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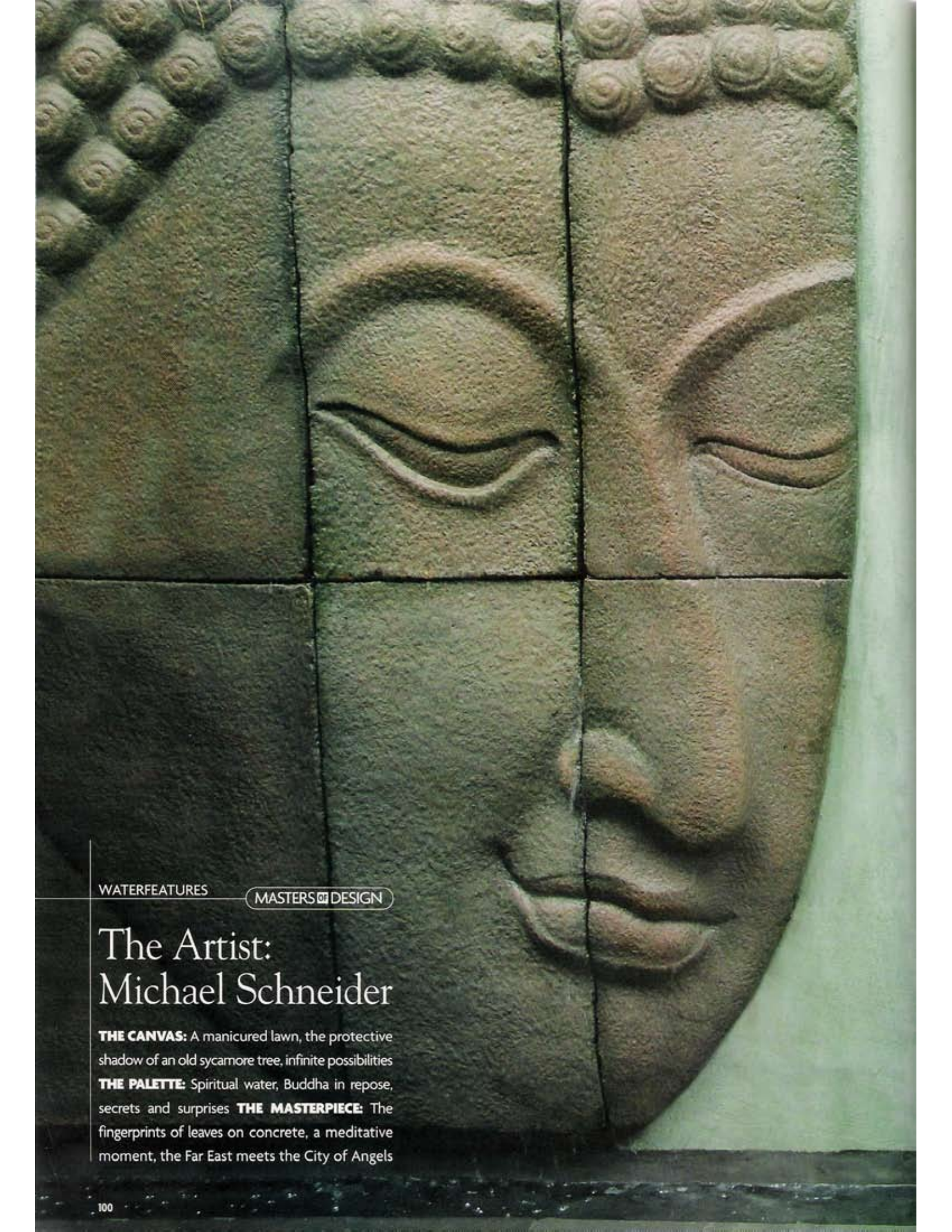
POOL & SPA NEWS

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A SUPPLEMENT TO
POOL & SPA NEWS

MASTERS OF DESIGN

Awe-inspiring aquascapes from all sectors of the industry and the visionaries who designed them



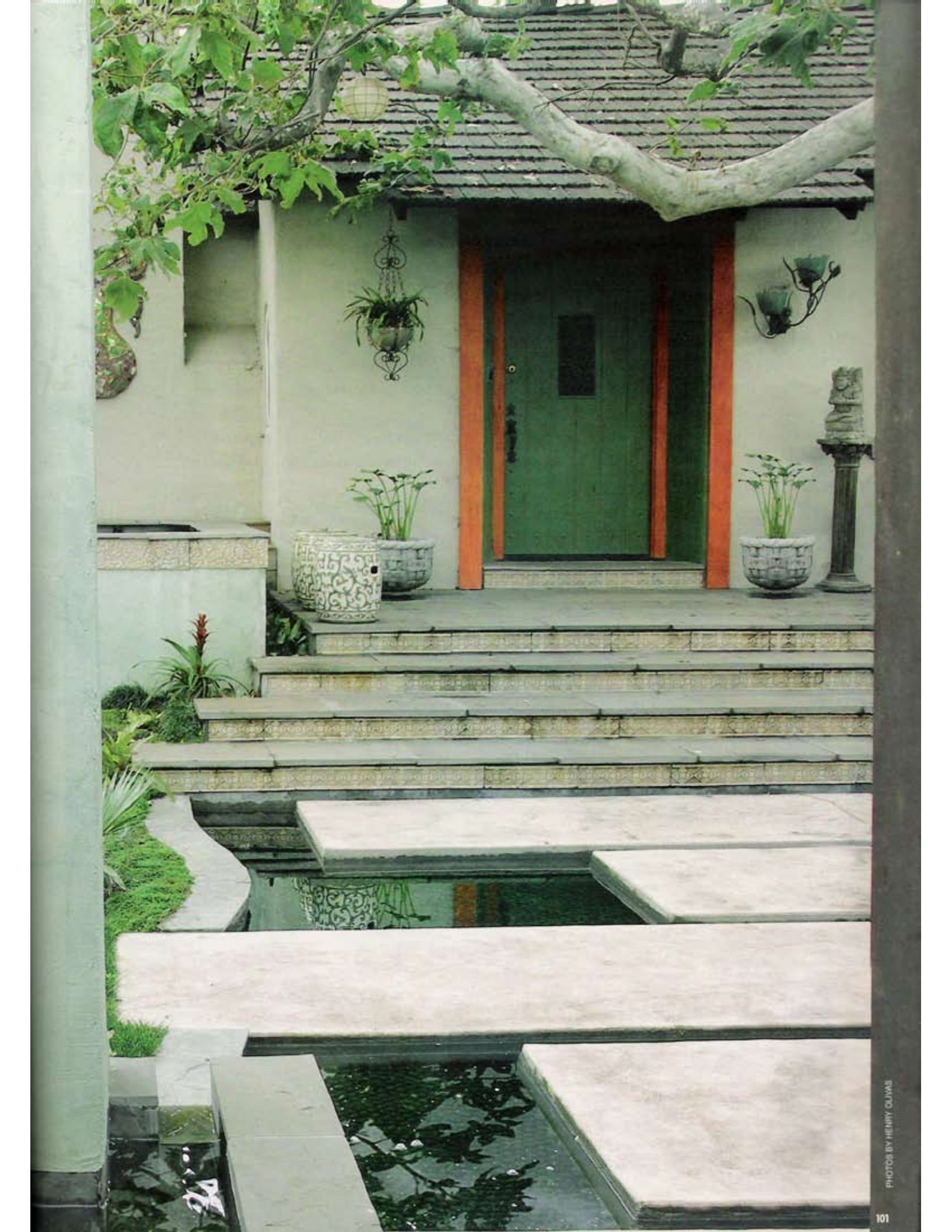
WATERFEATURES

MASTERS OF DESIGN

The Artist: Michael Schneider

THE CANVAS: A manicured lawn, the protective shadow of an old sycamore tree, infinite possibilities

THE PALETTE: Spiritual water, Buddha in repose, secrets and surprises **THE MASTERPIECE:** The fingerprints of leaves on concrete, a meditative moment, the Far East meets the City of Angels



EAST ASIAN ART BRINGS AN ENLIGHTENING WATERFEATURE TO LIFE

By Rin-rin Yu Feng shui is the ancient Chinese theory of balancing life's elements. The words literally mean "wind water." In this Los Angeles home, Michael Schneider has captured it perfectly.

The homeowners operate a business in Southeast Asia and decided to display pieces of art and antiques collected from their travels. What was originally just a lawn with a brick pathway was ripped out to become a large, meditative waterfeature. The clients wanted to place the sculptures — particularly two Buddhas — around the yard, using water to connect them. For the task, they chose Schneider, director of Orange Street Studio Inc. in Los Angeles.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

As visitors push through the front gate, they are greeted by the large, meditative face of a Buddha. Water streams gracefully down its features, while bamboo gently brushes its cheeks. The water also appears to be cleansing the Buddha's head.

Once past the front gate, the garden is revealed. "It's an old design practice — to conceal and reveal," Schneider says. "It's a wonderful way to create more interest and excitement without giving away everything right at the beginning."

The first thing one sees is a reflecting pond, lying between the gate and the home's front steps. In the water are seven concrete blocks, which function as floating steppingstones leading back to the house. The odd number was not a random choice. Schneider chose seven for asymmetric reasons, an Asian technique fitting for the spiritual garden. Within each piece of concrete are imprints of bamboo leaves and tiger grass, hand-etched by Schneider.

Connected to the reflecting pond via a long, thin spillway sits another Buddha. It appears in full-body form within a fountain. The water spills out from the statue into a pool, which then trickles through the spillway into the pond. A raised spa is incorporated into the design as well. *continued on page 104*

Michael Schneider, director, Orange Street Studio Inc.,
Los Angeles

Specialty: Composing space so that it's all tied together in a natural, fluid way and functions seamlessly.

Inspiration: Travel, nature, art and music.

Favorite materials: Water, stone, concrete, plants and lighting.

