

## Make room for Marin designers at San Francisco Decorator Showcase

Staff Report

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Photo provided by Sharon Risedorph - Inviting space: Corte Madera resident and principal Dan Phipps of Dan Phipps Architects designed a kitchen and family room that has multiple areas for entertaining and relaxing.



IF YOU HAVEN'T visited this year's San Francisco Decorator Showcase, it ends May 29. It's really quite beautiful.

The French Renaissance Revival-style house itself is a stately four-story mansion with six bedrooms, four full and three half-bathrooms, three fireplaces and a guest house on a corner lot in Presidio Heights.

Corte Madera resident and principal Dan Phipps of Dan Phipps Architects was the mastermind behind the recent redesign. He converted a former garage/carriage house with hay barn into a charming guest house; claimed the back yard for a new underground two-car garage, giving it underground access to the house and then installed a rooftop garden over it; created a large family room and kitchen out of three adjacent rooms, and continued the central staircase to the top-most floor where he raised the ceiling and added a large skylight. It's a redesign that makes the house so much more functional you wonder why it wasn't designed that way in the first place.

More than 35 designers worked creative magic in transforming 30 spaces into a wonderfully harmonious and visually pleasing final presentation.

The foyer, done by Chris Reed of Reed Johnson Interiors, is all about retro glamour with an eye-catching mica chandelier, mirrored walls and a Hollywood-style banquette. Nearby, a former telephone room was reinvented, offering a very seductive hideaway for private conversations even if it's only by the ubiquitous cell phone.

The small-scaled dining room by Douglas Durkin Design Group, Inc. has been turned into an intimate library setting with art and books underscoring a tone of elevated conversations and cozy dining.

For great staging, check out the walk-in linen closet by interior designer Patrick L. Welch. It has a period Beaux Arts zinc mirror, jewelry-like hardware, a crystal chandelier and, just to remind us that this can function as a working space, a small ironing board. On the painted-suede lined shelving are charming accessories - vintage hand towels, silver trays and pretty soaps, and large glass containers.

The bathrooms and powder rooms are stylish, especially the beautifully detailed Chinoiserie powder room in green on the main floor by Katherine Jacobus Decorative Arts.

San Francisco designer Tish Key took the master bedroom suite and turned it into a light-infused space of creamy tones with strong accents of blue and gold that flowed easily into the luxe master dressing and bathroom by Grant K. Gibson Interior Design.

Other notable rooms include "Her Office" by Caitlin Moran interiors, a light, feminine space in lavender and green where the office equipment is tucked away in an open closet enhanced by black-and-white vintage photographs and silhouettes.

That pretty room is balanced by the dark and exotic "Artist's Retreat." It's similar in feel to a study of a fashionable, world-traveled man with a zebra footstool, a pair of comfortable chairs, well-stocked bookcases, art supplies and a painted compass on the ceiling.

Kensington & Associates created a gorgeous kitchen and while it has all the top-of-the-line kitchen appliances you'd expect - the La Cornue range, the Thermador oven and microwave, a large Sub-Zero refrigerator, refrigerator drawers, two Bosch dishwashers, two Franke sinks and a hot water dispenser - they play second-fiddle to the great design of the room and the soothing color scheme. The banquette area is a wonderful touch.

An upstairs kitchen and bar area created by Johnny Grey, Inc. makes a terrific family gathering place or a series of spaces for individual escapes all enhanced with curvy shapes. A suspended fireplace straight out of "The Jetsons" is an immediate draw, a backdrop of glass blocks and blue concrete countertops in the kitchen put the fun in functional and the eco-friendliness of the design choices give this room a thumbs-up on many levels.

Two bedrooms were transformed by Marin designers. A "Traveler's Retreat" by Cecillie Starin Design of Tiburon features a great curved bed dressed in white linens and topped by a corona with handmade wallpaper on the walls and lots of rich wood touches.

"A Teenage Retreat" by Wright Stewart-Jones Design Studio of San Rafael was created for a teenager with quirky and advancing tastes. Look for the lavender tone-on-tone walls, a quartz carpet made of small stones set in resin and a "fossil faux" desk with a clear top that captures and "floats" decorative objects, in this case a trail of leaves.

Marin's Nan Rosenblatt, Allied ASID and director of the School of Interior Architecture and Design at the Academy of Art University, worked with three of her students and created a highly functional and yet beautiful "Creative Retreat" in the basement with red walls and black accents that play off the Origami inspired-theme. It's a laundry room/massage area and gift-wrap center with a useful and attractive wall storage system by Studio Becker, which hides an ironing board, color-coordinated boxes for supplies, even a laundry chute.

Tim Ritter of San Anselmo, owner of BayStone/Western Wall Systems, designed the adjacent subterranean wine cellar, an elegant cavern-like space lit by low-voltage recessed lighting and enclosed by limestone walls, a limestone putty ceiling, limestone flooring and a heavy, distressed wooden door. An English oak table with chairs grounds the room and invites visitors to linger.

Finally, the gardens. Designed by Suzman Cole Design Associates and Mill Valley's Lisa Guthrie, they are a study in subtle city sophistication. Limestone terracing from the house leads to a small lawn and, perfectly complementing the formal garden, is a parterre with boxwood hedges, a knot garden, an orangerie albeit modest and decorative embellishments. It's a small garden but lavishly planted and one with multiple destinations.

Kudos to all the designers of this year's San Francisco Decorator Showcase. They did a masterful job.

If you're interested in the design choices for the house, check Phipps's Web site, [www.dpaweb.com](http://www.dpaweb.com), which contains a comprehensive list of resources listed by room which you'll find helpful if you want to recreate a specific look.

More Information: [www.sanfranciscoshowcase2006.com](http://www.sanfranciscoshowcase2006.com)

PJ Bremier writes on home, garden, design and entertaining topics every Saturday. She may be contacted at P.O. Box 412, Kentfield, 94914 or [pj@mindspring.com](mailto:pj@mindspring.com). [http://www.marinij.com/lifestyles/ci\\_3846725](http://www.marinij.com/lifestyles/ci_3846725)