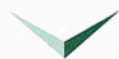




*The interior is designed to be flexible, thanks to pocket doors that allow space to be either sectioned off or opened up. While the garage now functions as an architect's home office, it could easily be converted into a guest cottage, with bathroom and changing facilities and easy access to the swimming pool.*

*The tree dictated the size of the addition, which involved building a new one-and-a-half-stall garage on the north side of the existing garage.*



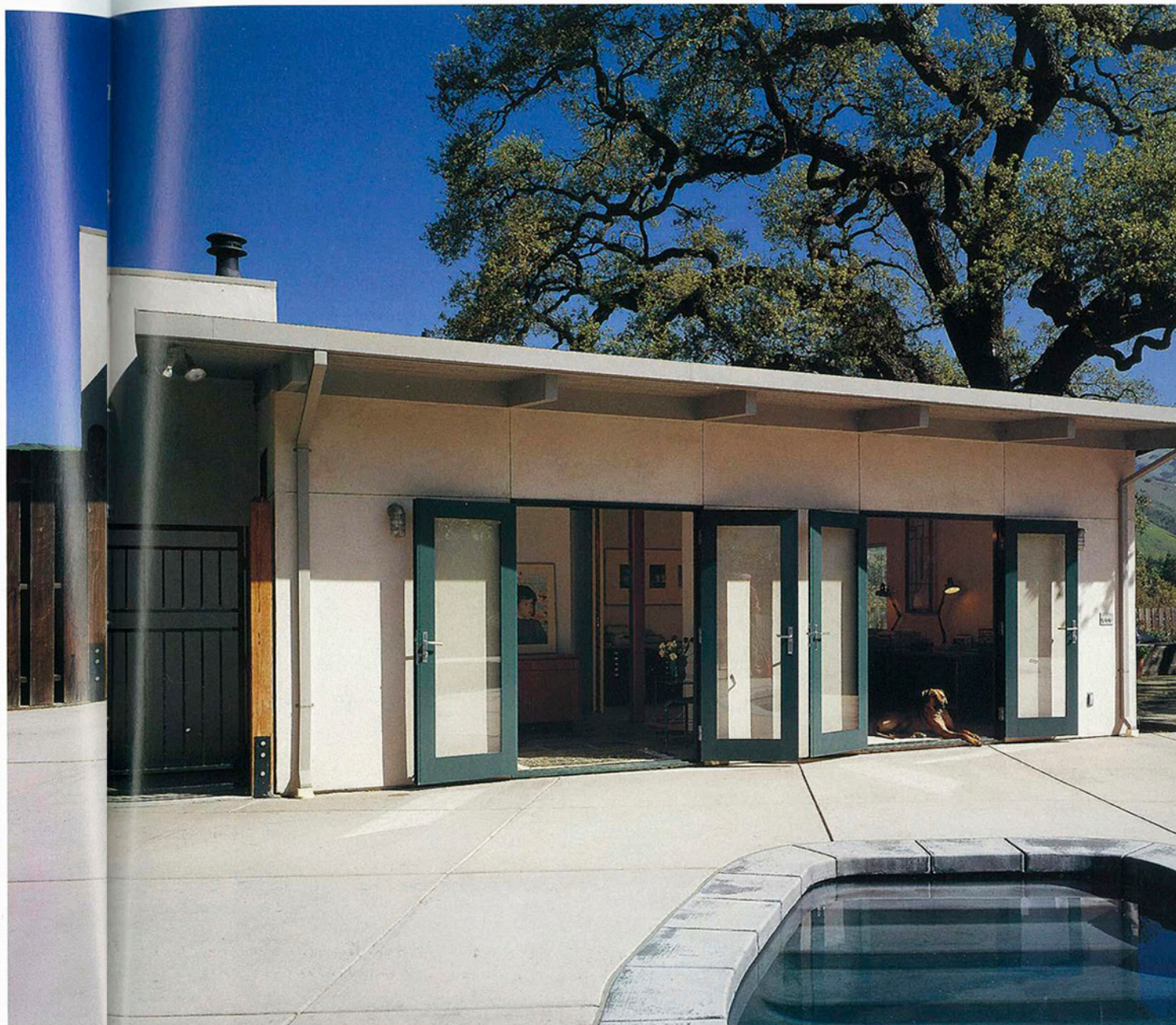
## Adaptable Office Space

FOR CALIFORNIA ARCHITECT KURT LAVENSON, a home isn't quite a home unless it has a separate office. So while searching for a new house, all prospective candidates had to offer the potential for office space apart from the house. Lavenson eventually settled on a modest ranch, which had just what he wanted: a simple two-car garage that also happened to be nestled under a magnificent oak tree. The garage had been used for tool storage and, because it was near a swimming pool, part of it had been converted into a small dressing room.

Lavenson first gutted the two-door garage down to the studs before starting to rebuild, revealing the beams on the ceiling, which created a 5-ft. grid. The plan adds a small tower at one end of the garage to hold equipment for the pool as well as heating and air-conditioning equipment for the new office.

The tree dictated the size of the addition, which involved building a new one-and-a-half-stall garage on the north side of the existing garage. The interior was divided into equal quadrants, using the 5-ft. grid provided by the ceiling beams—two for the home office, one for the bathroom and pool changing room, and one finished for possible use as a guest room or just a quiet place to get away. Lavenson

*Fitted with garage door-sized French doors in homage to the structure's original function, this poolside garage office also makes room inside for a changing area.*





# Garage

Reinventing the Place We Park

KIRA OBOLENSKY