



# The California Casa

DOUGLAS WOODS

*Photography by MELBA LEVICK*

*Introduction by M. BRIAN TICHENOR*

RIZZOLI  
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*Above: Tile detail  
from the garden*

*Right: The lower  
patio with tile  
topped tables and  
iron furniture*







*Above: The kitchen*

*Right: The guest bath with old Hollywood western ephemera*





*A view of the living room, looking toward the step up dining room*



including a mural by the front door, the stair risers in the living room, the downstairs bathroom, and other small murals on exterior walls. He also added tile to the pool and designed the wall fountain on the lower deck. All of the decorative tiles were made by Diana Mauser of Native Tile in Torrance, California. Alan Smart created the stained glass windows for the living room and also collaborated with Michael Uhlenkott on other elements such as the balconies, plantings, and hardscaping.







## Steinbeck House

*Echo Park, 1930  
Architect unknown*

This good house in the old Los Angeles neighborhood of Echo Park, near Dodger Stadium and what was once Chavez Ravine, was built for Henry Steinbeck, cousin of *The Grapes of Wrath* author John Steinbeck, in 1930 as part of a planned development of small Spanish Revival houses. As a result of the Great Depression, the development was halted, and the building records have disappeared. Only this and one other house in the plan were completed. Spanish-style bungalows were built all over Southern California at the time, but this hillside example is not typical and it has really been brought to life with numerous decorative embellishments and additions by its enthusiastic current owners.

With the exception of the original stenciled beams, all the decorative painting in the house was done by Michael Uhlenkott, who also designed the new decorative tile in the house,

*Above: View of the rear facade from the pool area*

*Right: From the street, the quintessential Spanish bungalow appears to be only a single-story house.*

