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Into the woods

A couple with a passion for nature builds the ultimate site-specific dwelling

BY ALLISON ARIEFF PHOTOGRAPH BY MARVIN RAND

THE ENCHANTED FOREST: That's what Richard and Sally Taylor decided to call the 11-acre property they found in isolated Garrapata Canyon near Big Sur, California. Having discovered the ideal spot for their dream home, the two ardent conservationists set their sights on the right design for the environment. Architect Robert Carver created the magical Turtle House, a two-story, six-sided residence in which all rooms cantilever over the forest floor. Utilizing fallen redwoods left on the property by loggers 100 years ago, the couple resolved to stay true to their eco-friendly beliefs—which made for a challenging construction process with many planning commission hearings. In the end, though, "not one tree in the forest was cut down to build this home," Richard says. "People can truly benefit by thinking outside the box."

DESIGN Carver + Schicketanz Architects, Carmel, CA (carverschicketanz.com or 831/624-2304) ■