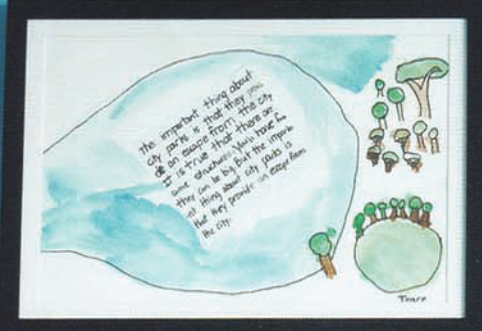


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GREEN IN STYLE, GREEN IN DESIGN

ONE HOME IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TAKES BEING GREEN TO AN EXTREME **BY KATHRYN FREEMAN RATHBONE**

The term "green design" fits this San Mateo, California, home to a T. Aptly named "For the Love of Nature" by designer Johnny Moallempour, the house features numerous eco-friendly features and shades of green that run the full spectrum from pale moss tones to punchy jades. It even sits in San Mateo's verdant valley, known for its year-round vegetation.

ASID Design Distinction Award nominee Moallempour, the principal of San Francisco-based MJM Interior Design and lead designer for bedding company Crane and Canopy, took great care to integrate green into every level of the home, starting with its functional basics. "The features in this home were designed to accommodate my client's needs of having a house that is free of hazardous chemicals and products," he says. "Due to the fact that she is a chemical engineer, she was able to provide great insight into which products were safe to use." The designer chose natural materials where he could, and also incorporated innovative design features like venting skylights and radiant heating to reduce the home's energy footprint.

And unlike most homes, the San Mateo house relies on a built-in central vacuum system to remove particulates from the home. It's Moallempour's favorite structural feature. "This unit not only saves a significant amount of energy, but it removes dust and allergens by directly moving them into a bin that's placed in the garage, bypassing anything inside the living space." The central vacuum is a simple idea, but it vastly improves the home's overall health impact.

Aesthetically, Moallempour stuck to the green theme by incorporating the color into many of the house's main spaces. He painted the first floor a neutral

shade of green that looks either taupe or sage, depending on the day's natural light. For the great room, he commissioned local artist Carol R. Moore to paint a custom piece of bright green reeds, a reminder of his client's love of travel. "It's my client's favorite. She loves the colors because they remind her of her trips to Africa and the jungles of the Amazon," Moallempour says. It's a fitting piece for the home's most prominent space, emphasizing that at its core, this house truly is a green space. ■

Gaul Searson Ltd., Loggia Showroom, Lee Jofa, Modern Fever, Carol R. Moore, and A.V. Construction worked with MJM Interior Design to complete the For the Love of Nature project.



AV BUILDERS, INC.

Moallempour worked closely with AV Builders, Inc. to create the San Mateo home's open and expansive feel. Andrew Vanni, the company's owner, says that Moallempour was "the man for the job." Under his direction, they executed coffered and vaulted ceilings, trimming them with hidden LED strips that illuminate the tall ceilings at night. The contractor and interior designer met with their client as often as weekly—and, says Vanni, "the outcome couldn't please the owners more."