

Last Detail

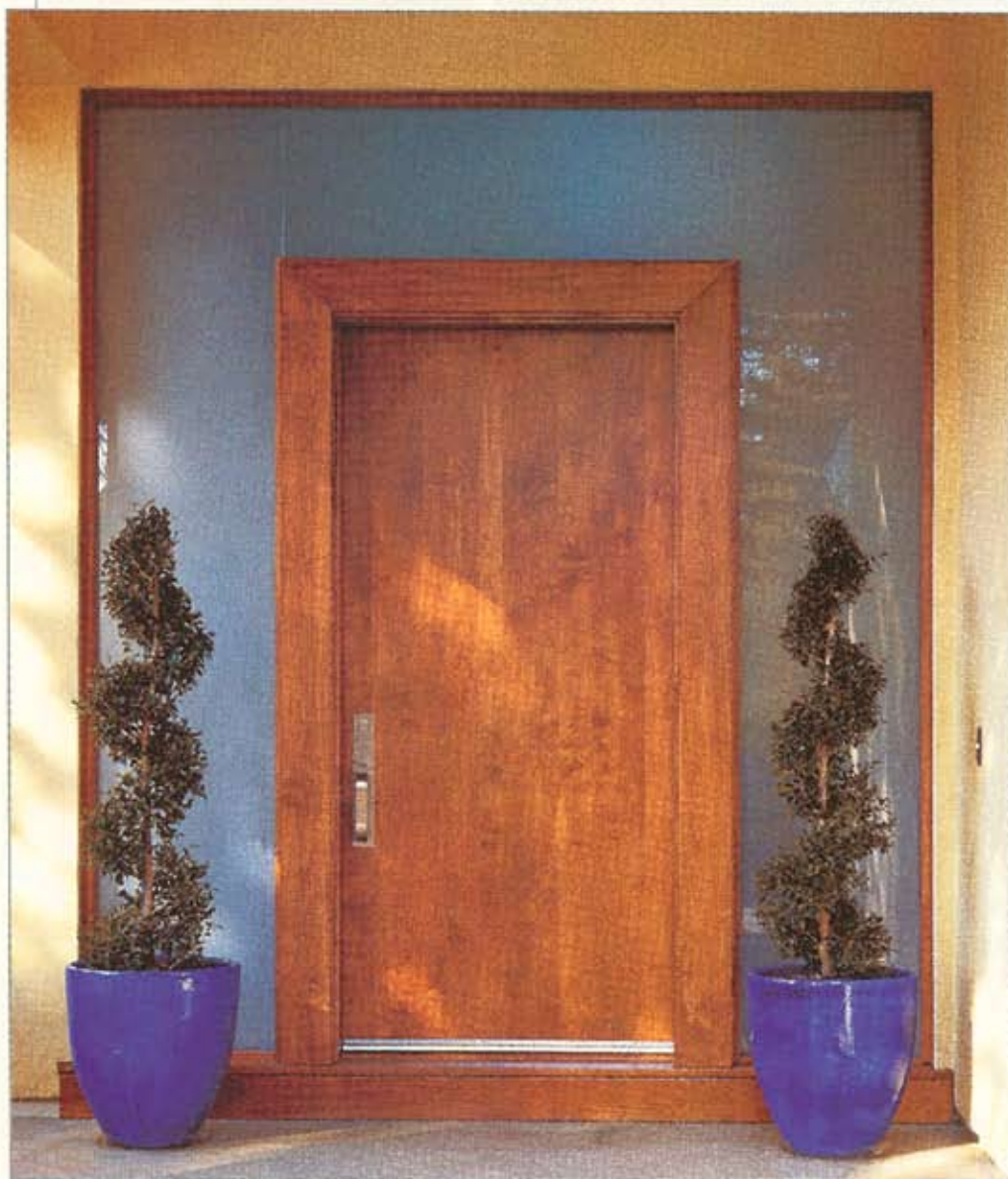


Night Light

Basic materials—wood and glass—laid out in a straightforward geometric pattern make a stunning first impression at the entrance to this Cupertino, Calif., home. Designed by the home's architect, Los Gatos, Calif.-based Louie Leu, the solid alder, 2 1/2-inch-thick door appears to float within a sea of sandblasted tempered glass. In order to support the 11-foot-tall surround, a steel tube frame is embedded into the foundation of the house and bolted into the door jamb, which in turn grips the glass. The system is flexible enough that if the ground quakes the glass moves with the house rather than against it.

The floating effect is especially dramatic at night when precisely placed interior lights shine through the translucent perimeter. Exterior lighting was also carefully planned so as not to detract from the luminous halo. Leu says, "rather than spend a lot of money on a huge pre-made door system, we felt we could impress with simplicity."

—Shelley D. Hutchins



PHOTOS: SHARON RIS/DORPH