

# Entertainment WEEKLY

May 19, 2006



## Calexico

### Garden Ruin

(Quarterstick)

#### Country Rock

On their early albums of scratchy, idiosyncratic mariachi-band-influenced desert rock, core members John Convertino and Joey Burns seemed to believe that Sam Peckinpah was not only alive and well—or as well as the auteur/boozehound ever was—but auditioning soundtrack composers for a *Wild Bunch* sequel. Almost a decade on, the crisply lush *Garden Ruin* barely sounds like the work of the same people, as the duo complete their transformation into purveyors of genuinely fine country songwriting. True, some distinctiveness has been lost along the way, but that is largely recompensed by the quality of such tracks as “Cruel,” “All Systems Red,” and the quite beautiful “Bisbee Blue.” **B+** —CC

**>DOWNLOAD THIS:**

“Bisbee Blue”