

# CALIFORNIA HOMES

The Magazine of Architecture  
The Arts & Distinctive Design

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**DESIGN**  
*San Francisco*









A *design house is much like a theater production:* a massive, creative collaboration that serves to entertain, amuse and illicit a reaction from the public. "I thought we needed to do something unique," says John Finton of Finton Construction, one of Southern California's leading builders,

who, with his partners Michael Reeves and Daniel Tontini and project manager Gregory Hawkins, reached out to CALIFORNIA HOMES magazine to put this play in Shady Canyon, California, together.

They proceeded in casting the project by bringing architect John Henderson and his associate Cris Adams of Spectrum Architecture on board, who over the last twenty years have completed multitudes of projects, and interior designer James Magni of Magni Design, one of Architectural Digest's Top 100 designers, who served as creative director. Together they all developed a storyline "drawing on Wallace Neff and the 1920s and 1930s Golden Age of California architecture," says Henderson, "which is defined by massive white plaster walls, hand laid tile roofs and detailed elegant ironwork."

In turn, Henderson called on Mike Sullivan of Site Design Studio to assist in the landscaping. "We wanted the site to connect to the adjacent natural California environment," says Sullivan, "in such a way that there is an easy transition inside and out, both aesthetically and functionally." The casting continued as CALIFORNIA HOMES partnered with The Philharmonic Society of Orange County to which all proceeds would go.

"We took a more European approach," says Magni, "where older buildings have been restored to clean, more contemporary interiors, especially in their kitchens and baths. With Susan McFadden, Editor in Chief of CALIFORNIA HOMES, it was our job to find the best interior designers in Los Angeles and Orange Counties whose work could adhere to and deliver the aesthetic we were looking for."

Sixteen top interior designers including Timothy Corrigan, Peter Dunham, Michael Berman, David Phoenix, Hal Swanson and Dan Ollis, Melissa Palazzo, Laurie Haefele, Ohara Davies-Gaetano, Sheldon Harte, John W. Benecke, Randy Boyd, Nancy Ellen Fay, Stephen Stein, Anna Shay, Susan Wesley, Oliver M. Furth and James Magni completed the cast. As in any production, hundreds of other hands helped to complete the show such as Joseph Sage of Phoenician Stone, who supplied all the ancient stone throughout, RoomScapes, which designed the outdoor kitchen area, Exquisite Surfaces and Summit Flooring, which provided flooring throughout, Kaplan Lighting, which was responsible for the electrical, Lantern Masters, which supplied all outdoor lighting, B & C Custom Hardware and Bath, which furnished door, kitchen and bathroom hardware and Audio Images, which concentrated on the technological aspects of the design house.

Each and every participant's combined efforts are evident in the next twenty four pages of photography showcasing Casa California—a design house that evokes the glamour and sophistication of the Wallace Neff period with a nod to timelessness and a contemporary sensibility. □

#### **DINING ROOM: DAVID PHOENIX**

"For the dining room we created a warm and inviting, Tuscan inspired environment," says designer David Phoenix, "perfect for family dinners that linger far after the meal is done." A Paul Ferrante chandelier is suspended above a dining table from Ralf's Antiques, which is surrounded by Rose Tarlow Chippendale dining chairs. Flanking the seating area are a Tuscan sideboard table from Navona Antiques and a Tuscan console from Richard Shapiro. "I wanted to combine the feel of a family room with the dining experience," explains Phoenix who unified the room with a Stark area rug. Paul Ferrante sconces help to illuminate the space, while a sunburst mirror from Therien adds a striking accent. Planters by Inner Gardens. David Phoenix, Inc.; [www.davidphoenix.com](http://www.davidphoenix.com)