

CALIFORNIA HOMES

THE MAGAZINE OF ARCHITECTURE
THE ARTS & DISTINCTIVE DESIGN

THE
WISEMAN
GROUP
DESIGNS
IN LOS ALTOS

ARCHITECT
HOMER OATMAN

at the Strand
Dana Point

DESIGNER
JANET LOHMAN

at Big Horn
Palm Desert

HISTORIC
*Greystone
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STAIRWAY TO Heaven

DESIGNER PAUL WISEMAN AND ARCHITECT ALECK WILSON CREATE SERENITY IN THE LOS ALTOS HILLS

TEXT BY KENDRA BOUTELL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW MILLMAN



FOR AN OPEN CONCEPT living and dining room in the Los Altos Hills, San Francisco interior designer, Paul Wiseman of The Wiseman Group selected a bold, early twentieth century Japanese bi-fold screen as the focal piece of art. From the wealthy but ephemeral Taisho period, it features squares of gold and silver leaf. Originally owned by a Zaibatsu industrialist, the screen now resides in a contemporary home located in high tech Silicon Valley.

The dated three-story house, built in 1977, required an extensive two-year renovation. Wiseman collaborated with Aleck Wilson of Aleck Wilson Architects to accomplish his clients' vision of a light filled home. A central floating stairway silhouetted by translucent glass harvests





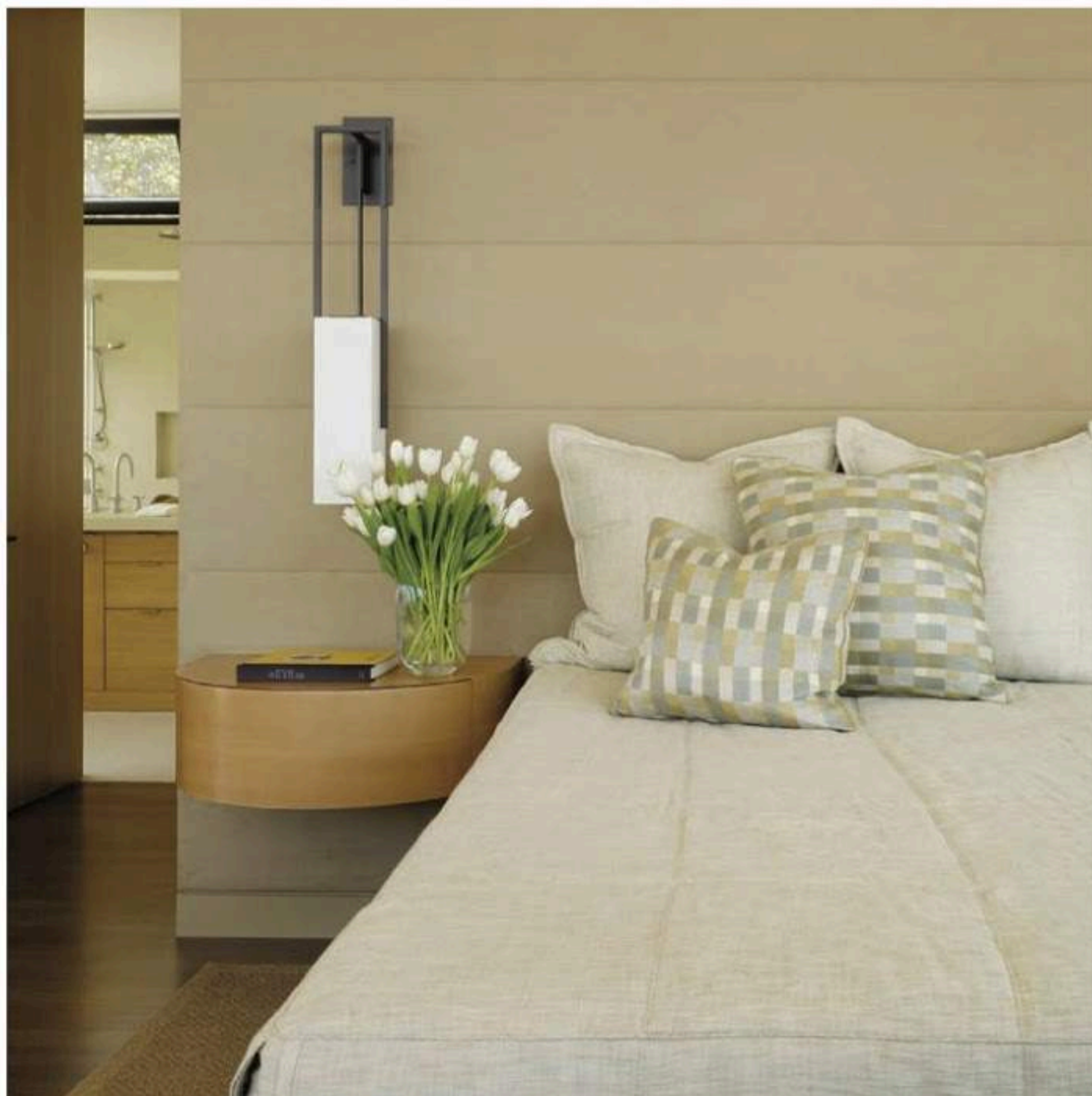
For the living and dining room, Paul Wiseman worked with senior designer Martin Young to select fabrics and finishes in warm neutrals. A rich bark-colored Jack Lenor Larsen textile covers the Ironies' club chairs, and the Holly Hunt dining chairs, gray-beige cotton from Rogers & Goffigan complements a walnut wood finish. **OPPOSITE** Aleck Wilson Architects designed the floating stairway. The stairs appear to be solid wood treads while encased in steel substructure. During the day the stairwell provides light and at night it dazzles as a piece of architectural sculpture. Glass bracketed fabric half walls allow both illumination and privacy.

In the living room a touch of blue tempers the warm palette with chair kidney pillows fabricated in Jim Thompson's Khiva silk linen, color Blue Fog. The moody accents continue using Pierre Frey's Impanema in Ardoise for pillows on the banquette. Blanc de Chine vases accent the bookcases and coffee table. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT** The Wiseman Group's interpretation of a Chinese Philosopher's Stone is viewed through a window by the piano. Comprised of a large piece of burl teakwood it is seen from both the interior and exterior of the home. The Chinese believed the magical

"stone" turned base metals into gold bestowing mere mortals eternal life. **OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT** A Kenzo pendant from Satori greets visitors at the entry. Made of laminated rice paper with a dark patina metal finish, the cubistic shape is echoed throughout the home. Walls are paneled in Douglas fir. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM** Hilde-Brand Furniture made the custom tight back sofas for the open family room and kitchen. A neutral Manuel Canovas textile covers them punctuated by golden colored accent pillows. The Wiseman Group accessorized the room with minimalist pieces from Johanna Spilman, Hedge, and Japoneseque.







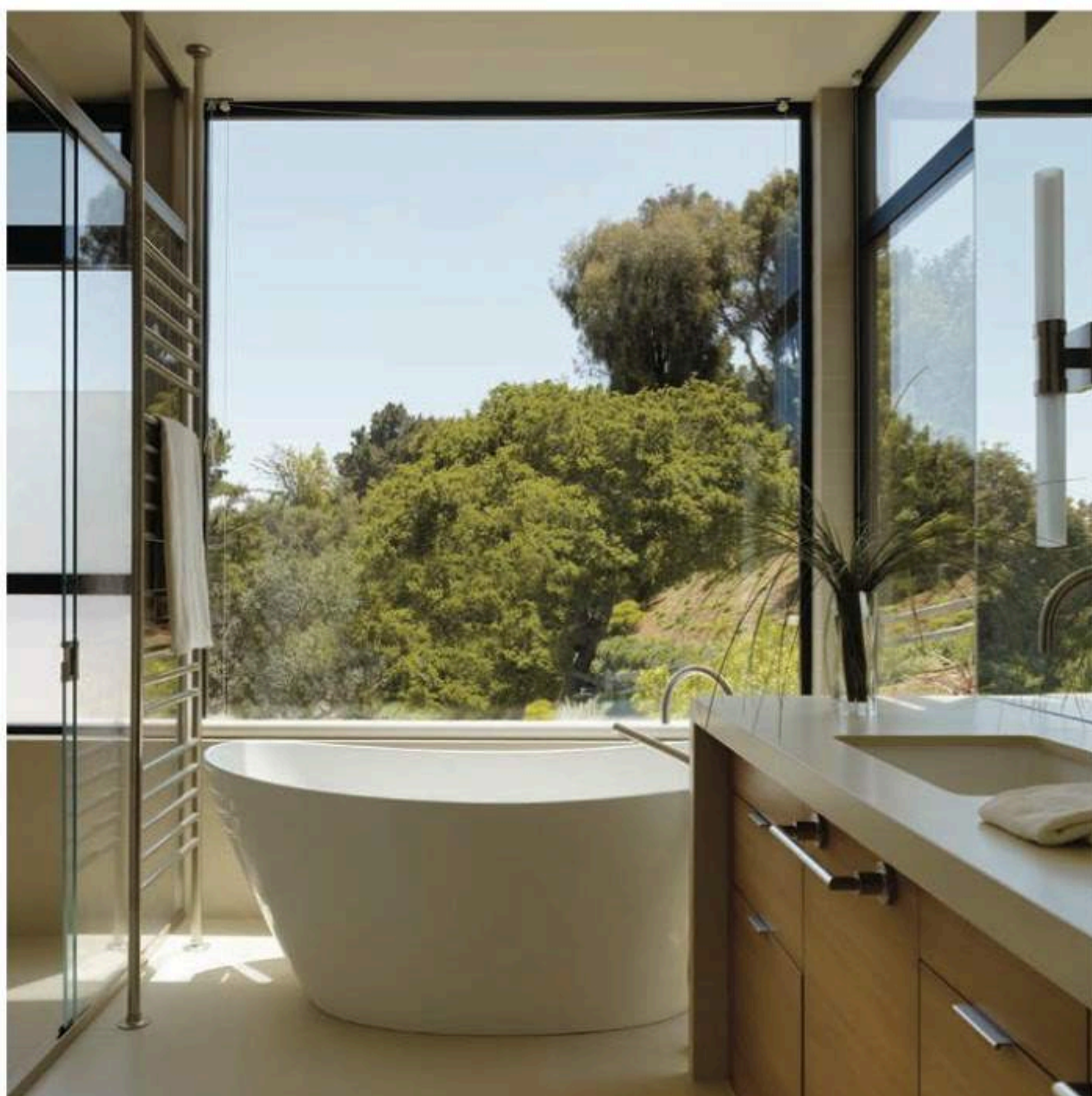
natural light through skylight wells and clerestory windows. To create the ethereal effect, Galaxy Glass & Stone laminated a diaphanous ivory textile between glass panels.

For the sunlight colored living room, Wiseman selected four high backed Crocus Lounge Chairs from Ironies as the main seating group in front of a sleek Caesarstone and wood slat mantel. A custom quadrangular walnut coffee table shelters six storage drawers and a pair of bisque poly vinyl upholstered ottomans for perching. Built in banquettes covered in a tea-stained linen from Clarence House flank the mantel. Two minimalist Satori Light Sculpture pendants cast diffused light on family and friends.

A dramatic Satori chandelier hung in the adjacent dining area visually unites the open floor plan. The walnut Malevich pedestal dining table from Jasper Furniture echoes the geometric form of the Asian inspired light fixture. For dining chairs, TWG chose Holly Hunt's Cedric Armchair designed by the late John Hutton covered in an argentine cotton blend from Rogers & Goffigon. Wiseman and senior designer, Martin Young, kept accessories to a minimum allowing views of rolling hills and verdant valleys to dominate the interior.

Ascending the floating stairway to the master floor, the quiet palette of the public spaces continues. Buff Majilite ultra suede covers bedroom wall panels and the upholstered Marco bedframe. TWG custom designed the blond demi-lune wall mounted nightstands. Tranquil bedding in shades of flax and ecru complete the room. In the master bath, Wilson specified a white oval soaking tub from Six Eleven Architectural Bath Design. Streamlined Tara fixtures and accessories from Dornbracht sparkle in a matt platinum finish.

To form a fluid plan for indoor and outdoor living, the architectural and design teams extended and integrated the exterior decks with the house. Phoenix Day's Half Cylinder Wall Brackets in a dark antique finish illuminates exterior spaces. At the entrance of the home a massive teakwood burl sculpture from Living Green mounted on a stainless steel plinth invites visitors to leave the hectic world behind and enter a serene Zen like atmosphere. **CH**





Wilson transformed the dated home into a timeless piece of architecture. Situated on almost an acre of land, the house now takes advantage of the magnificent hillside views. The soothing exterior is in complete harmony with Wiseman's interior design. **OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT** Wiseman and Young selected a pair of Satori Eva Sconces with a resin shade and dark patina finish for the ambient lighting in the master bedroom. The quilted duvet cover and shams are in Clarence

House's Malay color Sugar Cane. To add a touch of pattern, the team used Glant's linen Couture Square No. 3 for accent pillows. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM** In the master bath the bather enjoys the stunning views of untouched land. Phoenix Day's Double Glass Wall Sconces in satin nickel light the master bathroom. Wiseman utilizes the San Francisco lighting resource for his projects and has also designed several lamp lines for them.