

**\*Better than Moab—the new biking getaway p.38**

# Sunset

LIVING IN THE WEST | HOME | TRAVEL | FOOD | GARDEN

## GET THE BACKYARD OF YOUR DREAMS

- 14 instant ways to make it gorgeous
- The best colors for your garden

Lemon-roasted  
chicken, quick  
crab tacos  
**+24** other  
tasty recipes

2008 WESTERN  
HOME AWARDS

**“I want to  
live there!”  
houses**

**SAN MIGUEL:** Mexico's magical city

APRIL 2008

\$4.99US \$6.50CAN



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## Features

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High in the mountains of Mexico is a romantic city of courtyards and cobblestones. One visit can change your life

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A passionate collector transforms her backyard into a gallery of exotic outdoor rooms

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Delicious standouts made light and simple: mushroom potstickers, shrimp dumplings, egg tarts, and more

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Who pays \$9,000 for a bottle of wine? A look at the world of California's cult Cabernets

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Dana Delany talks fine wines, bean sprouts, and a memorable night at Hearst Castle

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**ON OUR COVER** Glowing emerald green, this California backyard inspires tropical daydreams (see page 88).

Photograph by Rob D. Brodman

80

The bright yellow dome and red-topped tower of San Miguel de Allende's Templo de la Inmaculada Concepción rise above a cascade of blossoms.

THOMAS J. STORY

## CAVE CREEK, AZ UP CLOSE WITH NATURE

It's the ultimate wildlife-viewing platform. Rising from a rocky outcropping and overlooking a tree-lined creek, this Sonoran Desert home features a sculptural window wall and a cantilevered concrete patio that expand the house toward the water. Turn the page for a look inside the home.

DESIGN Will Bruder + Partners, Phoenix ([willbruder.com](http://willbruder.com) or 602/324-6000)

## THE BEST HOMES IN THE WEST

A soaring glass pavilion. Walls that roll up and open a house to the outdoors. A Victorian remade to fit a young family's needs. *Sunset's* Western Home Awards celebrate the region's spectacular diversity and most exciting examples of residential architecture. Here are this year's winners **BY DANIEL GREGORY AND PETER O. WHITELEY**

BILL TIMMERMAN



2

### SLEEK KITCHEN

The orderly kitchen cabinets, made of maple-veneered plywood, act as a visual anchor for the red plastered walls. Stainless steel appliances add polish.

1

### NATURAL ROCK WALL

The rocks, which were chosen for their palomino-ocher color, are dry-stacked in a mortarless 20-inch-thick wall that's gently angled.

3

### CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE

The caramel-toned Togo sofa from Ligne Roset is a cozy, quirky counterpoint to the room's cool angles and rough-hewn stone.

4

### PLASTER AND PLYWOOD

The kitchen and dining area are defined by troweled Venetian plaster sealed with wax, which brings depth and sheen to the ruddy tone. A resawn plywood ceiling angles over the intimate dining space.

5

### STRATEGIC WINDOWS

A window wall encourages sunlight to penetrate deep into the house. In the living area, steel-framed glass doors open to the outside.

**WHAT MAKES THIS ROOM WORK?** Inside this 1,650-square-foot home in Cave Creek, Arizona, the main gathering place combines a compact kitchen, dining area, and high-ceilinged living room. The space is an eclectic composition of materials: Modern stainless steel and minimalist cabinetry play off the vibrant hue of Venetian plaster and the earthiness of a long stone wall.

BILL TIMMERMAN