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# AQUA



The Business Magazine for Pool & Spa Professionals

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# TEA TIME

*A Japanese design recalls koi ponds and tea houses*



Designed by Morimoto Architects

**A free-form pool reflects the beauty of this Japanese-inspired pool house.**

**P**erched on the water's edge in Lafayette, Calif., this Japanese-inspired poolhouse seems to have come to the shore of this dark-plastered pool to see its reflection in the shimmering basin. It's a dramatic addition to a relatively simple pool design.

Designed by Berkeley architect Hiroshi Morimoto, the poolhouse uses a hipped and gabled roof (called *iri moya*) with a narrow deck (*engawa*) and wood-framed sliding glass doors that look like traditional rice paper *shoji*. When the doors are slid open, the poolhouse is completely exposed to the water, except for one corner post.

A blue-gray slate floor is easy to maintain, while the

lightly stained Douglas fir siding and redwood deck and shingles tie the poolhouse to the surrounding landscape. A skylight brings natural light into the bathroom and main areas, while a custom-made paper lantern permits softly filtered artificial light to shine through the windows, where it can be reflected in the pool.

Situated on a rock-faced platform, the poolhouse deck is slightly cantilevered over the pool to exaggerate the space allotted for the project.

Equipped with a kitchenette with an automatic dishwasher, a lounging area, a dressing room and a bathroom, the poolhouse is as practical as it is beautiful. —A.E.S.