

# Cynthia Brian

Michael Pollan

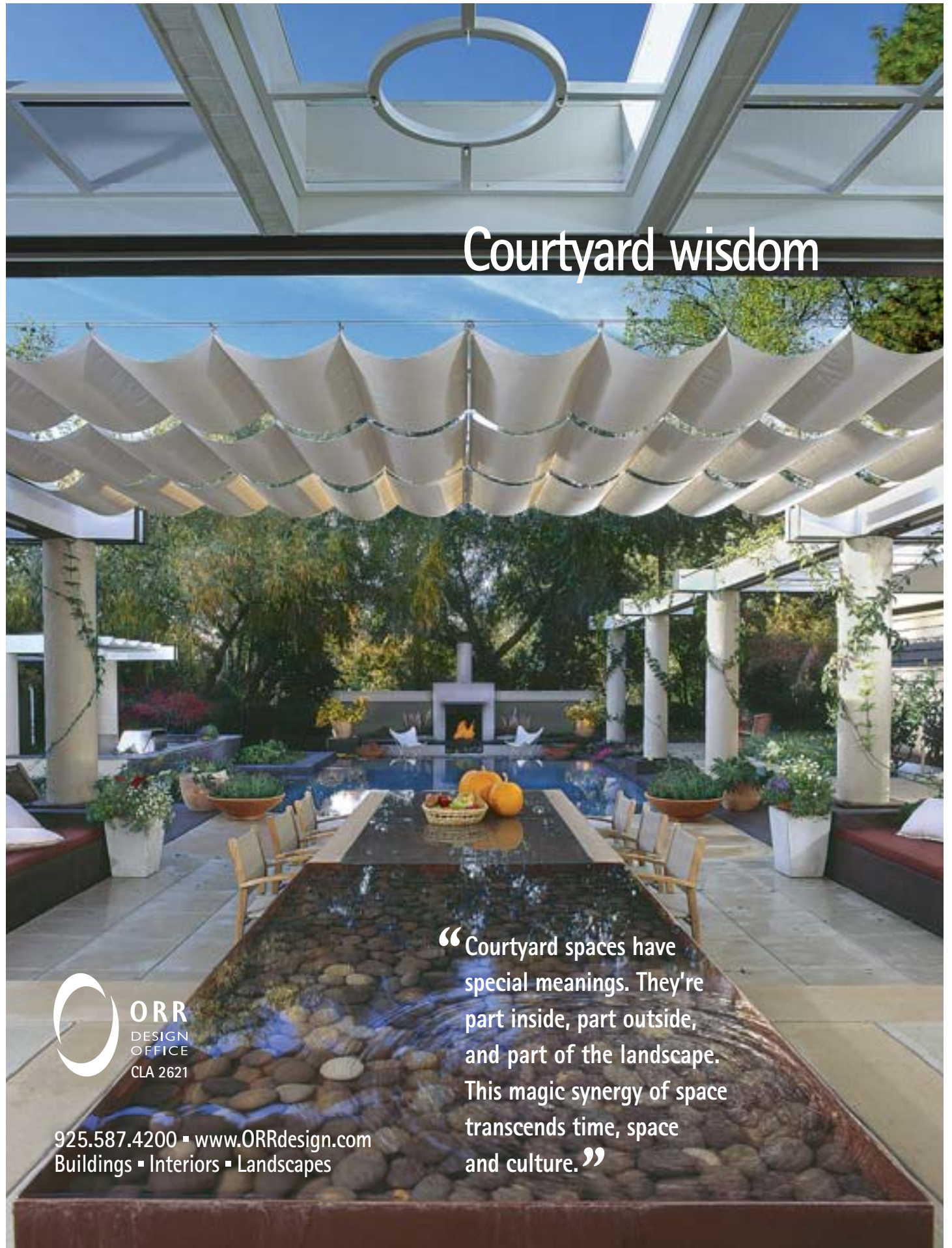
**L**awns. People love them or hate them. There seems not to be an in-between.

I err on the side of adoration. Not politically or ecologically correct these days to live amongst the lawn lovers, for me, rich, green, luxurious turf hold magical memories worth the water and the work. Endless hours of enjoyment tumbling, somersaulting, cheerleading, Frisbee throwing, badminton, croquet, playing catch, football rumbles, horseshoes, and camping filled my childhood and that of my children on lawns. How wonderful it was to throw a towel on the grass and gaze at the clouds or meteor showers! Lawns were the location of training puppies, cuddling kittens, and collecting dandelions to blow in the wind as delicate angels of flight. In college, I'd take mini naps between classes lounging on the grass with my backpack as my pillow. A soft green carpet of inviting lawn has always been a welcome security blanket no matter where I've traveled throughout the world. Washington Irving said it best with his comment "Society is like a lawn where every roughness is smoothed, every bramble eradicated, and where the eye is delighted by the smiling verdure of a velvet surface." In short, lawns provide optimism about the world we live in.

If you are thinking about installing a patch of green, this is the time to begin the preparation. Fall is a great time to seed or sod in our part of the country. For both type of installations, you need to prepare the soil by removing weeds, rocks, stones, roots, and other plants.

... continued on page D6

## Courtyard wisdom



925.587.4200 ▪ [www.ORRdesign.com](http://www.ORRdesign.com)  
Buildings ▪ Interiors ▪ Landscapes

“Courtyard spaces have special meanings. They're part inside, part outside, and part of the landscape. This magic synergy of space transcends time, space and culture.”