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A Perfect World

The Teams Of Interior Designer Barbara Scavullo
and Architect Karin Payson Create An
Architecturally Significant Home In Atherton

TEXT BY WENDY ABRAMS PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW MILLMAN



OPPOSITE The entrance way leads into the library. ABOVE In the family room the floor covering is a Tiger Jasper rug from Stark Carpet. The Coach Bleeker leather chair is from Baker Knapp & Tubbs in a mahogany color. Fabric is pebbled leather. The L-shaped sectional is from A. Rudin and the fabric is Naples Chenille from Henry Calvin. The dining table is from Conde House and the dining chairs are existing from client.





OPPOSITE The stairwell leads to a surprise window box at the end of the hall with mahogany framed windows looking out to the garden. ABOVE In the dining room is a Biedermeier dining table with diagonally banded legs from Iliad Antik. The chairs are custom Michael Berman Holiday Dining Chairs from DeSousa Hughes. On the floor is a Tibetan 100-knot area rug from Alexander's Decorative Rugs. The Bridle Hanging Light is from the Holly Hunt Collection and Gulassa Resin Sconce from Sloan Miyasato.

In a perfect world, a home is an extension of the owner's personality. It is a story that unfolds and embodies the style and regional sensibility of the creator. When Barbara Scavullo began working with an Atherton couple to build their West Coast family home, an homage to the Craftsman vernacular, she took into account where the family came from and how important creating a sense of history and permanence was to them.

"My clients were from the East Coast and that predicated the overall influence of how I approached the architectural details and design," Scavullo says. "They wanted a home that elicited the traditional and stable aura of a historic home with twenty first century irreverence. General contractor Ryan Associates suggested Scavullo work with them to design and articulate the essence of the home. They had worked together in the past and knew she could deliver in a timely and innovative way. Part of the East Coast influence in the home is in the details or "sound spaces." Not every element of the home has to be accounted for. There are little surprise spaces such as a window box at the end of a hall with mahogany framed windows looking out to the garden, or a screened wall hiding a private entrance to a powder room



which is private and elusive allowing dimension and mystery. Scavullo's reputation as both designer and interior architectural professional led her to the project with architect Karin Payson. Her talent becomes the building block for encouraging clients to make courageous and individual decisions leading to some of her most powerful work, giving her a diverse and fresh approach to continually redefine architectural and interior design.

"I don't bring in the history from another project when working with clients. I take a lot of time framing conversations and going through the journey," she says. The designer and her lead team members, Arnelle Kase and Steve Justich, took two years to complete the project. "This project was satisfying for all of us," Scavullo says. "It was a very interactive exchange. We met every two weeks for a two year period and we were all inspired and focused." Scavullo's reputation for making decisions ahead of the contractors, and getting clients on the same page way before, is one of her secret weapons. "All of the decisions we made regarding the design were done fifteen months in advance of the ordering process." The interior design concept was about creating

ABOVE The client's existing piano was refinished in mahogany by The Music Szalon. The piano bench was reupholstered by Fabrications for Interior. The Fabric is Hocus Pocus 05 Persimmon from Donghia. The custom designed oval ottoman base is by Jefferson Mack and the cushion by Tom Sutter. Fabric on the cushion is Rapture Persimmon from Jim Thompson at Shears & Window. The floor covering is a custom Tibetan rug from Aga John. The cardinal hat pendant is from Lugen Design Associates and is an antique glass white. The Presidio double sconce is from Boyd Lighting. OPPOSITE The hallway reflects the owner's taste for soaring ceilings and impeccable attention to detail with hardwoods and open space.







ABOVE The master bedroom features a Kerry Joyce Barley four poster bed from Dessin Fournir. Sabrina bedside tables are from Randolph and Hein. The ottoman is from Sutter Furniture with fabric, Abracadabra from Donghia. The Tibetan hand knotted area rug is from Stark Carpet. The bedcover is from Fabrications for Interiors, with Fabric by Brunswick & Fils. The lighting in the bedroom features Vintage Barovier glass table lamps with shades from Modern One.

sophisticated family friendly spaces by using the same palette of materials, architectural details and furnishings continuing throughout the house, slightly adapted to fit the function of each room. The furnishings express the diversity of the couple's tastes, ranging from European antiques and sleek Asian minimalism to contemporary and classic with soaring ceilings, oversized windows, impeccable attention to detail with hardwoods and open space with unexpected corners and entries that surprise and engage.

"This house was framed and developed from many conversations and the vision of a couple with a wide set of ideas and experience," Scavullo says. "The interior and exterior are a direct result of a collective vocabulary, and collaboration between the owners and the teams of Karin Payson's and mine." In the end they wanted an architecturally significant home allowing their four children to grow and thrive while encouraging an indoor/outdoor lifestyle the whole family can enjoy.

"The owners had lived in California for eight years and were not sure if they were going to stay," Scavullo says. "After the home was complete, they decided this was their's in every sense of the word." 