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homeowner called an "Abracadabra Man"...

*'Gypsy Girl'*  
UT Coastal Magazine  
July 2012

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Phyllis Van Doren

# ARTS, DECORATIVE AND FINE

**THE ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION** in New York is a group of Americans who work in alliance with the National Trust of England and Wales to preserve great houses and gardens.

An active member of the ROF is La Jolla interior designer **Kathleen Buoymaster**. This month she brings author and designer **Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill** into our midst at her La Jolla design firm, to speak on *Celebrating Great Rooms: 300 Years of Changing Interiors*, 3 p.m., **October 24**, \$35. There will be tea afterwards and a signing of the new book, *The Life of the House: How Rooms Evolve* by Henrietta Spencer-Churchill, Rizzoli New York, 2012. This is a grand opportunity and an education in the history of design. For starters, Lady Henrietta is the eldest daughter of the 11<sup>th</sup> Duke of Marlborough, whose family home is Blenheim Palace.

**JACQUELINE LAVENU** WILL BE SIGNING the just released **retrospective catalog** of her 40-year career in painting at her Little Italy studio and gallery, 5-7 p.m., **October 3**.

Hurry to see the **California Fibers** show featuring new work by its members before it closes **October 7** at the **Visions Art Museum** at Liberty Station, NTC, in **Point Loma**.

Then, **October 11**, **Senior Community Centers** unveils the important **photographic series** of seniors by **Philipp Scholz Rittermann** called *Notes to our Sons and Daughters*. A reception is at the Port Pavilion on **Broadway Pier** at 6 p.m.

October is also officially **National Arts and Humanities** month. Our Commission for Arts and Culture and the San Diego Museum Council team up for the month-long **Fall for the Arts 2012**.

**FURNITURE NEWS:** **Memphis** is alive and well. About 100 **furniture designs** that came out of **Milan** in 1981 and after are being produced again and available online. Remember **First chair**, of the big blue polka dot, by **Michele De Lucchi**? It can be yours for about \$1,200.

We're mad about the new **Molten Metallic Benjamin Moore Studio Finishes** paint that looks like hand-hammered metal when dry. In gold, bronze, silver, copper, gun smoke and charcoal.

**Mark Matheson** (late of Metropolis fame) has resurfaced with a new home furnishings store in North Park called **Grace-Ful Living**, named after daughter Grace, of course.

Architect **Steve Lombardi** also has resurfaced with his "storefront for design" studio and office on Bacon Street in **Ocean Beach** where now and then you can find exhibits of his new lighting designs and new furniture designs by friends.

**Oak Leaves and Acorns**, a contemporary marquetry cabinet, won First place and Excellence in Design awards for **Craig Thibodeau** at last summer's Design in Wood at the Del Mar Fair.

**DESIGNER ANJUM RAZVI** is responsible for the interiors at the renovated **Lafayette Hotel & Swim Club** in North Park. **Bells and Whistles** worked on the restaurant. This place has a history back to the 1940s when it was the **Imig Manor** and frequented by Hollywood stars.

**Philippe Beltran's** design fantasies are in play again as he imagines **100 Wines Hillcrest** as a 1920s apothecary-cum-bar as if it was tucked away in a historic European alley, rustic and repurposed with old wine barrel chandeliers.

For more design ideas, join our eClub. Sign up at [sandiegohomegarden.com](http://sandiegohomegarden.com)



Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill



**NOSTALGIA AD INFINITUM.** A client of Jim Gibson's lighting design workshop, **Gibson & Gibson Antique Lighting**, saved his grandmother's desk-set phone from the 1950s and had it turned into a lamp (of sorts). ♦



# Honoring The Past

**This contemporary design, crafted in a rural setting, channels the memory of iconic Irving Gill**

BY PHYLLIS VAN DOREN • PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHELLEY METCALF



At one end of the large living room, white leather chairs from Williams Sonoma Home afford fireside warmth on the foggy mornings and cool evenings of Point Loma; vintage folding leather stools.

**Opposite:** The view toward the living/dining area and the upper-level bedroom loggias from the pool pavilion. Smith and Hawken furniture.

**T**HIRTY YEARS AND 15 HOUSES later, architect Bill Bocken and landscape designer Paul Adams have created their collaborative 5,000-square-foot masterpiece among the Torrey pines and curbless wooded lanes where Point Loma winds to the Cabrillo lighthouse and land's end. The past is honored here, not the least in Bocken's meticulous research and lovingly pastiched design boards reflecting his interest in the work of the early 20th-century architect Irving Gill.

To riff on an old ballad, "When the deep purple falls on sleepy garden walls"... you're only 10 minutes from downtown and a pleasant walk to Sunset Cliffs and Mission Bay. The 4-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath home sits quietly from the street, with a low profile front entrance to the public spaces of the house, which then open to embrace the terrace, pavilion, garden and a swimming pool. The architecture is the modern concept of an L-shape with each leg only one room wide to afford maximum light and cross ventilation. Shelter blurs the boundaries to nature, a quintessential Southern California ideal.

The interior design by Bocken is serene, in repetitive shades of greys, whites and deep violet blue. Textures and surfaces in a continuous flow throughout add to the sense of a minimal, unadorned aspect. Local limestone is used on the first floor and terraces as a durable and maintenance-free surface. On the second floor, pre-waxed hardwood plank floors are quieter and warmer for sleeping areas.

The focal point of the garden is an 80-year-old Torrey pine that gathers and rains down the moisture of frequent morning fogs to create a micro-climate all its own for plants below.

"It's another world around that tree," says Bocken.

There is a linear plan to the herb and flower gardens, with an emphasis on the mood indigo of purple and blue prevalent in delphinium that blooms as much as three times a year.

"I wanted a mass of purple," says Adams, the garden's designer.

These cool hues, repeated in other garden plants are clearly a leitmotif for the property. A vegetable garden furnishes produce for the frequent dinner guests in either of two dining areas.

Many of the homes in the neighborhood are vintage 1920. There's a certain synchronicity in knowing that much of Bocken's inspiration came from the Walter L. Dodge home designed by Gill













**Above:** Color and texture in the garden softens the stark white architecture on all sides.

**Left:** Pool pavillon has ample seating for entertaining; furniture from Restoration Hardware. Ivy creeping up the walls is a Gill-like touch; carved solid redwood columns reflect in the pool for a romantic accent.

in Los Angeles around 1916, (destroyed in 1970), considered today to be one of the great American homes of its era.

Environmental responsibility for Bocken and Adams includes a massive photovoltaic electric system concealed behind the roof parapet, low-energy consumption mechanical- and water-heating systems and drip irrigation. (Interestingly, an early solar-heating system was designed for the Dodge house, but never installed.) The saline pool uses no chemicals and is solar heated with a cover preventing evaporation.

Bocken has added a singular romantic touch of a series of carved solid redwood poles, placed inside and in the pavilion, most alluringly captured reflecting in the pool.

The Bocken/Adams residence, inside and out, has a clean, primarily unadorned aesthetic making use of simple massed shapes, arcades of arches framing a view and a trellised pergola of white and purple wisteria, purple trumpet vine and white clematis creating a journey through the garden.

"This could almost be a Gill," says Bocken. ♦

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More photos follow









**Opposite:** Foreground is one of two different dining areas; stairway leads to master and guest suites with loggias.

**Above:** Another view from the pool pavilion to the vine-covered pergola.

*More photos follow*









**Clockwise from above left:** Everything for cooking and entertaining is stored on open shelves facing and underneath the long marble island; breakfast room with greyed rustic table from Urban Seed; Restoration Hardware chairs; loggia off the master bedroom has view to pool and garden; Paul Adams, left, with Maddie, and Bill Bocken with Charlie in the office/library.

**Opposite:** Violet-blue accents of the interiors are extended when living room walls open to the pool and delphinium beds outside.





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SHELLEY METCALF

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### INTERIOR DESIGN REPORT TRENDS

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#### Designers

Elizabeth Thiele Barkett,  
Ross Thiele & Son, 858-454-2133

Brooke Giannetti, Giannetti Home,  
Brentwood, 310-826-2407

Sheryll Jackman, Seaside Home,  
858-454-0866

Tim Jackson, Urban Lighting,  
619-232-6064

Janelle Johannesen, Kneeder/Fauchère,  
Pacific Design Center, 310-855-1313

Thomas Lavin, Thomas Lavin showroom,  
Pacific Design Center, 310-278-2456

### HONORING THE PAST

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#### Architect /interior design

Bill Bocken, 619-260-1162

#### Landscape design

Paul Adams, 619-295-4027

#### Contractor

Sumac Development Inc., 858-756-2909

#### Appliances/ plumbing fixtures

Fixtures Living, 858-966-3645

#### Cabinets, custom

Stan Watowski, 619-474-4425

#### Doors and windows

Builders Window Supply, 858-552-0107  
(Eagle windows, Fleetwood doors)

#### Flooring, distribution and installation

Sterling Interiors, 858-587-9007  
(Wood, Du Chateau)

#### Light fixtures, custom

Gibson & Gibson Lighting, 619-422-2447

#### Pool contractor

Pacific Sun, 858-271-8822

#### Stone/tile

Arizona Tile, 858-566-6195  
(including stone flooring, Camargo  
limestone and stone countertops)

#### Window coverings

Custom Interiors by Yigael, 760-635-0369

#### Photography

Shelley Metcalf, 619-281-0049

### TRAVEL INSPIRES A BAY-FRONT CONDO

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#### Interior design

Anjum Razvi, ASID,  
Razvi Design Studio, Inc., 858-672-8831

#### Interior design assistant

Leslie Leinbach and Associates,  
858-676-0159

#### Contractor

Bradford Fox Builders, 858-456-2009