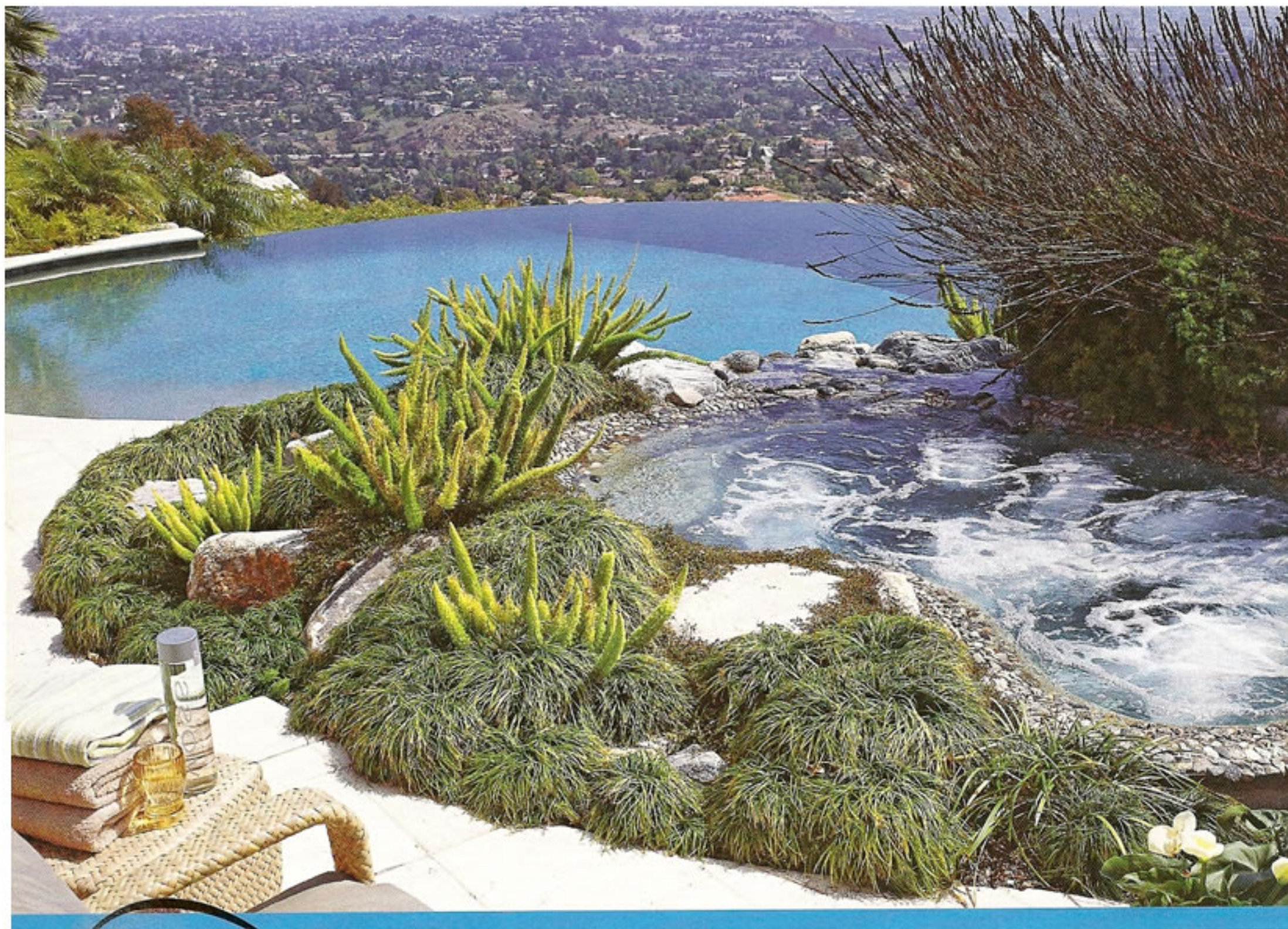


BY ANDRIA HAYDAY PHOTOGRAPHER ED GOHLICH
FIELD EDITOR: ANDREA CAUGHEY

Natural Attraction

A secluded spa links his-
and-hers pools high atop
the San Diego hills.

Lushly veiled, the spa and pool feel like two parts of a jungle hot spring. Cape rush (*Chondropetalum tectorum*) offers a dark splash of color.



She likes to wade through warm water with a glass of wine in hand. He likes an invigorating dive. They both like to watch the sunset while relaxing in a hot tub—and so do their friends.

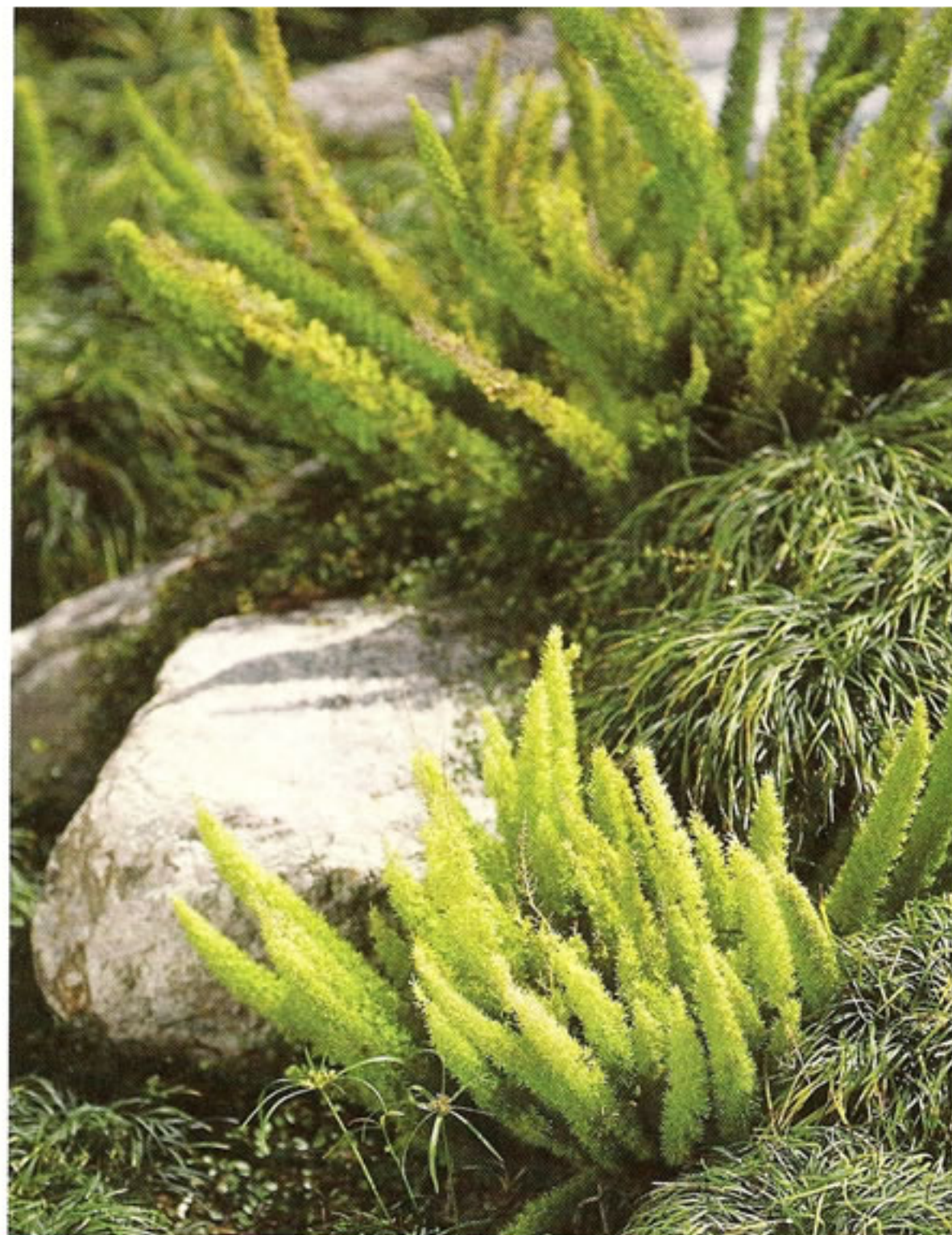
That's the story behind Eva Goode and John Grasperger's three-part oasis in La Mesa, California. It features a deep pool for him, a small pool for her, and a spa nestled between the two pools that can handle a small crowd.

"We've had as many as 14 in the spa," says Eva, who enjoys entertaining poolside. In fact, the couple holds an annual New Year's Eve party outdoors. "We can watch the ball drop on TV [from the spa]," Eva says. The spa's seating ledge has low and high spots so guests of all sizes can find the perfect viewpoint.

Solar panels heat all three water features; a supplemental system kicks in on cloudy days. Because Eva's pool is small and relatively shallow (5 feet maximum

ABOVE: The deep pool's 38-foot "vanishing edge" takes full advantage of the hillside setting. Come nightfall, the city lights shimmer like diamonds below. **RIGHT:** A creeping carpet of maidenhair (*Muehlenbeckia complexa*) hugs the spa's pebbled edge.





it's easy to heat and becomes their primary pool in winter. "It's nice to have a place to go when it gets too warm in the spa," Eva says. The spa is kept at 104°F, while "her" pool warms to a cozy 95°F.

Although it is practical, the heating system is the last thing anyone notices here. All three water features offer jaw-dropping views of nearby San Diego and the Pacific Ocean. Despite the exposure, the perch is exceptionally private, thanks to a curtain of queen

palms and fast-growing California pepper trees near the lot line.

"Every tree is positioned to shelter us," Eva says. Before planting, Eva and John armed themselves with walkie-talkies. One stood on the perimeter with a stick to mimic a tree, while the other checked views from the pool area. "We don't see any neighbors now," Eva says—unless, of course, they join the party. □

FOR RESOURCES, SEE PAGE 118.



ABOVE LEFT: A catch basin beneath the "vanishing edge" recirculates water from the deep pool. **ABOVE RIGHT:** An underground irrigation system keeps plants lush during the dry season. **LEFT:** John Grasberger enjoys a pool deep enough for diving; his wife likes her "splash-free" zone.

CLASSIC ROCK

Irregular shapes and lush plantings give these pools their naturalistic look. Materials are equally important:

- A "diving rock" replaces the traditional diving board in the deep pool. Underwater stepping-stones lead into the Jacuzzi.
- "Streambeds" between pools feature both cemented and loose rocks in gray-green tones.
- Jade-color Pebble Tec lines all three water features.
- Small, smooth stones are cemented into the spa's edge, echoing the look of pebble beach.
- Travertine slabs and green-flecked dark granite coping edge both pools. Matching granite appears in the cabana bar and shower.