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FIRE ESCAPE



Project: Murphy Residence
Location: Santa Maria, California
Completed: 2011

On a sloping site on 200 acres in Southern California, an estate called Presqu'île Winery was created by Taylor Lombardo Architects for Madison and Suzanne Murphy and their three children. Large, sliding pocket doors open to reveal a concrete terrace, defined by a large retaining wall holding a custom Cor-Ten fireplace. "The steel absorbs the heat from the gas flame and does a nice job of heating the area," explains architect Tom Taylor. "The site is rather windy, so this space creates a retreat for the family."

The terrace area is visible from the living room, so it was important to create a strong focal point. Kingsley Bate armchairs pull up to the Cor-Ten fireplace, which also features a built-in concrete footrest.