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THE NEW EXECUTIVE CLASS

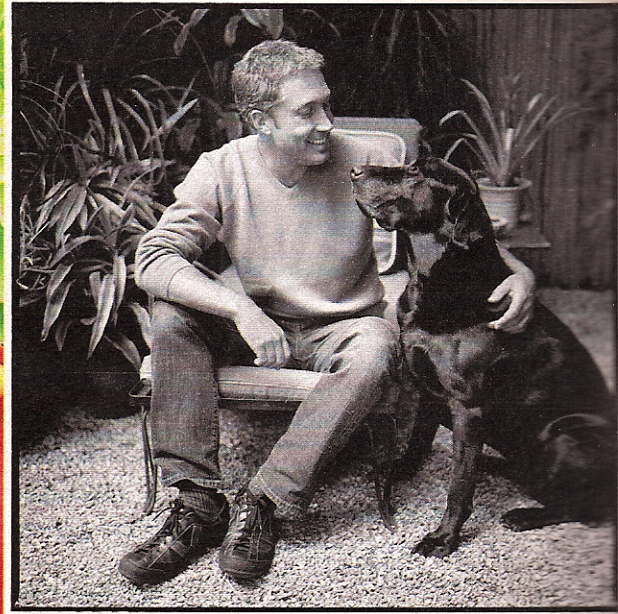
Everyone knows about overpaid CEOs. But now even lower-level executives are getting enormous salaries. They are buying multiple homes, taking lavish vacations and otherwise living large—while their workers watch wages stagnate and benefits shrink. Dude, where's my company? By Vince Beiser

Watt's Punk Afterlife ~ The L.A. River Surrealized ~ Normandy's Forgotten Heroine





Clockwise from left: *Aeonium arboreum* 'Atropurpureum' and variegated elephant's food nestle in a large glazed pot. Richard Hayden with Jackson, his black Lab. Outside Hayden's office, a concrete Buddha establishes an Asian theme for the garden, which is planted with bacopa, various bromeliads, elephant's ear and Japanese maple. A large mirror at the rear makes the tiny space appear larger. A bromeliad in a blue Bauer pot sits on a flea market table.



andscape designer Richard Hayden's Los Angeles garden has a tropical Asian theme that took root when he planted bamboo five years ago to screen out nearby roofs. Except for one scrawny schefflera, the '20s duplex where he works and lives had been garden-free when he rented it, though a neighbor's huge Brazilian pepper tree provided shade.

What Hayden needed from his outdoor space, which adjoins his office, was "a visual playground," he says, as well as a place to read the morning paper and drink coffee. Measuring about 800 square feet, the garden was too small for serious entertaining. ("When I have parties, guests can drift out with drinks," he says, "but dining happens indoors.") Because of the tree, the ground was too

pots galore

shady for grass and too root-filled to be hospitable to most plants. He decided to grow them in pots, which allows him to change the garden's configuration and to mix plants with different cultivation needs. He has created three main areas: a meditative fountain area near the back door, a tiny breakfast spot with a table, and a sheltered alcove with chairs and a lounge for relaxing. Ti plants, bromeliads and other tropicals thrive in this protected setting.

Because he hand-waters, Hayden was able to add the occasional wild card: silver agaves and dudleyas, lacy maidenhair ferns and Japanese maples. "The textural contrasts are what interest me—the fine leaves against the big rosettes," he says. Using the same plants in different places unifies the composition, and glazed pots—orange, aqua and deep red—are shapely foils for foliage. Other embellishments include colored pebbles in the fountain bowl, magnified by the water. A mirror in a 6-foot-wide frame on Hayden's reed fence captures the whole scene. <

