

# TRENDS KITCHEN TRENDS

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# Outside in

This guest kitchen is virtually hidden in a living space that merges seamlessly with the outdoors

There's nothing quite like a tropical resort vacation to help you unwind and relax. So it's probably not surprising to see homeowners looking to recapture that feeling back home.

For the architect and owner of this house, the architectural inspiration came from family travels in Bali. The way many Indonesian houses are designed as pavilions that open up to the outdoors was a key influence, says David Hertz.

"Blurring the line between indoors and out effectively increases the living space and creates a very recreational feel," he says.

It's a concept Hertz has applied throughout



the house, and it is particularly noticeable in the guest kitchen and living area that opens to the pool. Designed as both an entertaining area and guest quarters, the space is fully open to the pool landscaping. Large glass doors on minimal stainless steel tracks slide back to provide a seamless link between inside and out. Framed with 2½-inch mahogany, the doors are virtually invisible against the wall when open.

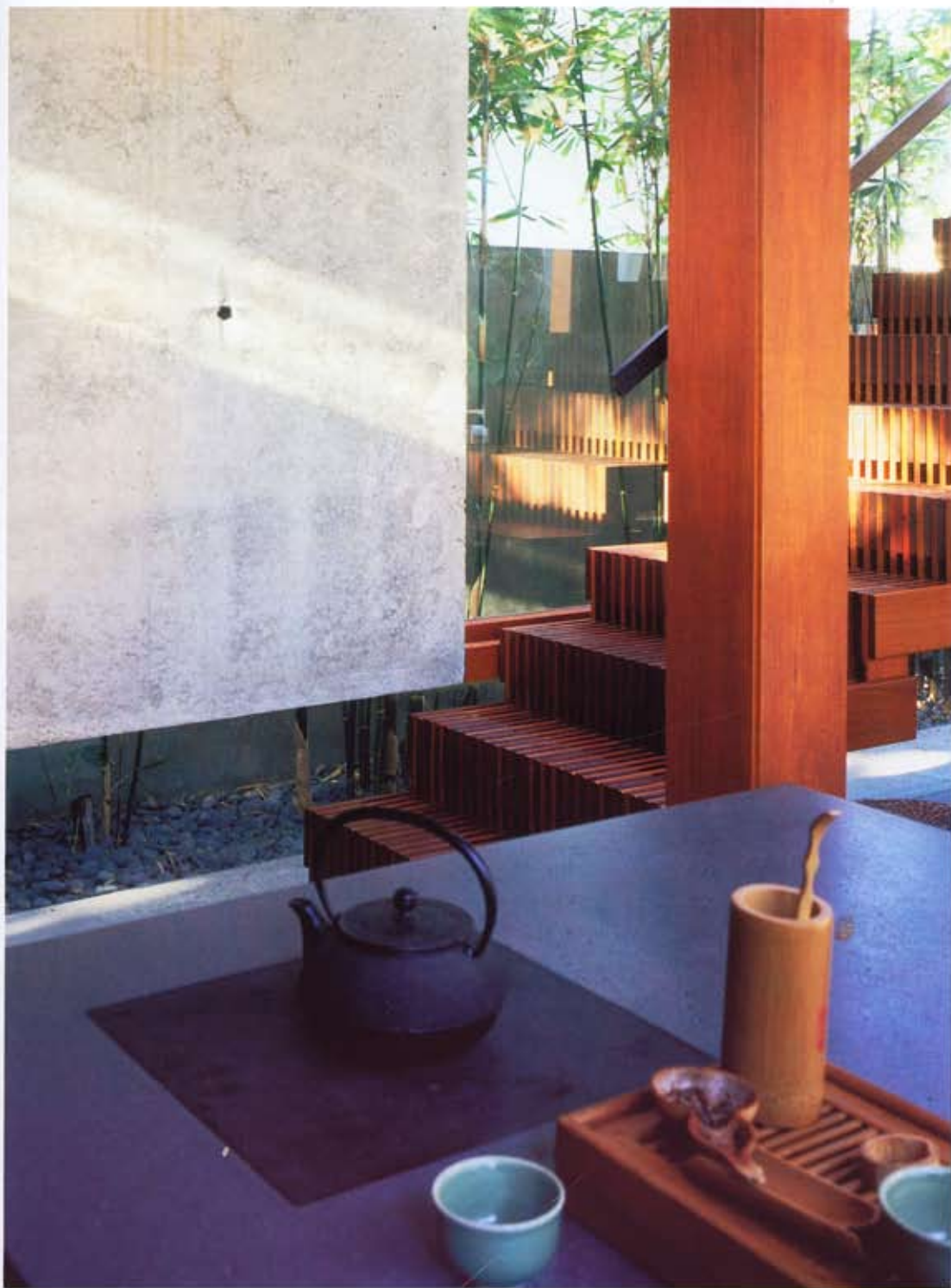
In keeping with the streamlined, open-air look, the kitchen is designed to retreat into the background. Appliances are all integrated into a bank of mahogany cabinetry along one side wall.



*Facing page and above:* This new guest kitchen and living space is designed to fully open up to a landscaped pool area. Large glazed doors, framed in mahogany, are virtually invisible when open.

*Left:* Appliances are integrated into a bank of cabinetry along one wall. To further enhance the "invisibility" of the kitchen, the countertop features a single induction hob.





**Architect:** David Hertz, AIA, David Hertz Architects (Santa Monica, CA)  
**Kitchen and interior designer:** Stacy Fong, Syndesis  
**Builder:** John Ekberg, Syndesis  
**Cabinets:** FSC mahogany  
**Countertops:** Syndecrete® lightweight concrete with integral charcoal color  
**Backsplash:** Concrete  
**Sink:** Syndecrete monolithic farm sink  
**Faucets:** Dornbracht  
**Hot water systems:** Solar hydronic radiant heating  
**Cooktop:** Induction Systems  
**Refrigerator:** Sub-Zero  
**Flooring:** Syndecrete concrete pavers  
**Tiles:** Syndecrete custom concrete tiles, threshold and coping  
**Windows and doors:** Solid FSC mahogany lift and sliders  
**Dining suite:** West Elm  
**Wallcoverings:** Plaster  
**Lighting:** Elco cans; hanging pendants from Design Within Reach; globe fixture from YLighting.com

**Photography by** Tim Maloney

“The cabinetry reads as a storage wall, rather than a kitchen,” says Hertz. “Cooking and heating have also been minimized by limiting the facilities to a single induction cooktop on the island.”

Using exterior materials indoors was another way to visually link the two spaces. The countertop is sculpted from charcoal-colored Syndecrete – a lightweight concrete made from recycled fly ash, carpet fiber and cement. A precast Syndecrete sink is positioned in one corner and designed to look as though is it molded from the concrete wall.

Walls feature precast, raw concrete panels. These have a smooth, highly polished finish,

resulting from the use of a shiny Formica mold.

Concrete also directly links the inside to the outdoors. A low, concrete bench seat outdoors extends through a glass wall to become a shelf inside, further blurring the definition between the spaces.

Horizontal elements provide another connection. Fins at the top of the cabinets echo the design of the exterior louvers.

The extensive glazing in the room includes high windows above the sink, which help to lighten a potentially dark corner. The glazing also allows the owners to glimpse a flowering jacaranda tree, which is illuminated at night.

**Facing page:** Raw concrete walls create another visual link with the outdoors. The skirted sink is designed to look like an extension of the wall. A dishwasher is concealed in the adjacent cabinetry.

**Above:** A large concrete wall appears to float beside suspended stairs at the side of the kitchen. The lower part of the wall is fully glazed. The stairs feature epe hardwood.