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OUTDOOR INTELLIGENCE. OUTDOOR STYLE. OUTDOOR FUN.

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*Regulatory Report:
E-commerce taxation*

The Elements Series
Starting with Fire

by Laurie Rudd



Shimmering by night, the entire outdoor and indoor living spaces were rebuilt over a 20-year period.

LA OUTDOOR STYLE

Los Angeles architect Michael Rachlin transforms the exterior of a 1950s California residence into a glamorous outdoor living space.

IN 1994, THE NORTH-RIDGE EARTHQUAKE rocked the Los Angeles area, making fixer-uppers of many of the region's 1950s-era bungalows.

For one such residence in LA's Beverlywood neighborhood, correcting the damage

from the quake and the ensuing years of neglect called for a total makeover. Executed in two phases over a 20-year period by the homeowner himself—architect and designer Michael Rachlin—the project presented a formidable task.

A founding partner of the highly acclaimed Rachlin Partners, an architectural design firm in LA, Rachlin created a plan that included gutting the home's structure, leaving only the foundation, the exterior bearing walls and the roof. The outdoor

space also started from a blank slate, allowing him to take advantage of the location's panoramic views.

"Improving the outdoor living area was a vital part of renovating and upgrading an earthquake-damaged home," Rachlin says. "The scope was

Designer: Michael Rachlin, AIA

Firm Name: Rachlin Partners

Location of Project: Los Angeles

Furniture Brands: Bubble Club armchairs by Philippe Stark by Kartel; Adirondack Collection chairs, ottoman and two-seat bench by Loll Designs; Lutyens solid teak bench by Country Casual; LED globe lamp by Artkalia Ballia; Left Twist Cube by Frank Gehry for Heller; all-weather rattan sofa and armchair set with sun loungers by Alexander Francis; illuminated planter by Bordato; bamboo umbrella by Gold Market

Fabric brands: Sunbrella

Other contributors: Brad Biben, ASLA (landscape architect); Archit Jain (lighting designer); Stan Krupa (builder)

Photography credit: Tom Bonner, Karyn Millet



The urban oasis theme is carried throughout the back and front of the home's outdoor spaces.

Continued

to transform the backyard into a multifaceted living space including a pool, guest house and seating areas.”

This transformation allowed Rachlin to achieve a serene environment ideally suited for private relaxation as well as casual social gatherings. “By combining amenities such as a pool and guest house with entertaining spaces like the deck with seating and a fire pit, the outdoor area gives a resort-like impression that’s restful and replenishing,” he says.

Rachlin added a freestanding gable and hipped roof structures throughout the property that mirror the lines of the cottage. The structures create separate outdoor “rooms,” such as an al fresco dining area. A raised deck in a lush corner of the property also lends the perfect gathering space around an umbrella-covered bar. Casual furnishings provide a vantage point of the modern in-ground pool.

On an adjacent raised lounge patio, a modern gas fire feature serves as a cozy focal point. Surrounded by white furnishings, the fire pit is a prime spot for conversation. Designer chaise lounges flank the pool as part of the final leisure plan.



Raised patios create seating and entertainment areas situated among lush greenery, overlooking the adjacent golf course.

“The (exterior) design created a relationship between the outdoor and the indoor spaces, defined by ease of circulation and a strong visual connection,” Rachlin says. “Outdoor elements such as the deck, pool and guest house are laid out to gently blur the distinction between minimalist interiors and the lushly landscaped exterior.”

Mother Nature may have dealt a blow to this home, but through one designer’s vision this quintessential California bungalow now stands as a shining example of true LA outdoor style. **ct**



Decorative surfaces, sleek furnishings and architectural interest are all a part of the outdoor design plan by Michael Rachlin.



A fire feature outfitted with comfortable casual seating is the focal point for one of the raised patio areas.