



From here to infinity

Marin's topography allows the views we all love, but one young Mill Valley family found that their hillside home also needed a level space for a pool and entertaining.

When San Anselmo landscape architect Warren Simmonds took on the challenges posed by the property's steep slope, he set the pool into a structurally stable concrete deck supported by columns. Making the most of the site, he then designed the 16- by 40-foot pool with a "vanishing edge," a visually dramatic solution that pushed the pool to the edge of the deck and further maximized the space. (The water spills over the rim into a lower, unseen trough, and is recycled back into the pool.) With two young children, the family also wanted a water slide, but one that would not be "a sore thumb," Simmonds says. He enclosed the slide in a grotto that blends seamlessly with the garden's lichen- and moss-covered artificial rockscape, created by Studio Replica in Petaluma. Although space was tight, Simmonds nestled an outdoor kitchen barbecue and a semicircular wet bar into the design as well. In all, he says, the project was "a good blend of sophisticated technology and downright fun."—*Carolyn Koenig*



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