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out is in and in is out

THOMAS SCHOOS, DESIGNER OF TAO, KOI, CITIZEN SMITH AND THE HUNTLEY HOTEL, LETS NATURE GET THE BEST OF HIM

For decades, 'interior design' was quite the buzz word. However, it's evident that Thomas Schoos has surpassed being labeled simply an 'interior' designer. One look at the luscious gardens that surround his design studio and you know that he's all about the great outdoors.

Angelenos are often guilty of taking the consistently beautiful weather for granted. Sometimes, it takes a foreign perspective to remind us of what we have. Before feeling at home in Los Angeles, the German-born designer says, "I was like a palm tree in the black forest, the soil didn't really feel right to me."

Since relocating to LA, circa 1994, Schoos has allowed the sun to sink into his pores and flow out into his work. Prestigious projects such as; Tao, Koi, Citizen Smith and

The Huntley Hotel all illustrate how Schoos' designs skew the line between indoor and outdoor space. His love-fest for nature is evident — using full-grown trees and plants inside restaurants, shells and wood bases as accents and indoor vases outside. "An aged plant in a room can act like a beautiful piece of art that's done by nature," explains Schoos.

With five residential projects in Los Angeles and varying projects in Miami, Costa Rica, San Francisco and Hawaii, Schoos' natural instincts seem to be contagious. He is also giving back to his biggest muse — Mother Nature — with two sustainable hotels in Asia and a new line of recyclable fabrics that are completely compostable. We're green with envy. schoos.com