

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

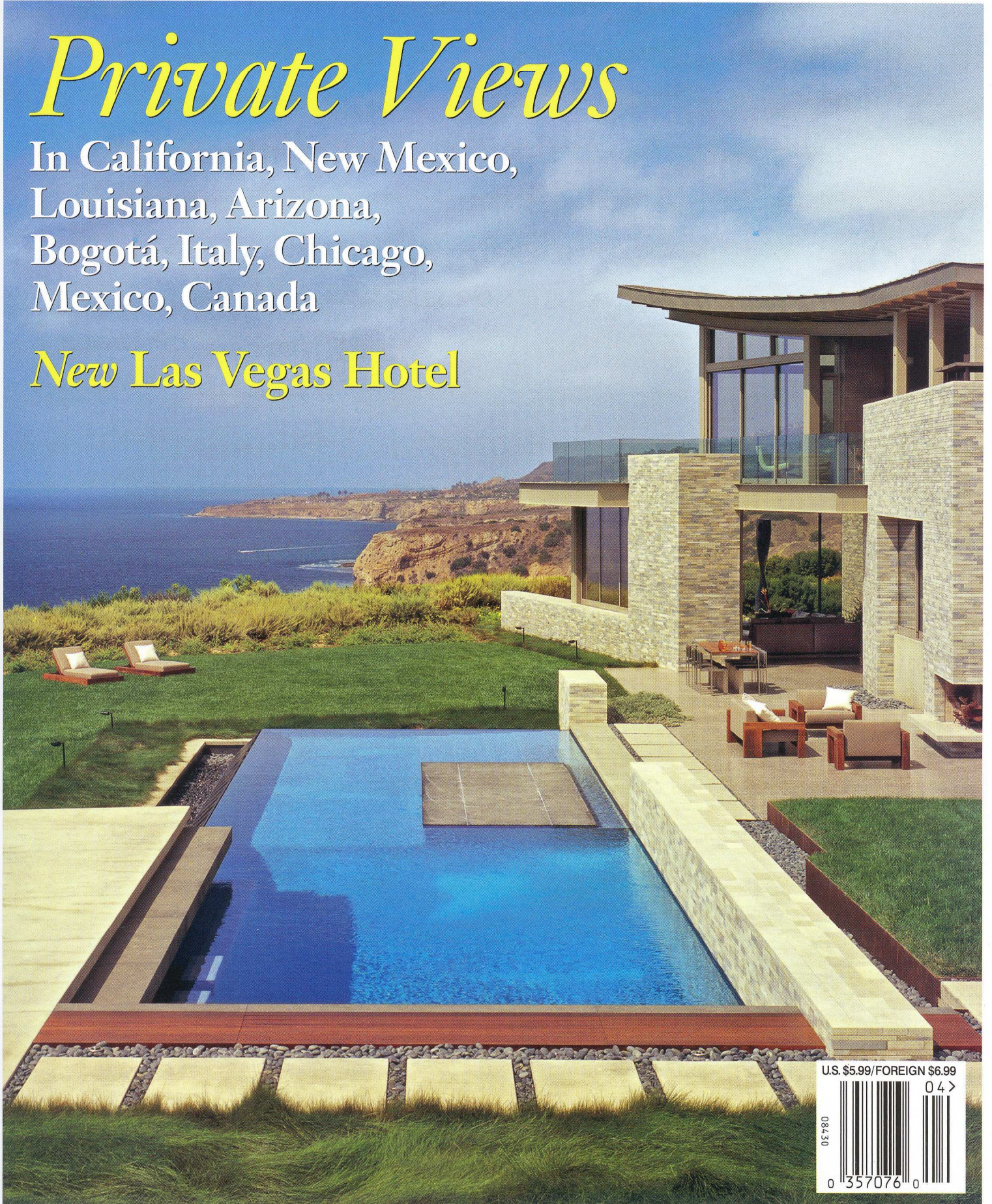
THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF DESIGN

APRIL 2009

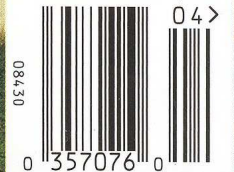
Private Views

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Louisiana, Arizona,
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OPEN AUDITIONS

Our continuing look at the designs selected for publication from our first season of Open Auditions. This month, singular residences in Mexico and Southern California.

Alejandro Herrasti Ordaz | Mexico

A Contemporary Dwelling in Monterrey Offers a Striking Counterpoint to Its Surroundings



At the southern edge of Monterrey, Mexico, on a sprawling property shaded by old walnut trees, architect Alejandro Herrasti Ordaz has conceived a cool retreat for an industrialist and his family. Spanning nearly 27,000 square feet, with walls of pale Spanish limestone, the structure possesses an undeniably monumental presence. “It’s a strong house,” Herrasti Ordaz acknowledges. “But it’s also soothing, very tranquil. The residents and I believe that modern architecture should be comfortable.”

The tranquillity of the interior spaces owes as much to the materials—travertine and walnut floors, goatskin and parchment walls and abundant glass—as to the views: Every room looks onto the gardens or to the peaks of the nearby Sierra Madre Oriental range. The house’s east-west axis offers one of its more unforgettable features: a 25-meter, skylighted reflecting pool. “All year long you have shadows and sunlight on the water,” Herrasti Ordaz says. “It’s like a living architectural piece.”

In Monterrey, Mexico, architect Alejandro Herrasti Ordaz has designed a grand, stream-lined residence. “It’s a kind of oasis in the city,” he offers. **LEFT:** A sculpture by Ingo Maurer hangs at the main entrance. **ABOVE:** The interior pool. “The beautiful thing is the reflection from the skylight,” he says. Armchairs, Fendi.

PHOTOGRAPHY: JORDI FARRÉ
TEXT BY NELL VENCILL SANCHEZ

Open Auditions

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“The spaces are very well proportioned. The idea was to use materials that would soften the architecture.”



TOP: “The pool pavilion’s cantilevered ceiling provides a horizontal frame to vistas of the Sierra Madre Oriental to the south,” notes Herrasti Ordaz. **LEFT:** The master bedroom has views of the south garden. Leather sofa, Roche-Bobois.

ABOVE: A sliding glass screen encloses an air-conditioned area of the pool pavilion. “The owners felt that if they left it open, it would be too hot,” he explains. Adjacent to the pavilion is a professional-size soccer field where the residents’ children play.