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CAPE TOWN & COUNTRY

CALIFORNIA UPSIDE DOWN:

MONTECITO'S MOD SQUAD
ESTATE ENVY IN BAJA
IS L.A. THE LAST CHEAP WORLD CITY?

GOING FOR BLOKE

"IT" BRIT JAMES McAVOY



DECEMBER 2007 \$5.95

FEATURES

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GOING APE Travel editor Brad A. Johnson comes face-to-face with a ferocious mountain gorilla in Uganda's Impenetrable Forest. In a journey that involves machine guns, hyenas, luxury tents and great wines, getting there proves to be as much fun as the final destination

POSH SPICE It would just be silly to travel all the way to Africa and not spend a few days relaxing on the white-sand beaches of Zanzibar. Writer Shane DuBow sets out across the islands in search of pure bliss—and finds the ultimate plunge pool

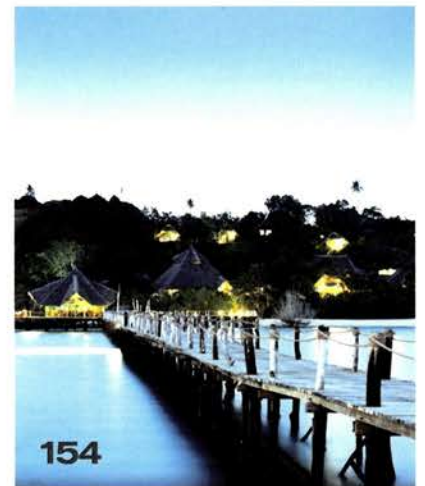
SECOND-HOME RUN! Getaway haven Santa Barbara discovers its Modern side, while Cabo ups its own ante with a set of swank surprises

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SECOND-HOME RUN!

TWO OF CALIFORNIA'S HOTTEST GETAWAY MARKETS ARE SUDDENLY SERVING UP SWANK SURPRISES. IN SANTA BARBARA, MODERN IS THE BUZZY NEW OPTION, WHILE IN CABO, CHEAP ROOMS (AND CERVEZAS!) GIVE WAY TO FAB MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR PALACES. WHO KNEW?

BY GEORGE FULLER, KEDRIC FRANCIS, DEGEN PENER AND JACK SKELLEY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JI SHIN



VIEWS FROM A ROOM

There's no Tuscan villa in sight from the ocean-fronting windows of this contemporary Santa Barbara home. The Shubin + Donaldson architecture firm, with offices in L.A. and S.B., created this Mod addition last year. The dining table is by late furniture designer Paul Tuttle.

<< MOD FOR SANTA BARBARA

THINK PALM SPRINGS IS THE ONLY SOCAL SECOND-HOME SPOT THAT'S GOT COOL MODERN DIGS? THINK AGAIN

Santa Barbara—yes, *that* Santa Barbara, the land of the Spanish mansion—is shaking up its stuck-on-white-stucco image.

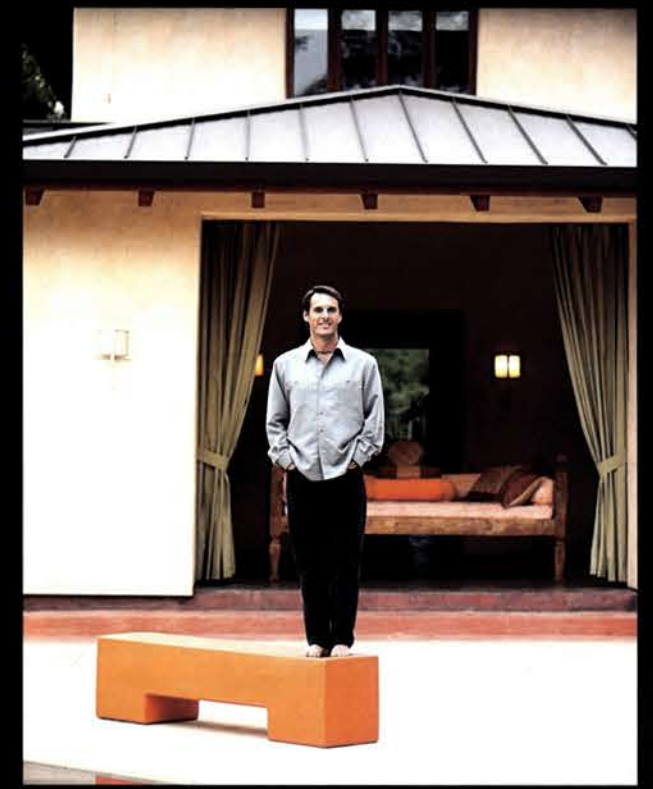
Ultra-hip firm Marmol Radziner is poised to build a sleek, 4,800-square-foot prefab in Summerland, just south of Montecito. Photographer Dewey Nicks is currently building a clean-lined beachfront house in Carpinteria. And a hub of Modernism is taking shape in Toro Canyon: Acclaimed architect Barton Myers (whose nearby 1999 steel-and-glass personal residence is considered a Mod classic) is designing two new houses; SCI-Arc cofounder Ray Kappe and Living Homes are building yet another prefab; and Olson Sundberg—the firm behind the Skirball's new *Noah's Ark* project—is constructing a stunning steel home at the top of the hill.

Motoring through the elite neighborhoods of Santa Barbara, you won't see many of its Modern masterpieces. What you'll find instead are the tall hedges that hide them. But take a broker-guided helicopter tour and it all becomes visible. There's Oprah Winfrey's 40-acre Montecito spread, plus scores of Mediterranean estates owned by the likes of Carol Burnett, Beanie Babies' Ty Warner and billionaire Herb Simon. But you can also spot the contemporary manses of Steve Martin, Michael Bay and Kevin Costner, along with three Neutras and two boldly geometric Thom Mayne homes. "We're finding more clients wanting to do contemporary architecture," says local Modernist architect Andy Neumann.

And the prices of all of these homes just keep rising. Santa Barbara is a market apparently immune to the current real estate malaise. As of September 2007, average sales prices for S.B. County's southern coast had catapulted \$220,000 over 2006. Now, as Montecito-size mansions creep down the coast, the region's hottest enclave is the once-sleepy beach town of Carpinteria, which has recently witnessed a 15-percent rise in prices. Even here, Modern beach houses are springing up for those who want to enjoy Santa Barbara's famously comfortable lifestyle and still keep their mid-century-inspired mindsets—even if red-tile roofs remain the norm. "There are lots of places up there that are brilliant for modern houses," says actress Susan Sullivan, who, with psychologist Connell Cowan, owns a glassed-in, Neumann-designed cube in Carpinteria. "They are sublime in that environment."

GREEN WITH ENVY

In S.B., green building has gone ultra-chic. Julia Louis-Dreyfus lives in an eco-meets-luxe beach home, while the recent PBS series *Building Green* documented actor Kevin Contreras' drool-worthy Montecito digs (below), which are solar-powered and insulated with straw bales. "Sustainable homes can be beautiful and luxurious," says Contreras.



SELF-MADE MANSIONS

Looking to construct your own Modern marvel? Two prime properties offer the chance. In the Santa Ynez wine country, the Ranches at Figueroa Canyon offers oak-dotted parcels (187-1,178 acres), priced up to \$24.5 million. "This is one of the few times something this size has come on the market," says broker Kerry Mormann. "It's about fulfilling your dream to start a family vineyard or establish a secluded estate home." In Carpinteria, Rancho Monte Alegre boasts 17 remaining homesites of 40-200 acres. The development—planned with The Trust for Public Land—preserves 3,000 acres of wilderness as your backyard.