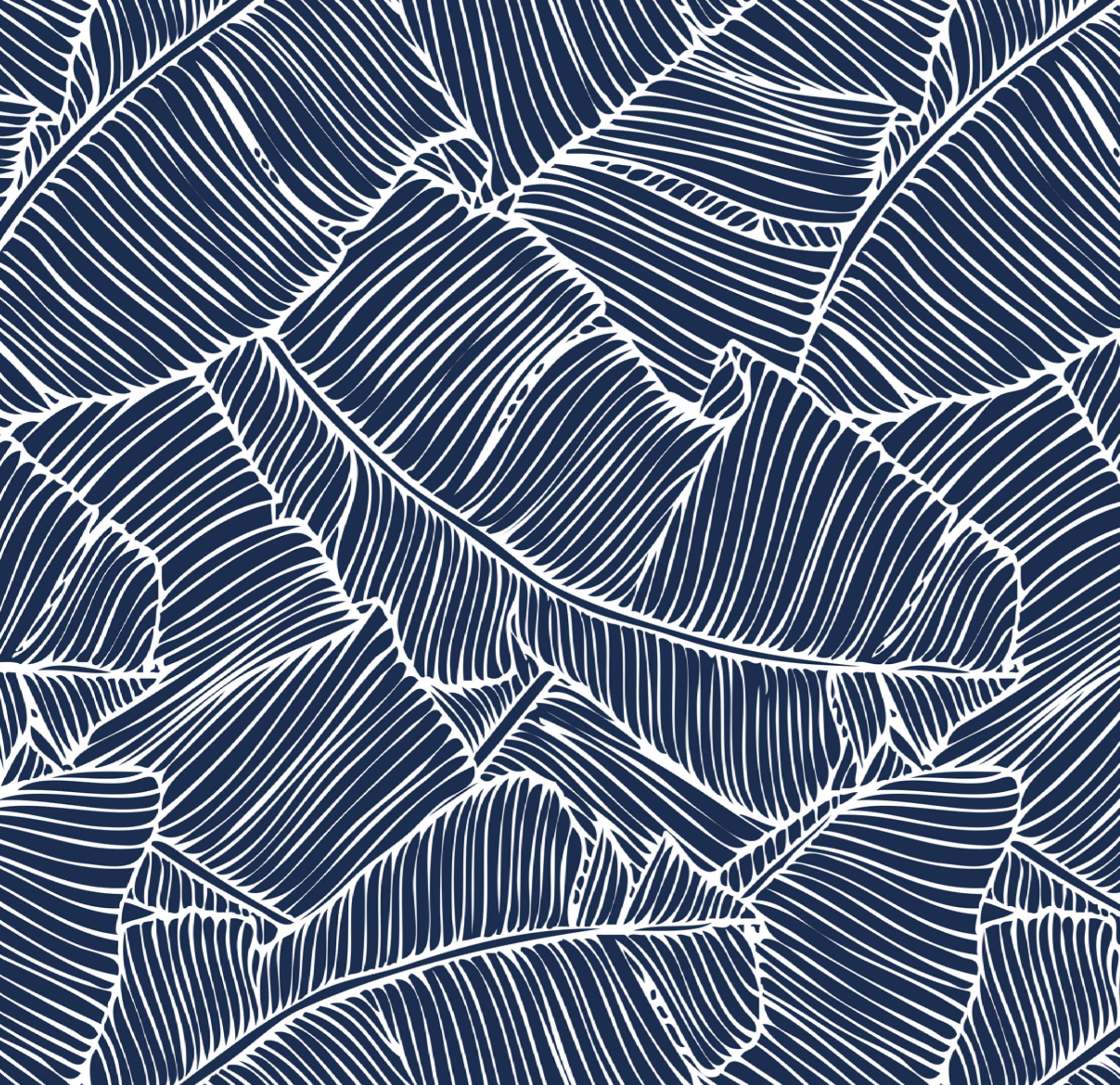
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- All the contents were taken from several online sources.
- Some pictures are not in HD quality due to function conversion

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**WHAT'S
INSIDE?**

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17 LANDSCAPING IDEAS FOR A LOW-MAINTENANCE YARD

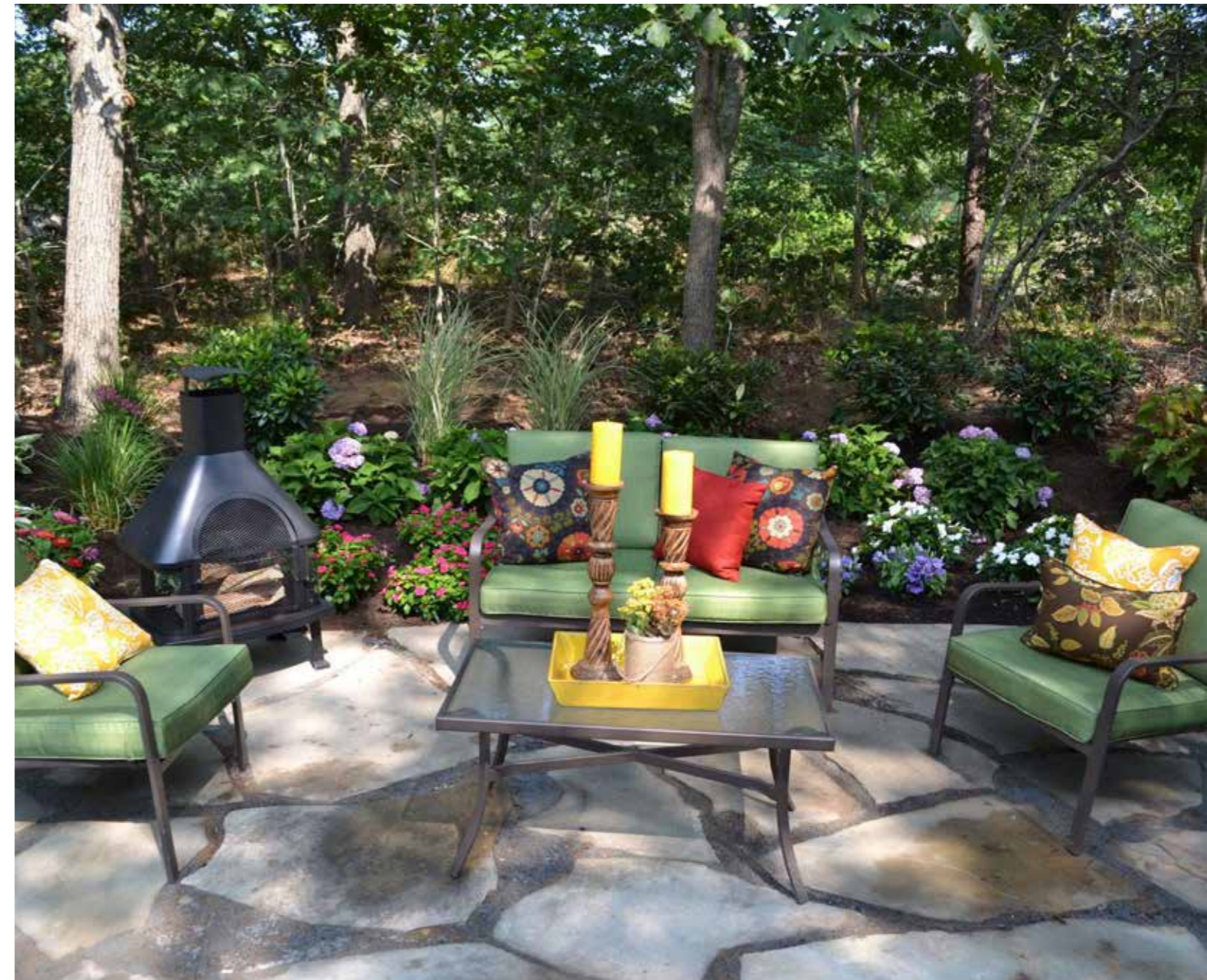
*Spend less time taking care of your
yard and more time relaxing in it.*





Create outdoor living spaces.

More outdoor space means more chances to entertain in warm weather — and less work for you. “Creating outdoor living spaces lends itself to low-maintenance landscaping because you can extend your home while having fewer grassy areas to care for,” says Peyton. The couple has a stone patio with a grilling area, dining table, and separate fire pit area in their home. Similarly, a deck is an equally low-maintenance option.



Pick the right stone for outdoor landscaping.

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Build a strong foundation.

Establish a solid base for stone surfaces to avoid fix-ups later. If you are planning a stone patio, lay a six- to eight-inch layer of compacted pea stones first. "It will prevent weeds and keep your patio level," says Chris. "If you have a good base, it ends up being low-maintenance for decades to come. You won't have to be weeding things, pulling up stones, and re-leveling them."



Plant lavender.

For a relaxing aroma and burst of color, plant lavender. "Lavender will come back year after year, and it only needs to be watered once or twice a week if you don't live in a climate with regular rain," says Chris. "I also love planting lavender near the patio because the scent is a bug repellent."



Invest in mulch beds.

Around your outdoor living space, add beds of mulch instead of grass. "It's one of the best investments you can have in your yard because mulch breaks down, fertilizes your plants, and prevents weeds," says Chris. "It's low-maintenance because you don't have to mow it or water it. It's also inexpensive and you only have to replace it in the spring." An added perk: Mulch also provides a pleasant aroma for your yard.



Use crushed stone in beds.

It's an alternative to mulch. "A lot of people use crushed stones in beds because it's a really good xeriscaping technique," says Chris. "Stone is also a nice option in beds because you never have to replace it."



Personalize landscaping stones.

If you use stone in landscaping beds, consider how much wind your region gets and how the stone will match the aesthetic of your home. "Pea stone comes in different sizes, so you can get a three-quarter inch stone if you're worried about wind," says Chris. "Crushed stone also comes in a variety of colors, so you can change it depending on your style, house color, or area of the country."



Fill the yard with perennials.

For low-maintenance plants, opt for perennials. "You buy them once, and they come back year after year," says Chris. For example, hens-and-chicks are tough plants that grow well in rocky, challenging spaces while just a few yuccas can fill a space with grand, spiky leaves.



Pick non-fussy flowers.

Add vibrant color to your yard without sweating in the garden. "I like to always have color, so I try to have plants that flower all season," says Chris. "When something's always blooming in the yard, there's a sense of added life." Black-eyed Susans are a good summer choice because they bloom throughout the season. In the autumn, consider Montauk daisies.



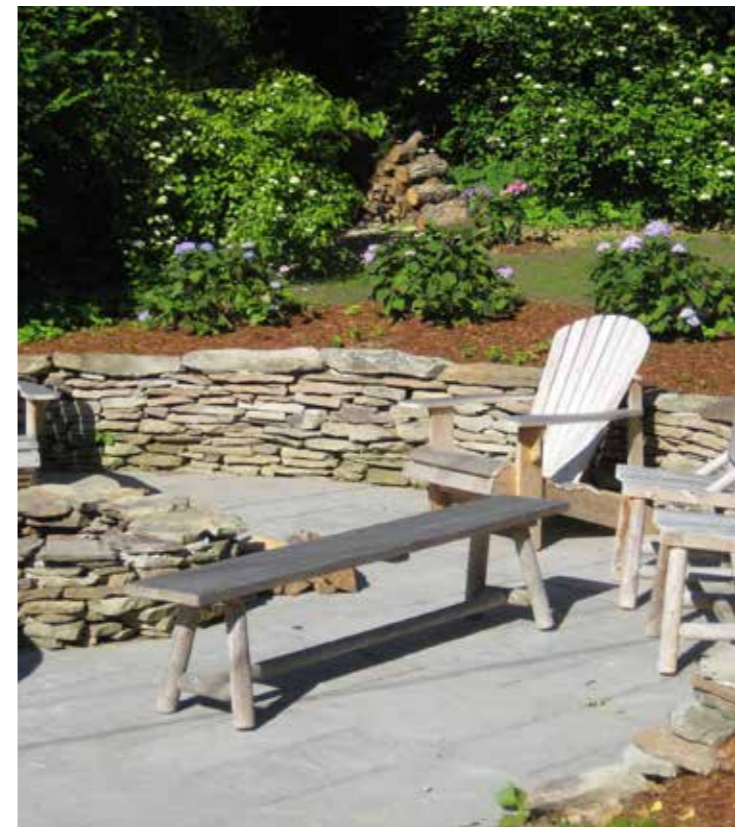
Plant climate-specific grass.

If you're not ready to nix grass completely, consider which grasses naturally grow in your region. "If you plant a grass that is accustomed to your climate, that makes it low maintenance," says Chris. "You can research which grass grows best in your area, and in turn save money on watering, fertilizing, and other maintenance." For instance: In the Northeast — where the couple lives in their Cape Cod home — fescue and ryegrass grow well. Alternatively, in the Southeast, Bermuda grass is a better option.



Make use of potted plants.

Incorporating pots into landscaping not only makes a yard more low-maintenance, but also more versatile. "We love to use pots, especially for clients who want color in different parts of the yard," says Peyton. "Plus, pots are easy to move around. If you're having a party on your patio, you can move them to that area." For an added pop of color, coordinate the flowers to the season — try whites and pinks in the spring and summer, and switch to yellows and reds in the fall.



Pick native plants.

Just like you should plant grass that is specific to your region, pick native plants for less upkeep. "If you pick plants that are native or grow well in a specific zone or area, that will keep water and pruning prices down," says Chris.



Remove leaves in the fall.

The easiest way to winter-proof your yard: Get rid of the fallen leaves. "Get all the leaves off of your lawn so they don't rot out the grass over the winter," says Chris.

Spring-proof your yard.

Once again, the magic is in the mulch. "In the spring, mulch everything, because it prevents weeds," says Chris. "It helps the water go straight to the plants that need it rather than feeding the weeds."



Pick native plants.

Have kids? Or pets? Don't be afraid to give artificial grass a shot. "People always ask how to make a yard dog-proof and kid-proof, but there's no way because they're going to run around and tear up your grass," says Chris. "But if you give them an artificial grass area to play on, they won't wreak havoc on the rest of your yard." Plus, it requires zero upkeep on the weekends.



Use rain barrels.

Collecting water with rain barrels is an extremely easy (and environmentally-friendly) way to water your plants. "We have a rain barrel and it attaches to the downspout, so all the water comes off the roof of your house," says Peyton. "Or it could be as simple as letting a trash can fill up with water."



Pick the right barbecue.

For a low-maintenance outdoor cooking space, invest in appliances that last. "If you want something that's going to stand the test of time, go with a built-in barbecue area with stone veneer on the front," says Peyton. A sturdy granite countertop is also a long-lasting feature, and it's ideal for withstanding varying weather conditions.

THE 10 BEST HOUSING DESIGNS

OF 2017, ACCORDING
TO THE AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF
ARCHITECTS

*From private
properties to college
dorms, these homes are
seriously impressive.*



BLUE LAKE RETREAT (ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY CUSTOM RESIDENCES)

Locations: Marble Falls, Texas

This category recognizes outstanding designs for custom and remodeled homes for a specific client. The retreat that takes the top prize was designed to celebrate the memories of the client's childhood summers spent on the lake, and honor the legacy of her father who was an architect.



LOS ALTOS RESIDENCE (ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY CUSTOM RESIDENCES)

Location: Los Altos, California

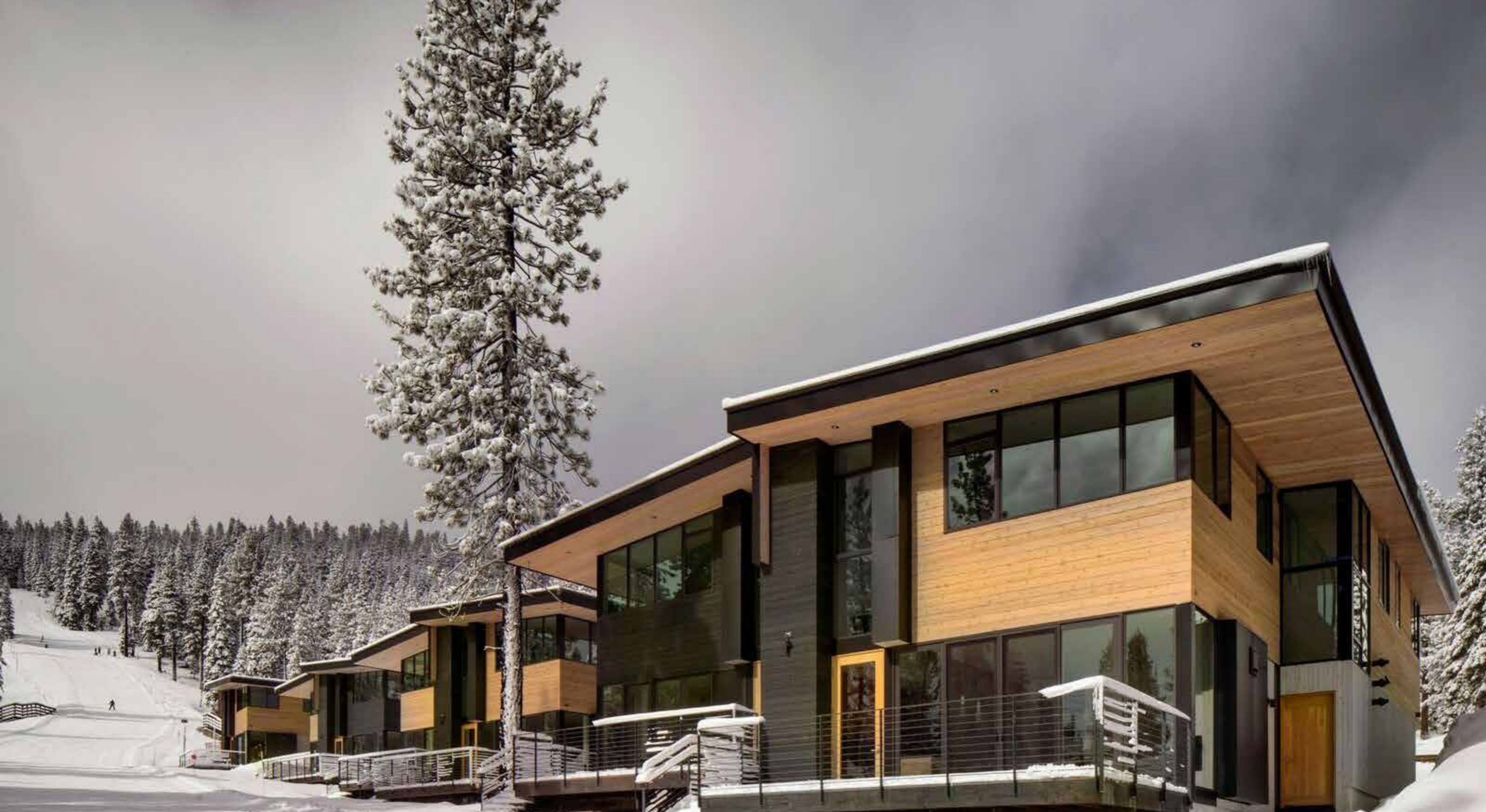
This residence, designed for a single family, is a modernist play on the ranch-style homes of Northern California.



SAWMILL (ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY CUSTOM RESIDENCES)

Location: Tehachapi, California

This 5,200-square-foot house is located in the middle of the California desert. The owners hoped to create a self-sufficient retreat and a lasting marker of their presence in the area.



**STELLAR RESIDENCES AND TOWNHOMES AT NORTHSTAR
(ONE/TWO FAMILY PRODUCTION HOUSING)**

Location: Truckee, California

These residences challenge the concept of the traditional mountain chalet one might find in Switzerland. The glass windows open up the space, welcoming in sweeping views of the surrounding environment, including the Martis Valley and Carson Range.



ROXBURY E+(ONE/TWO FAMILY PRODUCTION HOUSING)

Location: Boston, Massachusetts

This housing complex consists of four three-story wood-frame homes and was built as part of the City of Boston's Energy Plus (E+) Green Building Program.



HUNTERS VIEW HOUSING BLOCKS 5&6 (MULTIFAMILY HOUSING)

Location: San Francisco, California

These two new blocks of affordable family housing were a part of the first phase of San Francisco's ambitious HOPE SF program to rebuild parts of San Francisco's deteriorated public housing. They have a modern feel and fit in with the city's existing architecture.



POWERHOUSE (MULTIFAMILY HOUSING)

Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

This housing unit is made up of a variety of single-family town homes and duplexes, as well as two small apartment buildings. The homes were built in hopes of keeping up with the character of the surrounding community, and have been made available at a range of prices to meet the needs and budgets of residents.



THE LOFTS AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS (SPECIALTY HOUSING)

Location: St. Louis, Missouri

This category recognizes outstanding design in single room occupancy residences (SROs), independent living for the disabled, residential rehabilitation programs, domestic violence shelters, and other special housing. These lofts cover over 280,000 square feet, and were built to keep students closer to campus.



HEARTLAND FAMILY WORKS (SPECIALTY HOUSING)

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

This specialty housing location offers four- and six-month residential substance abuse treatment programs in a setting that keeps families together while giving mothers the intensive, support they need while getting sober. The designers used a contrast of warm colors and textures to complement the cool palette of the concrete.



THE SIX (SPECIALTY HOUSING)

Location: Los Angeles

This housing project consists of 52 units and provides a home, support services and rehabilitation for previously homeless and/or disabled veterans. The project is located by MacArthur Park and features energy efficient amenities that exceed standard practice.

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SECTIONAL SOFAS

*For every style
of living room
decor.*





GRAY & GEOMETRIC



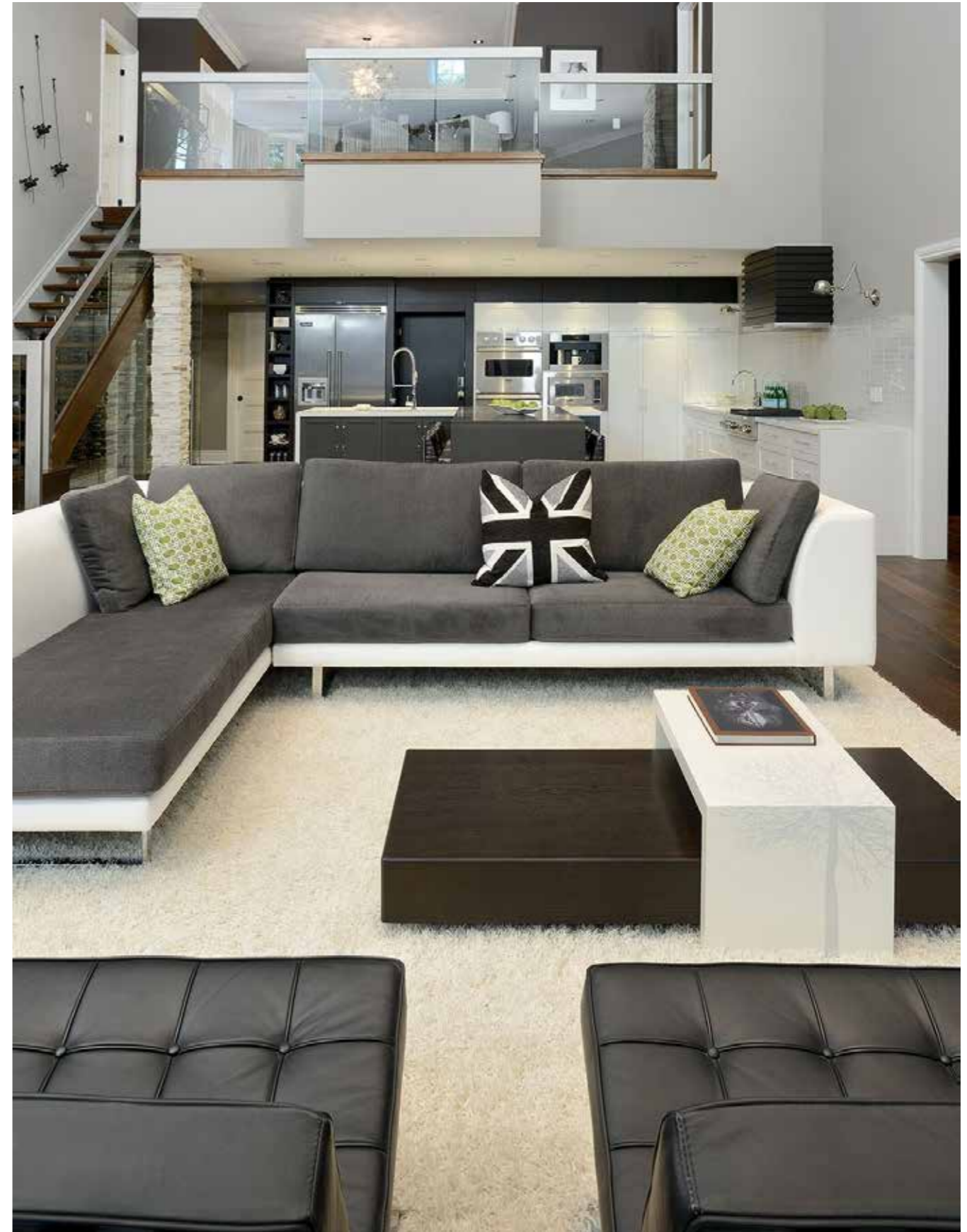
OPEN & AIRY



CLEAN & BRIGHT



BEACHY IN BLUE



CLEAN & BRIGHT



ROOM WITH A VIEW



POPS OF COLOR



BOLD ACCENTS



WHITE LINENS



LOOKING UP



CONTEMPORARY COLOR



DARK CHOCOLATE CONTRAST



MUTED & MOODY



ALL PAIRED UP



TUFTED SEATING



NEUTRAL-HUED



MIXED MATERIALS



CONCRETE JUNGLE



READ & RELAX



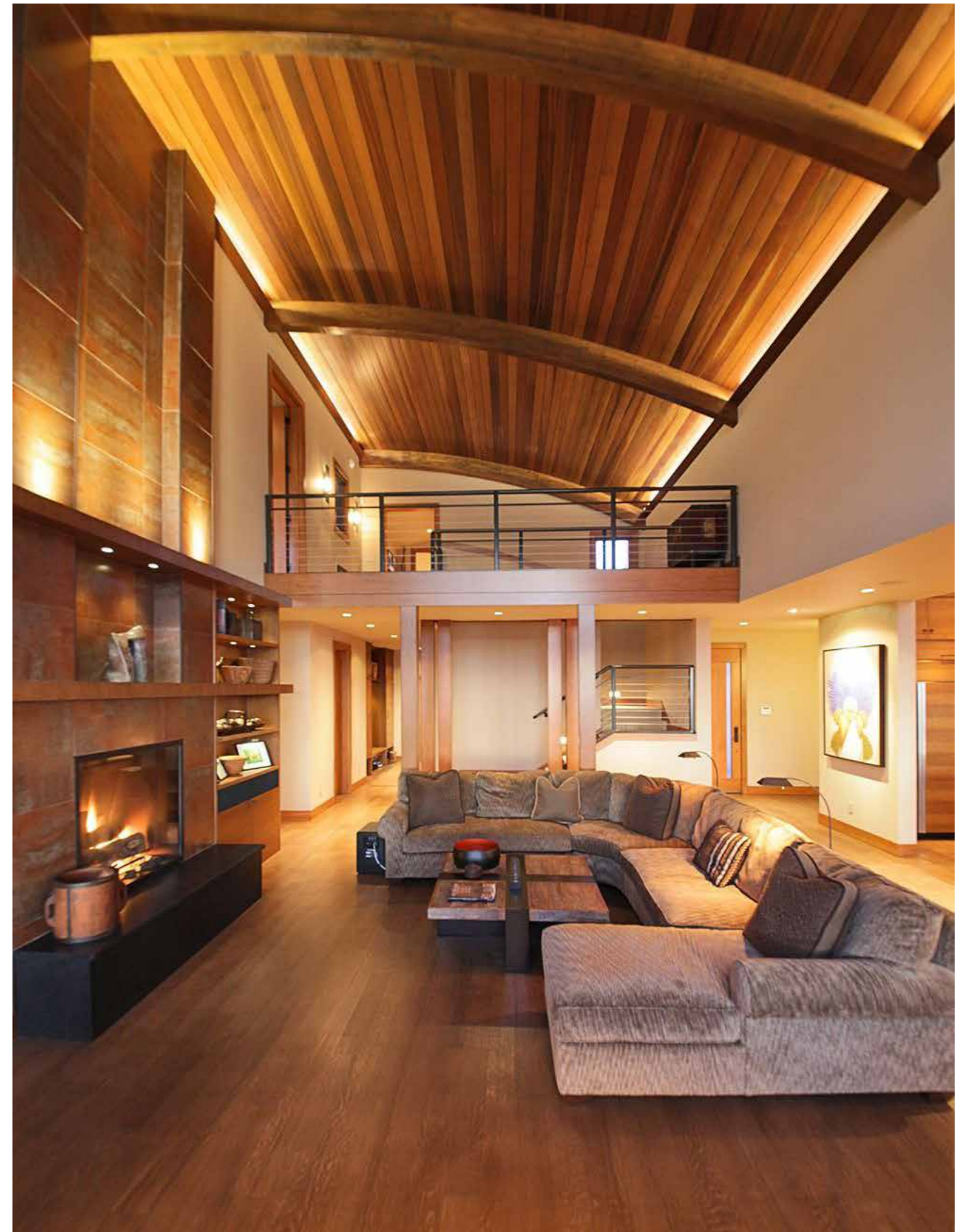
TERRA COTTA & LEATHER



FEMININE FLAIR



VAULTED LIGHTING



WARM NATURALS



ALL TUCKED AWAY



DESIGNER ACCENTS



CORAL CUSHIONS



URBAN CHIC



CHERRY RED



WESTERN & WARM



SECLUDED SANCTUARY



EXTENDED L-SHAPE



PERFECT NOOK



BRICK & MORTAR



PRIMARY COLORS



SUNLIT WHITES



CALLING CANARY

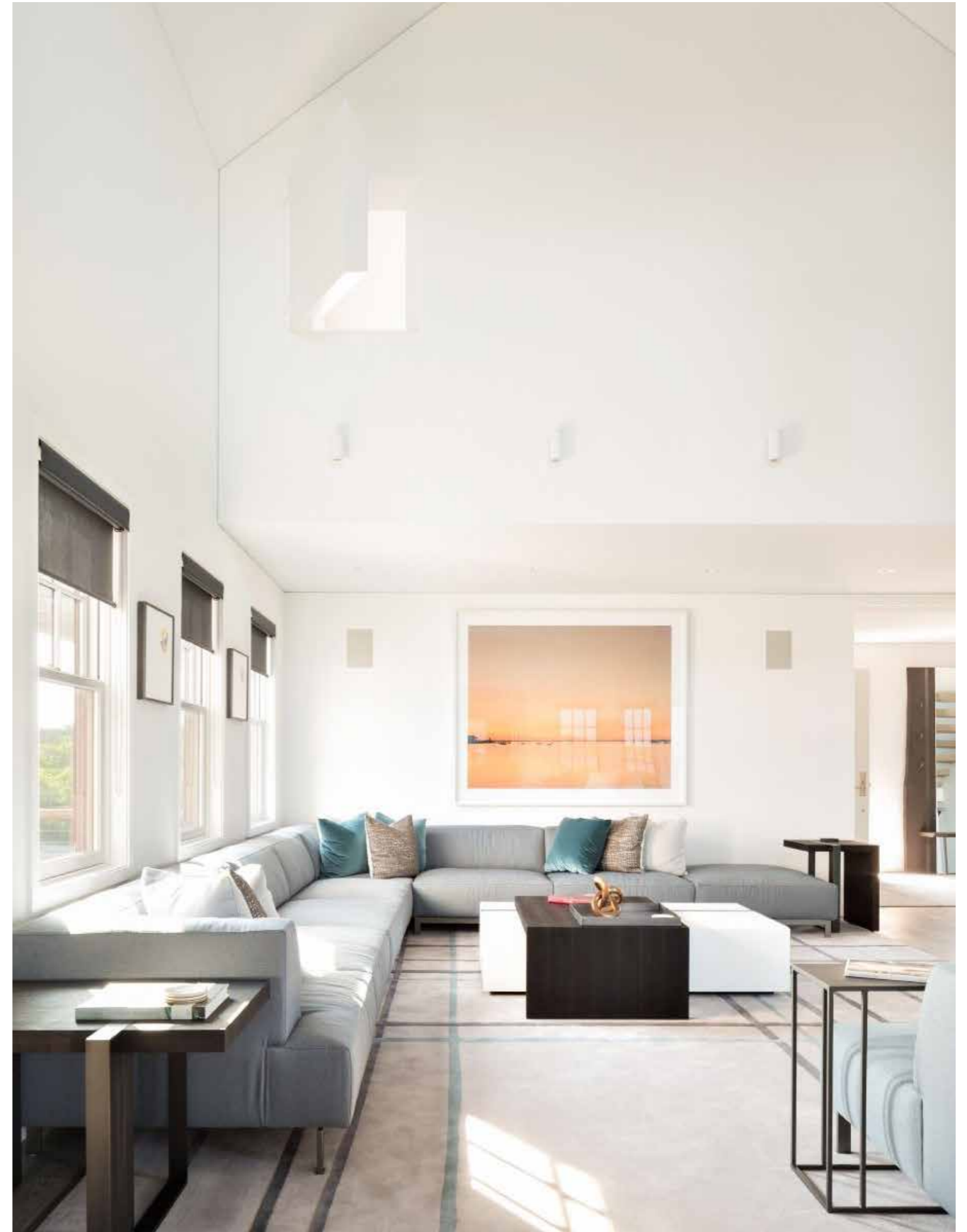
OUTSIDE IN



PANELLED FIREPLACE



ROYAL VELVET



SIMPLE & SLEEK

The background is a complex, abstract composition of marbled colors. It features a mix of teal, deep blue, and light pink/purple tones. The patterns are fluid and organic, resembling liquid paint or ink that has been manipulated. There are various shapes, including elongated vertical streaks, circular swirls, and irregular blotches. The overall effect is a rich, textured visual field.

VISUALLY
INSPIRED









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video interviews
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1



helsinki

Finland 2017:
45% of total electricity
production are
produced locally with
renewable energy.

