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DESIGN IN THE GOLDEA STATE

ARCHITECTURE INTERIOR DESIGN GARDENS KITCHENS

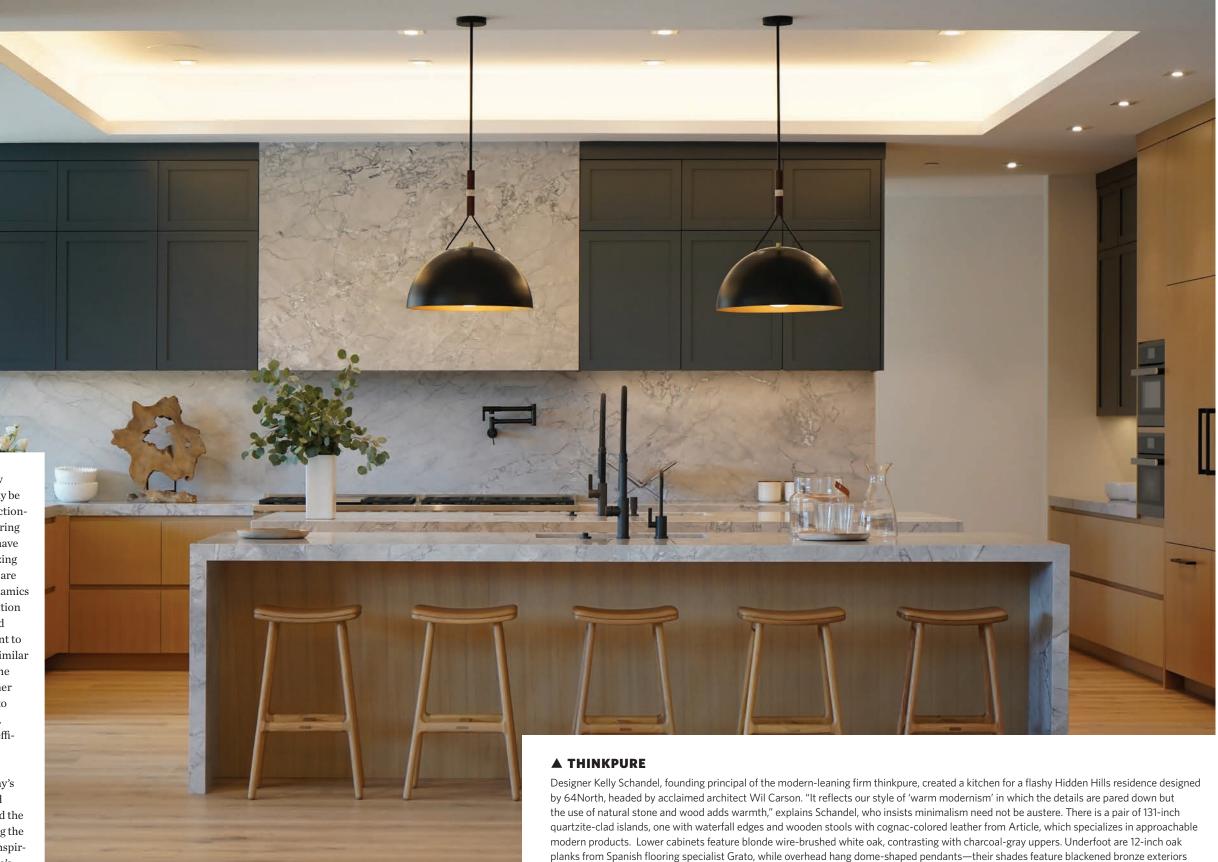
Kitchens

HAUTE CUISINE MEETS HAUTE COUTURE

The Once-Utilitarian Kitchen Has Evolved Into A Technology-Laden Hub Of Creativity BY ROGER GRODY

WHILE FUNCTION REMAINS A preeminent consideration in kitchen design, the days of this room being strictly practical have long passed. The space has emerged as a showplace for visitors-guests at any party worth attending invariably gravitate to the kitchen—and the room's aesthetics must be as fashionable as the food prepared there. However, no single formula goes into creating a memorable kitchen, and the diversity of approaches reflect the inherent versatility of the space. Laura Giuliani of House of G Designs states, "The kitchen has become more personal, and there's genuine interest in making it a lovely space in addition to just a functional space." Designer Elaine Morrison suggests, "The pandemic motivated people to step up remodeling decisions, opening up walls to make their kitchens more a part of their homes." Most designers agree that the stark all-white kitchen is in decline, with Meredith Gullion of Cooper Pacific Kitchens commenting, "We're sensing a trend back to traditional

design in terms of detailing and how space is used." And while clients may be acutely conscious of aesthetics, functionality has come into greater focus during the past two years as homeowners have honed their culinary skills, recognizing exactly what spatial considerations are important. Further altering the dynamics in California is the nebulous distinction between indoors and out, reinforced during the pandemic. "We don't want to have any boundaries, so the use of similar material and color palettes makes the transition seamless," reports designer Julia Wong. Technology continues to shape how the kitchen is optimized, enabling its users to become more efficient while connecting with family members in New York or culinary instructors at Le Cordon Bleu. Today's successful kitchen is a sophisticated blend of utility and high fashion, and the best designers are adept at balancing the two. Presented on these pages are inspiring kitchens from some of California's most talented designers. CH



and brass interior surfaces—from Allied Maker. Dramatic carbon-toned fixtures from California Faucets were selected, and Miele appliances are seamlessly integrated into the design. "This kitchen was influenced by the home's architecture, but its warm modern design is very much in line with what we do," says Schandel, who notes the residence is owned by a high-profile professional athlete. thinkpure.com