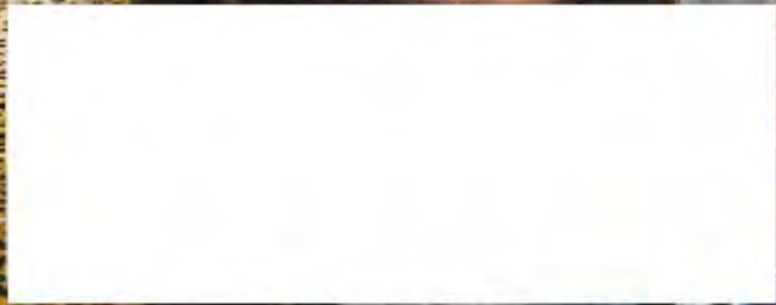


# 805

# LIVING



HOME  
+ GARDEN





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### GOOD VIBRATIONS

A match of design, setting, imagination, and artanship infuse a hillside house with energy.

*By Joan Tapper*

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### THE POWER OF RESTRAINT

Reimagining a California cottage with a light, airy touch.

*By Joan Tapper*

*Photographs by Jim Bartsch*





# Upgrades



*Heron's View*, 1980, paper and cloth, Mary Heebner, Collection Santa Barbara Museum of Art



**CAROLINE THOMPSON** and **STEVE THOMPSON**, of Cabana Home in Santa Barbara, were inspired by Mary Heebner's *Heron's View* to create an outdoor living space that reflected the organic quality of her paper-and-cloth collage.

"I love the color," says Caroline. "It so represents the outdoors and all the different elements in nature. It made me think of using different textiles and textures."

"This piece is from one of my favorite series by Mary," adds Steve. "It evokes where we live; it gives me an ocean view."

Their ideas came together in a design for an alfresco seating and dining area that includes a pair of upholstered chaise longues, dining chairs in a weathered gray-and-white weave, and a dining table with a white concrete base and an oval matte-glass top that's lacquered underneath in a smoky taupe color.

"Art can give you color direction and shape direction and can denote material," says Caroline. "It doesn't have to match the furnishings, just complement it. The most important thing is you must be passionate about it."



Currey & Company "Pagoda Hexagonal" stool



Lee Industries "Bora Bora" outdoor armless chaise

Perennials fabrics: (left to right) "Back on Track Bluestone," "Ishi Bluestone," "Plushy Deep End," and "Etched Tin"



Bontempi Casa "Podium" table



Studio A Home "Goa" cocktail table



Studio A Home "Lithos" vase



Janus et Cie "Katachi" armchair



Samuel & Sons "Cabana" tassel fringe



Holland & Sherry "Larkspur" indoor-outdoor rug



Currey & Company "Oyster Shell" birdbath

In the sunset's mellow glow, a stone patio and a formal reflecting pool provide a focus for entertaining outdoors.



THE COTTAGE THAT Lee Kirch bought in Montecito had many of the elements she wanted. It wasn't too big. It had only one story, and it was conveniently close to the village. All it would take, thought the longtime jewelry designer, was a simple remodel to give it some charm. As so often happens, however, it turned out that some structural elements were not up to code, and in order to brighten the kitchen and add a feeling of lightness and air throughout the home, the job turned into a gut renovation.

Kirch wasn't daunted. She had redone more than half a dozen houses over the years in Colorado and Montecito and sold the properties, some complete with furnishings. "I only kept my books and my art," she says. In this case she worked with owner and founding partner of Santa Barbara's Mosaic Architects ([mosaicarchitects.com](http://mosaicarchitects.com)) Jane Snyder and general contractors Giffin & Crane ([giffinandcrane.com](http://giffinandcrane.com)) to infuse the house with her own style and the California penchant for bringing a feeling of the outdoors inside.

Kirch kept the footprint and the limited number of rooms—two bedrooms and two and a half baths—but she changed all the door and window openings and bumped out the kitchen and the master bath, bringing the interior space to about 2,300 square feet. The living room already had a beamed ceiling, but she turned a large dated bay window into a squared-off window seat and changed the dark wood floors to wide-plank bleached oak.

She also had a new palette and aesthetic in mind. "All the houses I've done were French country style," she says, "in warm tones of

beige, cream, ivory, and yellow. I was tired of that. I wanted this to be cleaner and less fussy, with more of a Gustavian Swedish feel. I found pieces at Montecito's William Laman and Country House Antiques." A trip to Santa Barbara Stone turned up a beautifully veined piece of black marble that was perfect for the powder room.

For the living room furnishings, she had seating custom made in Los Angeles and covered in antique linen. Only a cherished coffee table, with its aged marble top, harks back to her earlier French country décor.

The same neutral color scheme prevails in the dining room, where an antique secretary dominates one wall. In the master bedroom a green Swedish dresser provides a pop of color. The iron four-poster bed in that room was also custom made, in Texas, Kirch notes.

The kitchen underwent the most dramatic transformation. "We vaulted the ceiling," says Snyder, "and added tall windows, a dormer facing the mountains, a fireplace, and a cupola over the island to flood the room with light. For the counters and island, Kirch chose a gray soapstone but left it unsealed to preserve the soft hue.

Kirch "landscaped the property as an extension of the interior," says Snyder, creating a garden that's all green with just a bit of white. It takes a person who's very restrained to do that." The greenery looks good all year long and provides a backdrop for entertaining, particularly in summer when guests move easily from the kitchen to the patio.

There's no question about Kirch's favorite spot: "I pretty much live in the kitchen," she says. "It's a very comfortable house." ♦