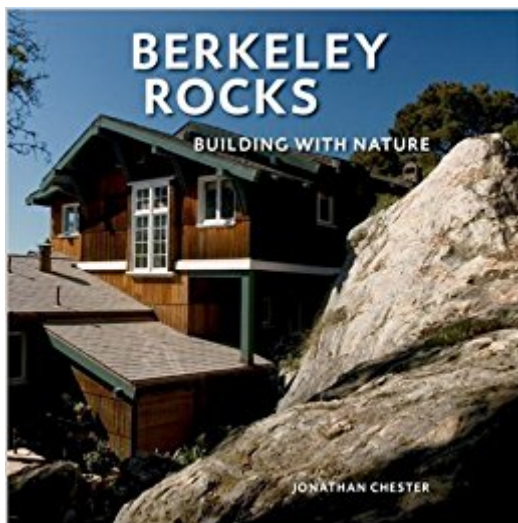


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# Berkeley Rocks: Building With Nature



## Synopsis

The Berkeley hills offer great natural beauty and sensitive landscape design that skillfully incorporates the architecture into the natural environment. In the early 20th century, architects inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement worked to integrate the hills' large outcrops of rock (known to geologists as Northbrae rhyolite) into the city's development. At once a historical architectural reference and a captivating art book, **BERKELEY ROCKS** documents the unique harmony between Berkeley's distinctive geography, homes, and local ideals. Reviews "The book is indeed rife with gorgeous images, but it's also much more." -San Jose Mercury News and Oakland Tribune

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

\* A stunning photographic survey of the geological treasures, architecture, and landscape art of Berkeley, California. \* Includes more than 200 full-color photos, plus archival photographs from the early 1900s. \* Insightful narrative discusses the design philosophy and impact of Charles Keeler, landscape designer Mark Daniels, and legendary architects Bernard Maybeck and John Galen Howard. \* Includes information on the original landscape as well as the work of the developers, engineers, architects, and early homebuilders who turned this beautiful natural landscape into a residential haven.

JONATHAN CHESTER is one of the world's leading polar adventurers and photographers. A

fellow of the Royal Geographic Society, he works as a naturalist and historian on tourist excursions to the Antarctic, and has been lecturing on adventure, the Himalayas, and photography for over twenty years. He is the author of many books for both kids and adults, including *A FOR ANTARCTICA* and *BUSY PENGUINS*. He lives in Berkeley, California.

This is a very delightful, informative book about the many giant rocks that surround homes and parks in the Berkeley hills. Since I see these rocks every day in my neighborhood, it was very interesting to learn about the geological conditions that created them.

I grew up one block from Pinnacle Rock in Berkeley, where my dad (Dick Leonard) and his pal Dave Brower climbed every Sunday with their Cragmont Climbing club buddies (1940's, 50's). This is an absolutely wonderful book about Berkeley's beautiful rocks and architecture, most of which are very familiar to this Berkeley native. I gave it to my husband on Christmas, and everyone was glued to it. Thanks so much.

We liked this enough that we bought a copy as a present for another Berkeley resident. This is a fun book to look through.

Not surprisingly, it took an Australian trained geographer/rock climber to point out the obvious beauty and value of East Bay geology in the landscape design for private homes and parks in this wonderful pictorial work. If you think rock is something only the landscape architect has to design around, see the photos of how some banded rhyolite boulders look in a billiard room, or examine a mass of in situ chert protruding through a homeowner's bathroom wall (the geologist's 'dream' WC). Berkeley loves its rocks. While Chester never gets into it directly, this region's desire to protect rocks and outcrops is geoconservation in practice. For more on that, see my review of *GEODIVERSITY*. Chester includes a Berkeley Area map to locate these local geologic treasures, and a decent map of the bedrock geology of the Berkeley Hills on page 14. My only complaints would be 1) the title--the word 'nature' should be changed to 'geology', and 2) references to geologic works mentioned in chapter one are not included in the recommended reading section.

For much of my life I held hope to be able to own a home in Berkeley with one of those great rocks filling the front of the lot and obscuring part of the house. It never happened, so finding this excellent book fulfilled part of my wish. The photography really captures the feeling of being near the geologic

history of the area and there is a great source of geologic detail in the text, for anyone who wants to know why those rocks are there. Excellent photography and very informative text.

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