

# california

HOME+DESIGN

## INSPIRATIONAL KITCHENS AND INDULGENT BATHS

The Pompan family enjoys their new kitchen by Katarina Tana and Ken Ungar.

REDEFINING  
FAMILY  
STYLE

MARMOL  
RADZINER  
RAISE THE ROOF

SMART  
SURFACES+  
TILE TRENDS



The classic Edwardian living room is made less formal with an eclectic mix— an antique Asian coffee table, a pair of orange silk chairs and Jennifer's favorite find: a side table by Wendell Castle called the Huevos table, in reference to its stacked-ovoid base. RIGHT: Michael Wolf's photograph of a Hong Kong nightscape is the focal point of the dining area.



# Space and the City

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THEIR SECOND BABY, A SAN FRANCISCO COUPLE CHOSE TO EXPAND THEIR EXISTING EDWARDIAN IN LIEU OF DECAMPING TO THE SUBURBS.  
 BY JULIE CARLSON STYLING BY GARY SPAIN/ARTIST UNTIED  
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW MILLMAN



The kitchen features two oversized freestanding islands, white cabinetry, glossy beveled subway tiles, stainless appliances and a trio of silvered Acquatinta Murano glass suspension lamps. The elegant black Venezian Lido Anticata granite countertops from ASN Stone in San Francisco were dipped in acid to create a sculptural surface and are impervious to all manner of abuse.



**T**here comes in a time in the natural lifespan of certain San Francisco families when the inevitable question arises: “Do we move to the East Bay or Marin, where we might get a bit more space and a patch of lawn, or do we defy the siren call of the suburbs and stick it out in the city?”

For one San Francisco couple, deeply attached to city life, the dilemma presented itself with the impending arrival of Child No. 2, which made their gracious home in the Avenues unworkable. As owners of a 1903 two-unit Edwardian, they had been inhabiting the upper flat while renting out the ground floor for almost a decade.

“We needed one more bedroom, so we started looking at larger houses in the city,” says Jennifer, the wife. “I began to realize I didn’t want a big house, and that even if we bought a larger one, we would still need to undertake a financially draining remodel.”

So, with the help of Oakland-based architect Bill Holland, the couple decided to commandeer a good chunk of square footage from their garage and storage area, creating a lower-level rental unit and merging the two upper flats into a single-family house.

To create a more livable floor plan, Holland gracefully reconfigured the space in a feat of architectural legerdemain. To the rear of the house, overlooking the leafy garden, Holland designed a spacious, natural light-flooded kitchen/family room by removing a wall and integrating an awkward rear utility area. The informal family dining area opens directly onto a deck, complete with barbecue, providing that sought-after indoor-outdoor lifestyle that attracts families to the suburbs.



The master bath features Calcutta marble, which, with its golden veins, has a warmer glow than classic Carrara. The handmade hexagonal beveled tiles from Tile and Stone add a geometric appeal.



Holland also raised the doorway heights throughout the house, widened the opening between the living room and dining room and created an interior staircase leading to the garage (another longed-for suburban feature that few city residences offer). "Throughout the project, they were dedicated to preserving the building's architectural integrity," says Holland.

When it came to designing the interiors, Jennifer was firmly in control. "I'm the type who's been reading *Elle Decor* and *House & Garden* since college," she says. "I wanted to create clean, contemporary interiors while respecting the Edwardian details."

In the high-ceilinged foyer, she hung a pair of classic midcentury Nelson bubble lamps, which set the tone for the suite of rooms that open off the hall—an appealing mix of old and new. She painted the front rooms a warm yellow, and in the dining room paired

Upstairs, Holland carved a spacious master bath and a his-and-hers walk-in closet out of a clunky rear stair/utility area.

a table that had been in her family for years with a mismatched suite of mahogany chairs. Ornate gilded sconces from her husband Michael's family adorn one wall. On the opposite wall hangs a giant Michael Wolf photograph of Hong Kong at night, which gives diners the illusion that they are overlooking a buzzing cityscape, perhaps from a sleek penthouse. A built-in china cabinet is new but looks as if it had always been there.

It's the kitchen/family area, however, that is the "soul of the house," according to Jennifer. Painted a subtle sea-foam green as a backdrop to the white built-ins, the space has an instantly calming effect. Toys and other artifacts of family life are cleverly stowed in a profusion of custom cabinetry. In the dining area hangs Jennifer's first-ever art purchase, a giant framed vintage French poster she bought just after graduating from college. In fact, that piece inspired the corner office nook's crimson accent colors (which Jennifer refers to as her "pop colors").



Indeed, the interiors are brought alive by Jennifer's well-honed curatorial eye. Her art collection also includes prints by Squeak Carnwath and Henry Turmon, which hang in the downstairs hallway. A quartet of Nicola Vruwink's white-on-white "sugar paintings" (the series is called *I'd Rather Be Shopping*) is displayed in the glamorous powder room.

Interior designers are fond of extolling the importance of the dramatic powder room (along with the memorable entryway), a lesson Jennifer seems to have absorbed by osmosis. She enlisted Karin Wikström, a local decorative painter, to create the wide pale-blue-and-brown-striped walls; and she tiled the floors in shimmering marble mini-brick tiles from Waterworks.

In the upstairs master suite, a gouache on cut-out paper by Irene Pijoan stands out dramatically against the inky blue walls. When it came to selecting colors, Jennifer consulted Christy Palmisano of Patinae Architectural Colors, who helped her achieve

Anchored by a huge, ornate Venetian mirror from Michael's family, the downstairs powder room exudes Hollywood glamour.

the exact shades she had in mind. Just off the bedroom is a tiny hallway turned into a vanity for Jennifer, and beyond that is the master bath, dramatically swathed in Calcutta marble. Above the double sink, Jennifer added a small window between the two medicine cabinets. The window frames a pine bough that sways in the breeze, creating a moving work of art. The "pop color" in the bathroom is orange.

Who—aside from an interior designer—uses phrases like "pop color"? Which leads to another question that sometimes arises in the life of a San Francisco family: After a smashingly successful renovation, is it time for the mistress of the house to set up an interior design firm, sharing her newfound Rolodex of resources and her finely honed vision with the style-challenged of the city? In this case, the answer might be yes—stay tuned. ■



Picking up the deep reds in her favorite vintage poster, Jennifer accessorized her desk area with a bright red chair, desk file and various objects.