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15 TO WATCH

ANDRE AGASSI, STEFANIE GRAF,
MICHAEL CZYSZ & MORE

HIP AND
HIGH UP:
8 GREAT
HIGH-RISE
HOT SPOTS

3 COOL
TOWNS ON CALI'S
CENTRAL COAST

OREGON'S
PINOT NOIR TRAIL

WHERE TO
PLAY: 3 NEW
GOLF COURSES



Lighting designer Robert Truax is one bright guy: For the past 25 years, he has been illuminating scores of residences, resorts, restaurants and everything in between. "Lighting adds dimension and mood to a space, whether it is indoors or out," he says. "Great lighting is felt as much as it is seen."

After graduating from San Francisco State University with a business degree, Truax was inspired to delve into design by a local designer; and in 1987, he founded his award-winning Northern California-based firm, Truax Design Group. Today, he continues lighting up lives via varied projects, which have included San Fran's posh Hotel Palomar and Hotel Monaco, as well as the Japanese-inspired village and

yacht of Oracle Corporation founder, Larry Ellison.

The endeavor that has Truax really beaming, though, is his new architectural lighting business, No. 8 Lighting. With this innovative venture, Truax is putting a fresh spin on stale recessed lighting. "After using other downlights over the years, we decided to create a better downlight that met our needs and the needs of the design industry," he explains. "When you are lighting artwork that is [worth] millions of dollars, you want even, beautiful light. And [No. 8 Lighting] provides a beautiful light that is really easy to install." 707.829.8188, www.truaxdesign.com; 707.824.0888, www.8lighting.com. —M.L.

ROBERT TRUAX Lighting Designer >

