

# CALIFORNIA HOMES

THE MAGAZINE OF ARCHITECTURE  
THE ARTS & DISTINCTIVE DESIGN

## *Counter* Culture

**KITCHENS  
OUTDOOR LIVING  
WELL CRAFTED DESKS**

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*Combining*

Traditional

*with*

Modern

DESIGNER KELLY HOHLA CREATES A SPLENDID  
UNION OF TWO AESTHETICS

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**F**OR INTERIOR DESIGNER KELLY HOHLA, the opportunity to create the interiors of a custom-built Peninsula house represented something of a homecoming. She had previously worked with the clients on their San Francisco home as well as a vacation property and knew their style.

Hohla, principal of San Francisco-based Kelly Hohla Interiors, collaborated with Richard Beard, principal of Richard Beard Architects, also in San Francisco, and contractor Peninsula Custom Homes of San Carlos to create this primary residence that at once reflects the modern spirit of the owners, while seamlessly incorporating some important antique pieces brought from their previous home.

"There was a good trust there," said Hohla. "We knew it was going to be a contemporary house. They are a young family with three small children, and there is a simplicity to many of

the elements of the house. We didn't want the antiques to feel too heavy."

The approximately 14,000 square foot three-level home was built from the ground up and took about two and a half years to complete. Beard conceived of the house as an "assembly of smaller buildings joined together in a casual composition, rendered in a contemporary European style.

"Traditional proportions and detailing are used throughout, and there is a relaxed elegance that is definitely derived from the setting - the way the house captures the vistas, courtyard views, and gardens," he said. "It's designed to be pleasant whether you're sitting in one place, or moving around in and through the compound. The spaces one encounters range from very public, to quite private, and everything in-between, but there's always something pleasant for your eye to rest on."

Hohla said it was important that the property be as child-friendly as possible, while still allowing for the parents to



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entertain. A playroom/study space for the children is done in pretty shades of green and blue. In a bedroom, bunk beds are outfitted in lively white and orange. And outside, the family ensured that there was plenty of flat, green space that the children could run through.

"The family loves color," said Hohla. "In their previous home, we did a lot of blues. I like to joke that blue is almost neutral in design. There aren't many people who don't like it. And we wanted to bring in some purple, lavender, teal, and aqua."

Kelly worked on the interiors with her colleague, designer Alana Dorn, who said the overall objective "was to make the spaces feel elevated, inviting and approachable. Everything needed to be beautiful, of course, but still comfortable enough for this young family to spread out and have fun."

Hohla said it was important to ensure that some of her clients' beloved antiques - including a rococo console and a gilded-framed mirror - blended in with the contemporary, light-filled aesthetic.

"We split up the antiques, so there wasn't everything in one space," she said. "There's just a sprinkling of things here and there." Hohla and Dorn said they selected contemporary furniture that worked well with the antiques, including pieces from Holly Hunt and BDDW.

In addition to the main house, Beard and his team created a pool and pool house, striving to make those areas feel "like they were in their own realm."

"We were able to carve out a corner and create a landscape transition that makes them feel a world apart in a way, but still handy," said Beard. "It's really pretty terrific - from the main house, you hardly know they're there. But in fact, it's a generous and handsome space, with a character of its own." ❧



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-ARCHITECT RICHARD BEARD

