



Another of Michael's innovations was the "air curtain" for the eleven-foot tall opening that spans the living room. "Emily wanted the front of the house to open up, but did not want screens," says Michael. "In the natural environment of the Preserve, flies can be an issue in summer. Air curtains have been around for a long time, but are often either very bulky or very loud. We reduced the fan to about one-sixth its initial size yet it's powerful enough to funnel the air down without being noisy."

"For the exterior, we purchased the steel, laid it out on the ground and left it there to rust until the patina was perfect," adds Michael.

Rather than being relegated to a solely exterior role, steel, bronze, nickel and other metals feature prominently in the interiors of the 7,500-square-foot residence and guesthouse. One striking example is the expansive entry room. Designed by Silk and engineered, crafted and installed by Carmel Builders, the room features bronze walls and an aluminum ceiling treated to look like bronze. "We used aluminum in the ceiling to keep the weight down," says Michael. It's eighteen feet long and nine feet wide made up of twelve pieces. "It was like putting a puzzle together." With fixtures set at the top behind the steel, light seems to wash down over the sides. A sleek wall of nickel lies opposite the entry door.