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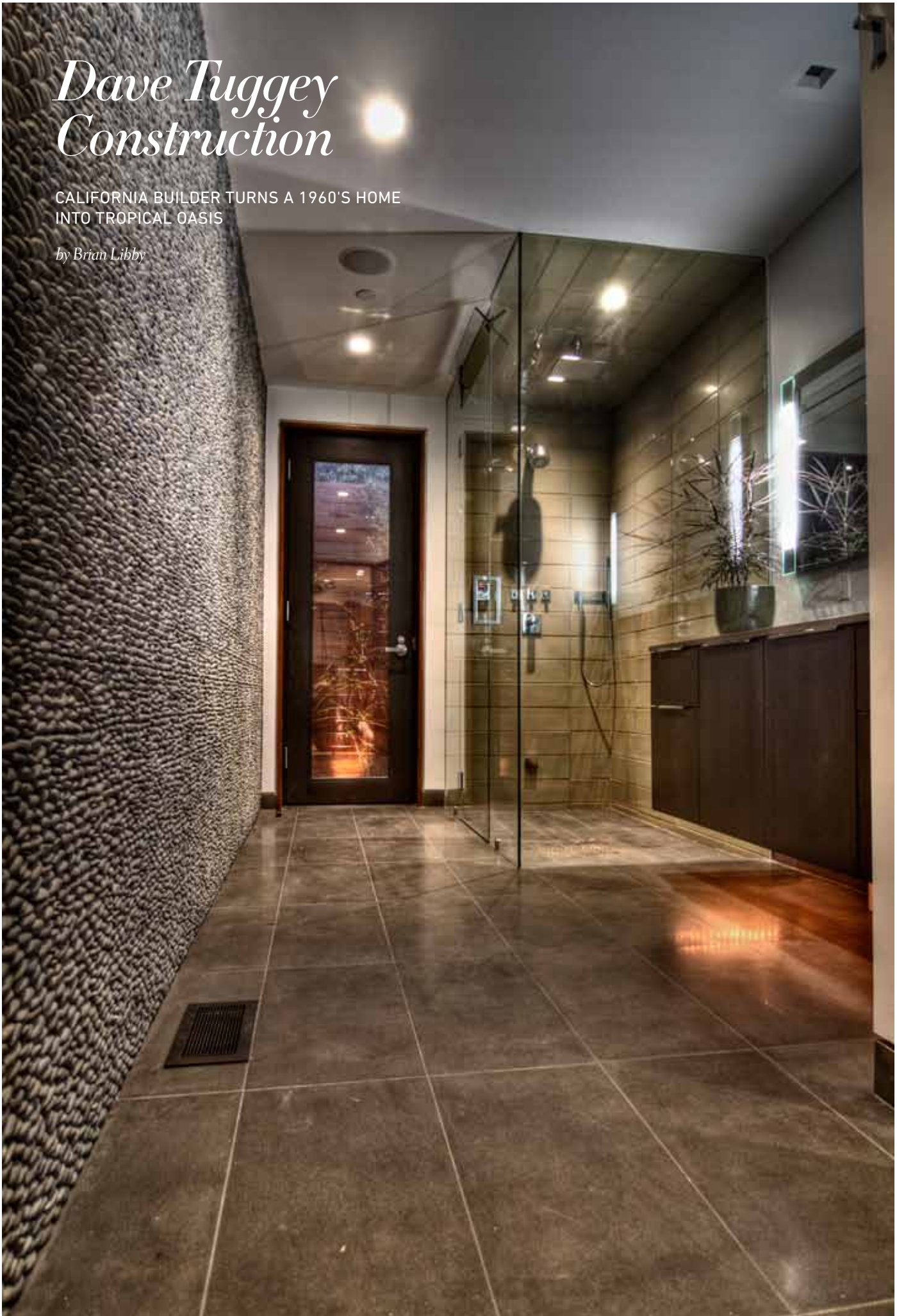
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Dave Tuggey Construction

CALIFORNIA BUILDER TURNS A 1960'S HOME
INTO TROPICAL OASIS

by Brian Libby





Dave Tuggey, of Dave Tuggey Construction, grew up in Los Angeles amongst furniture built by his carpenter-grandfather. As a teen, he built a kayak for a school project and fell in love with making and designing things. College classes in architecture followed, but when a construction-technology professor invited Tuggey to work on his crew, he could not pass on the opportunity, and accepted. “I had a knack and just stayed with it,” he says. “We were working on houses for movie stars and having fun.” This continued until 1984, when Tuggey started his own company and he has worked on various projects since.

One of Tuggey’s recent projects, the Martin Lane residence, is the renovation of a 1962 house, which faintly resembles the famed Case Study houses of that period; glassy boxes by architects such as Richard Neutra. But the design-construction team—including architect Kalani Jensen and interior designer Kym Rodger, both longtime friends of Tuggey—shared a desire to add warmth, water and greenery. “I’d worked on modern houses with a lot of Terrazzo floors and stone, but I’d always felt them a little cold,” Tuggey says. “The owner of Martin Lane had seen those houses and asked me if we’d like to do something similar for a





Martin Lane Residence

If shared living and dining spaces in the Martin Lane residence flow into one another, the master suite is a more secluded oasis. "To me when the house seemed old Hollywood where you'd have guests over for the weekend lounging around the pool with cocktails. I wanted to continue that but also create more of an escape in the master," interior designer Kym Rodger says. Floor-to-ceiling glass offers panoramic views of Pacific Ocean. The pool and hot tub just beyond the glass walls act as a natural buffer from the rest of the outdoor deck. "You feel like you're looking out at a lagoon," builder Dave Tuggey says. Twin bathrooms, one masculine with Balinese pebbled walls and the other in Calcutta white marble and teak, also include a glass-enclosed steam shower and soaking tub, respectively. They lead outside to a shared shower. "There's nothing better than a shower outside," Rodger says. "Very liberating."



house he just bought, but to add some more textures that weren't so sharp—to just soften it up and make it more of a home."

The team dedicated a wall in Tuggey's office to pinning photos and magazine clippings for inspiration, which helped lead toward a tropical feel. "I started pinning up inspiration from all over the world: Balinese, Japanese, Chinese. It was a really organic project," says Kym Rodger. The house's new entry

creates a transformation for people coming inside, a glassy pavilion with a living wall and water flowing down on either side. "One of the key words we used was 'floating,'" says Rodger. "I knew the house needed something at the opening to make you say, 'Wow.'"

The floor plan of the original house was expanded with new bedrooms and bathrooms and a reconfigured master suite, the latter of which includes

TOP PHOTO: HELENE CORNELL / BOTTOM PHOTO: JON ROBERSHAW



his and hers bathrooms. Besides the main rooms, there are small adjacent spaces such as a wine room and a bar area with cozy seating. More than just space inside, though, the team sought to bring the outdoors in. “Wherever you are in the house, you’re getting to feel the landscaping,” Rodger says. “We really stood back at every angle and said, what are you going to look at here? What’s beautiful?” Most of the house, including the living area and master bedroom, open onto the pool.

For added warmth in texture, the team chose European white oak flooring with teak doorframes. “A walnut might have been a little too dark, and to continue the teak everywhere might have been overbearing,” Tuggey says. “This light wood was just perfect.” This contrasts with the sleekness of the kitchen, with its black limestone floors and stainless steel mono-block countertop, giving way

to a more casual attached family room and views of downtown Los Angeles. “When we first put the kitchen in, I worried it might be a little too clean,” Tuggey says. “But as people moved in and began to use it, the warmth of it all came out. The way it all flows is perfect. It’s just a little bit of heaven in that house. “It’s been my greatest joy to see all of it come together.” ■

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