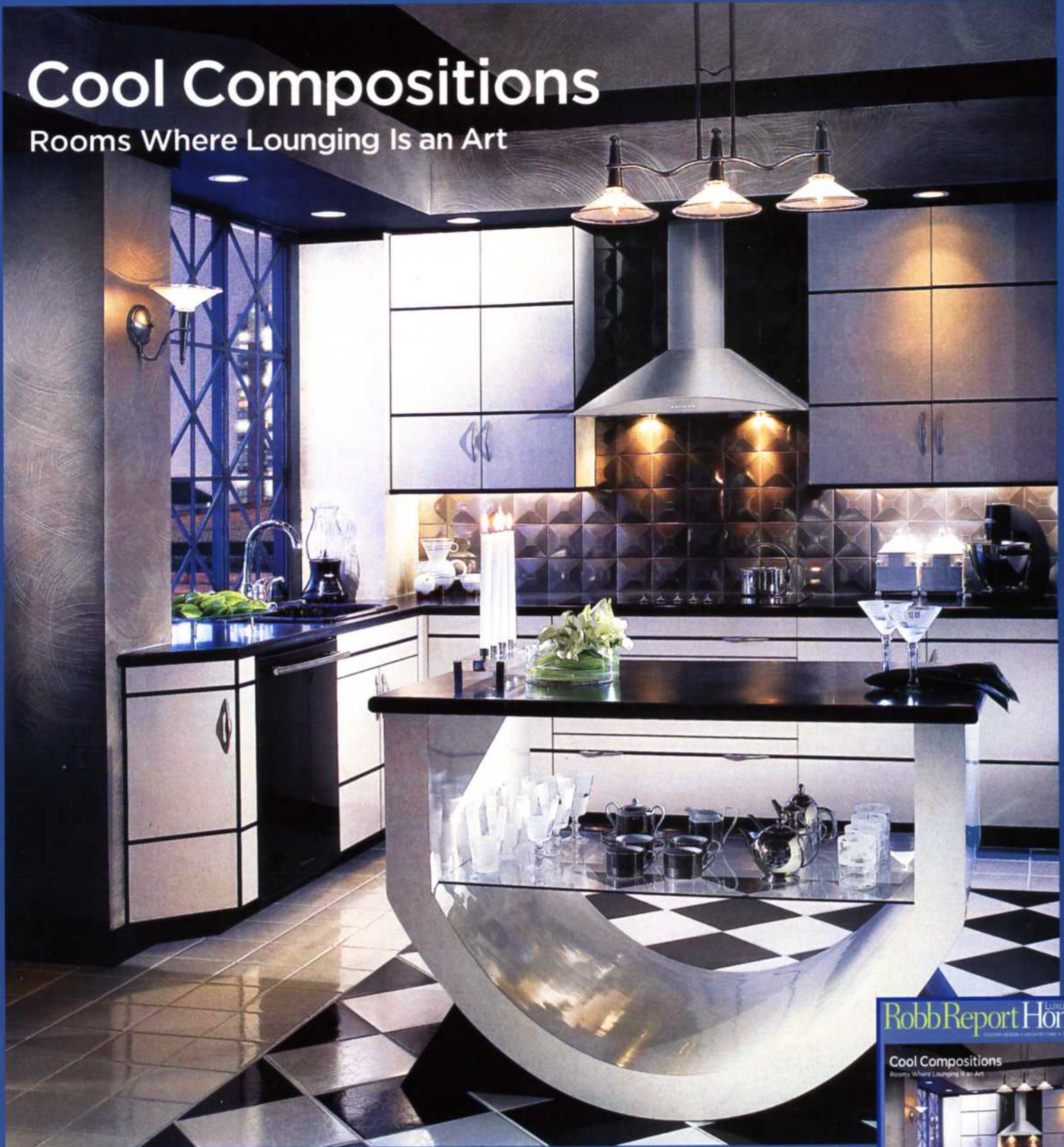


Robb Report Home

LUXURY
CUSTOM DESIGN + ARCHITECTURE + TECHNOLOGY

Cool Compositions

Rooms Where Lounging Is an Art



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Rooms Where Lounging Is an Art



Outdoor Furniture for Sunning in Style Desert Landscapes
Interactive Exercise Machines The Cashmere-Lined Closet

The Right Elements

Three desert designers carve out a hillside oasis

THE MISSION: to create an upscale, low-maintenance desert retreat for a busy couple in a hillside California community adjacent to a nature preserve and plagued with countless building restrictions. The solution: find an architect, interior and pool designer able to capitalize on the desert's virtues while respecting its delicate elemental balance.

"I designed the house to maximize the views of the desert and the nearby golf course, and to have a continuous flow of space with little definition that complements and mirrors the desert," says the project's architect, Stewart Woodard of La Quinta, Calif.

To enhance the flow between indoors and out, Woodard had installed exterior glass doors and full-length, wood-framed windows that retract into pockets. Aged sand-colored limestone was used for the interior's floor, on the loggia, around the pool and for the prairie-influenced exterior of the residence.

The swimming pool—featuring a zero edge facing the house and an infinity edge facing the view—disappears almost seamlessly into the surrounding limestone. "It also doubles as a reflecting pool," says pool and landscape designer Greg Grisamore, "becoming either sky blue or pitch black, depending on the time of day and the pool lighting." Two symmetrical fire bowls, a favorite device of Grisamore's, stand on poolside plinths. The juxtaposition of fire and water, especially at night, makes for a dramatic, even cinematic, environment. "The flame bowls, the fire pit and the loggia's fireplace light up not just the night but the design as well."

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