



SPANISH REVIVAL NOW

A dream team creates a new/old home

BY PHYLLIS VAN DOREN • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN MANN



Above: Furnishings in entry of new Spanish Revival home include vintage sconce, Shangshi Chinese cabinet and painting by San Diego artist Walter Redondo.

Opposite: Dramatic arched entry to the wine vault lit by a fixture from Fez. Floor is Mission quarry tile.



IF WE COULD LOOK into the future several decades, we might see affixed to the front of this La Jolla home, perched high atop a Mount Soledad ridge, a plaque for historical significance. A newly built home, it has already been mistaken as a remodel of a great vintage residence done with integrity. Names that come to mind are the late George Washington Smith, Wallace Neff and Richard Requa.

The home is remarkable for the architect Andrew Wright's interpretation of the vocabulary of 1920s Spanish Revival Mediterranean style with elements of Italy and Moorish North Africa, but as it should be, it's classic timelessness is tempered by the family dynamics of the clients. It's old in a new creative way, accomplished by the symbiosis of the interior designer and architect.

There are many ways of furnishing a new home like this. For this one, the homeowners looked at buying the new art and furniture and rugs as collections they were gathering that would be passed down to future generations.

They have taken their time to layer acquisitions in a slow accumulation that is totally in tune with the attention to historic detail provided by architect Wright. As a result, they chose an interior design firm, Interior Design Imports, headed by Paul Schatz, who is known for his collecting abilities and affinity for design. Schatz has become recognized for his signature hand-painted Talavera tile from the Sta. Catarina Studio in Puebla, Mexico, including what he had specially made for this home. The appropriate application of tile contributes to creating a period feel in this house, from stair risers to courtyards, to the kitchen and pool decoration.

The attention to period lighting, utilizing local craftsmen, is another of Schatz's talents. For all the Requa-style exterior lighting, he bought an original Richard Requa vintage fixture and had it reproduced by Jim Gibson, (one of *San Diego Home/Garden Lifestyles*' "Stars of San Diego 2010"). Some pendant

fixtures were brought from Fez and adapted by Gibson, adding the right Moorish touch of exoticism.

Vintage and antique furniture from Mexico, Morocco and Tunisia was gathered with some local reproductions of 19th-century Latin Colonial stylization blended into the collection. Italian pieces are primarily 18th and 19th century; Chinese pieces are from Shangshi. In addition to every thing else, Schatz was the shopping consultant.

Trompe l'oeil and stenciling on ceiling beams was specified by Schatz and carried out by Mark Holmes and Lisa Albert ("Stars of San Diego 2012"), in addition to custom wall finishes.

Custom cabinets with furniture finishes, carried out by various local artists, were important to capturing the needed patina to the interiors.

Schatz chose bleached walnut flooring that was hand distressed and Mission quarry tile where that was more functional.

In what could be called a dream team of client, architect, interior designer and contractor, the desire for a Spanish Revival home for today and tomorrow, has been focused on details that would revitalize the nostalgia for "the old La Jolla" architecture of the 1920s where both architect and homeowner grew up. Imagery brought from the courtyards, gardens and tiled roofs of Italy also were an influence, as the homeowners traveled to the Italy of Tuscany and Florence, an area where the architect had worked, which created even more dialogue of how the final design should unfold. This translates into sheltered courtyard estancia living, views out second-story windows onto textured tiled roofs, ironwork balconies, and the complex puzzle of spaces and places in a 6,500-square-foot, three-bedroom family residence, which includes a private guest suite.

What has been achieved is a timeless gem of comfort, intimacy, scale and enduring charm. ♦

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Above: The architect-designed, wrought-iron handrail is set out from the wall; custom tiles on the stair risers are made in Puebla, Mexico. The unusual vintage three-seat bench is from Bellini's Antique Italia.

Opposite: A corbeled arch leads from the living room to dining room. Interior designer created the custom sofa and converted an antique door from Fez into a coffee table. Walnut cabinet in dining room is Italian 17th century.





Left: View from the center courtyard dining area through the kitchen and to the ocean beyond



Right: Seating arrangement in the center courtyard with Restoration Hardware furniture, custom wrought-iron table



Above: Albert and Holmes did the painted finish on the kitchen cabinets. Custom tile is from Puebla. Breakfast room beyond counter. Door on the left leads to the dining room.



The back elevation of the house viewed from the pool area. Windows on this side look to a coastline ocean view in the distance.



Above: View from the central courtyard to second story master suite and one of the custom wrought-iron balconies. Private entrance to guest suite is door on left.

WHERE TO FIND IT

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Architect: Andrew Wright, Wright Architecture, 858-756-4934

Interior design and architecture/tile: Paul Schatz, Interior Design Imports, Inc., 619-696-6373

General contractor: David R. Burns, Burns General Contracting, 760-212-1776

Landscape design: Homeowner

Landscape contractor: Ben Fredrickson, Fredrickson Landscaping, 760-583-9699

Antique furniture: Genghis Khan, 619-275-1182; Jacobo Bellini, Bellini's Antique Italia, 858-509-9399; McNally Company Antiques, 858-756-1922

Antique rugs: Mehdi Maroufi, Maroufi Fine Rugs & Antiques, 858-456-2585

Cabinetmaker/specialty furniture: James Baker, Wood Wizard, 858-277-6714

Cabinets: Ernie Lee, Lee Cabinets Manufacturing, Inc., 619-427-1149

Custom furnishings: Colibri Home, 858-273-3448

Custom light fixtures: Jim Gibson, Gibson & Gibson Antique Lighting, 619-422-2447; Paul Roos, 619-990-4998; Steven Handelman Studios, Santa Barbara, 805-962-5119; The Bungalow Store, 619-234-7383

Custom upholstery: Arturo Vallajo, Guarantee Upholster, 619-295-5686

Custom wood finishes: Leo Ramirez, 949-836-5381; Jean Karam, True Match, 858-759-6921

Front door: Design by architect; hand-blown glass roundels, Carole Mayne, 760-822-7384

Furnishings, additional: Crate & Barrel, 619-295-6800, 858-558-4545; French Garden Shoppe, 619-238-4700; Restoration Hardware, 619-543-9102, 858-784-0575

Garage door: Access Garage Doors/Burns General Contracting Overlay, 800-994-3643

Interior finish work: David R. Burns, Burns General Contracting (see general contractor); Chris Williams, Flagstone Concrete, 760-580-6118

Iron railings: Edwards Ornamental Iron, 760-735-9052

Paintings: Alexander Salazar Fine Art, 858-551-8453

Painting contractor: Paintworks, 619-708-5239

Plaster: Apptek Stucco, 858-875-1850

Pool: Mission Valley Pools & Spas, 858-695-2007

Roofing: J.L. Roofing, 760-941-4571

Stone installation: Torres Stone Design, Inc., 760-738-8078

Tile installation: Chris Hankins, L & C Tile, 760-746-5115

Trompe l'oeil and custom wall and cabinet finishes: Mark Holmes & Lisa Albert, Albert & Holmes, 858-458-1181

Windows and doors: Window Visions, 858-345-1076 (Loewen)

Wood floors: Michael Palembas, Palembas Hardwood Floors, Inc., 760-747-8316

