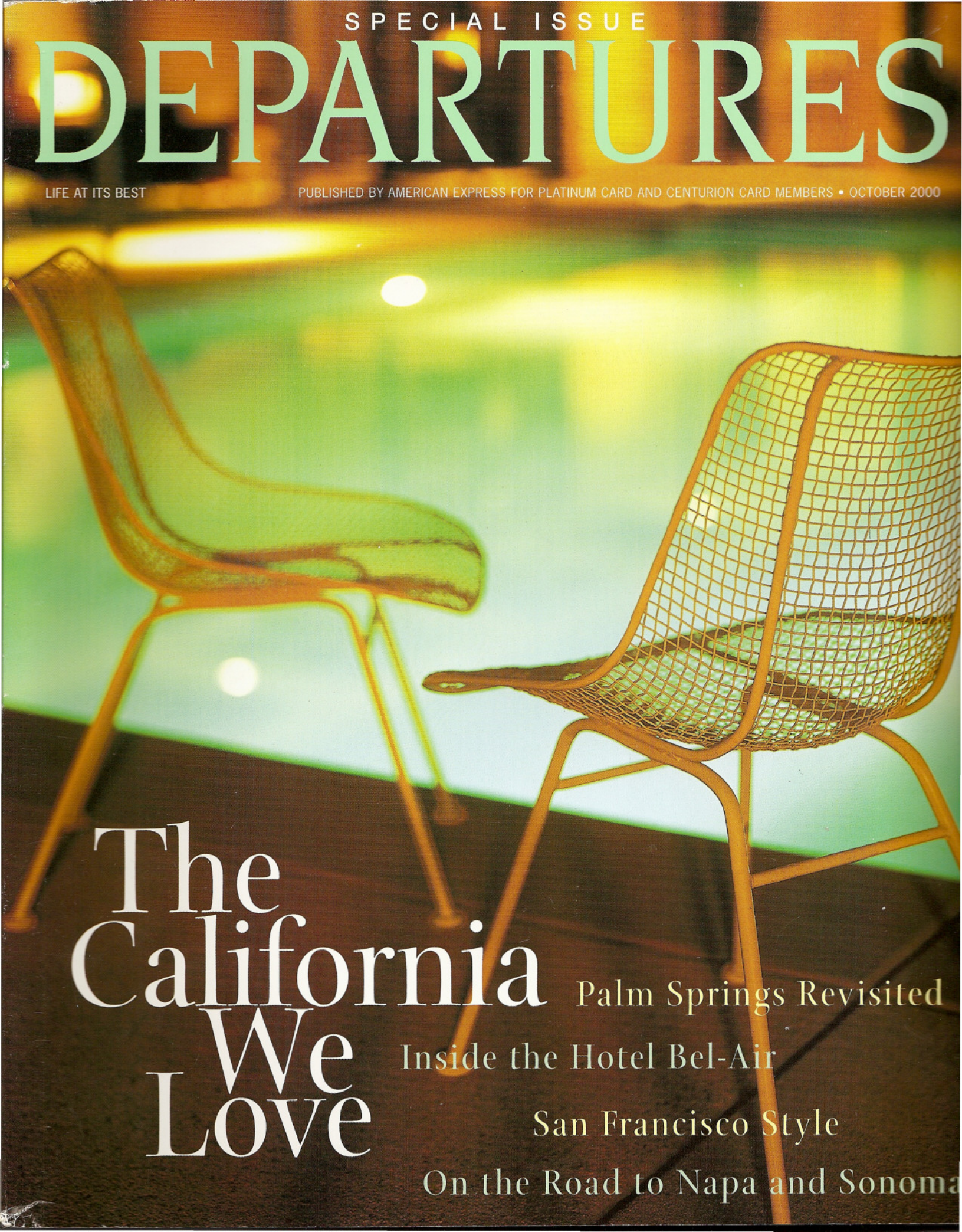


SPECIAL ISSUE

DEPARTURES

LIFE AT ITS BEST

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The background of the cover features two modern chairs in a brightly lit room with a greenish tint. The chair on the left is a simple, curved metal chair with a dark seat. The chair on the right is a wire mesh chair with a dark seat. The lighting is soft and diffused, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere.

The California We Love

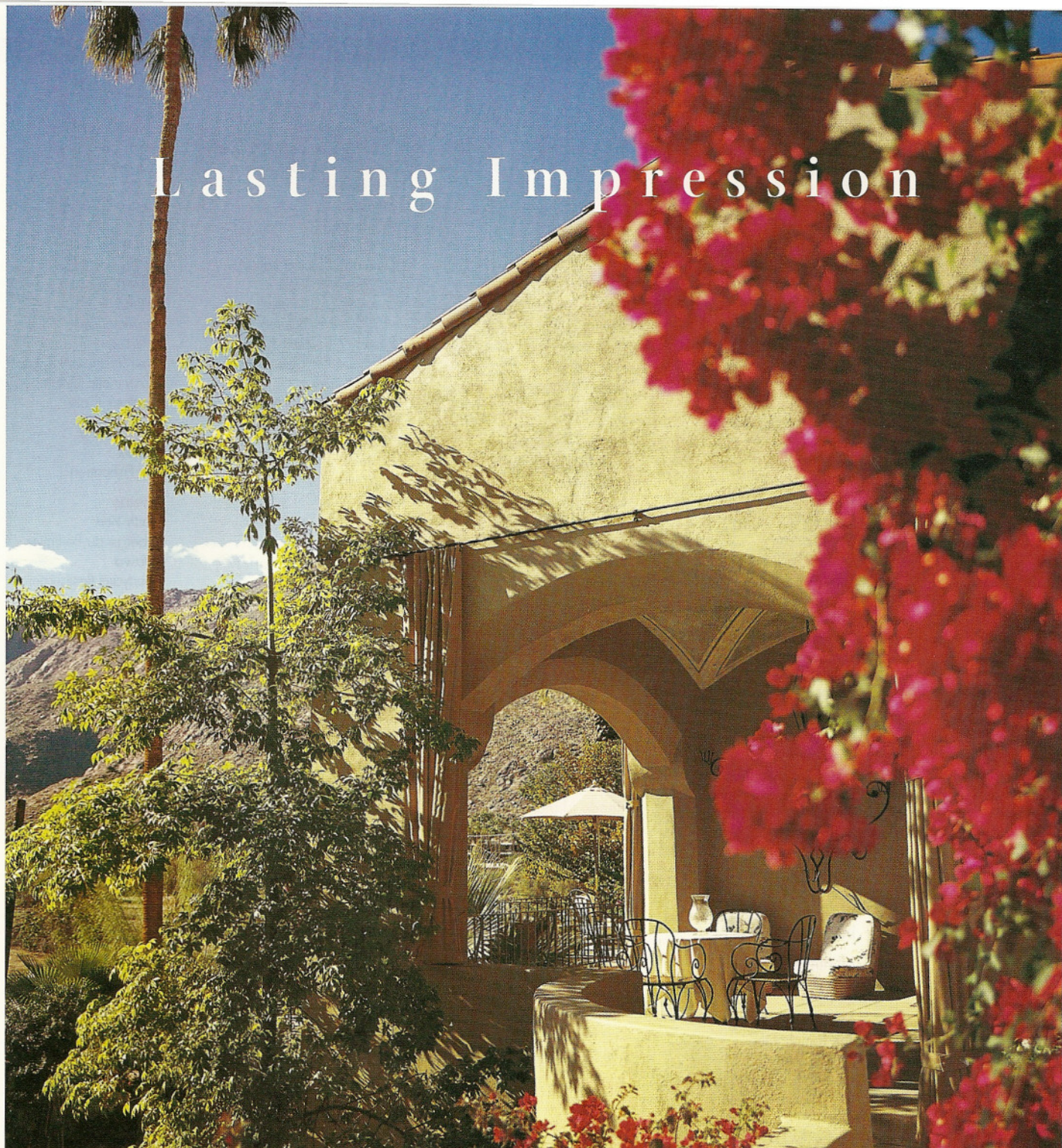
Palm Springs Revisited

Inside the Hotel Bel-Air

San Francisco Style

On the Road to Napa and Sonoma

Lasting Impression



The Willows, Palm Springs

The house was a mess when we got it, in a horrible state of disrepair. But we really wanted to redo it, to bring it back to what it must have looked like in the 1930s." Two years and a million dollars later, Tracy Conrad and Paul Marut, emergency-room physicians in Los Angeles, succeeded in bringing lawyer Samuel Untermyer's 1927 Mediterranean villa, The Willows, back to life, furnishing the eight rooms with gorgeous period antiques. Untermyer's good friend Albert Einstein was a houseguest in the '30s, and his room is now furnished with a mahogany Art Deco bedroom set with its own private patio. There's an edge of excite-

ment in just sitting on the hotel's veranda, being cooled by the waterfall Untermyer installed (natural air conditioning in those days), and thinking that back then the two men sat here discussing world events. On other occasions this patio was the setting for Einstein's unsuccessful attempts to explain the theory of relativity to the mayor of Palm Springs. Now, it's an atmospheric setting for breakfast: Tuscan poached eggs with perfect, just-baked scones and the sounds of Dinah Washington playing in the background. \$275-\$525. 412 West Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262; 800-966-9597, 760-320-0771; fax 760-320-0780; www.thewillowspalmsprings.com. LAURIE WERNER