

Marin Home

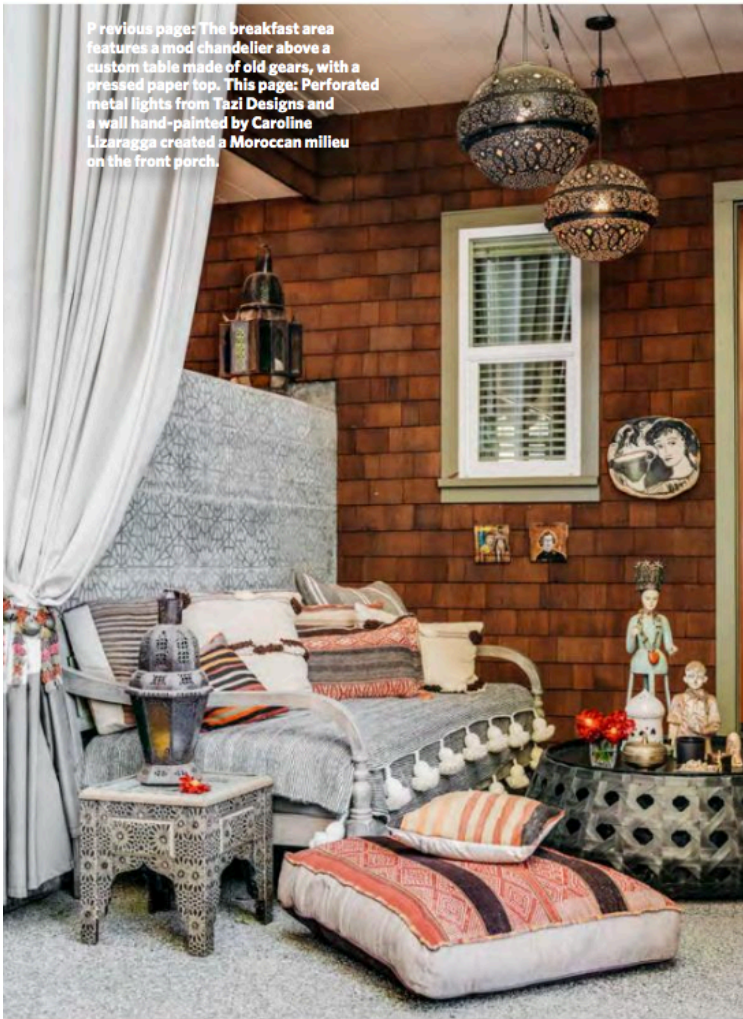
FROM TOURS AND MAKEOVERS TO DECORATIVE DETAILS AND REALTOR INSIGHTS

ARTISTIC OASIS

A creative homeowner's rotating collection of art inspired the years-long, room-by-room design of her dwelling on a Mill Valley hillside.»

BY TATE GUNNERSON
PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER STARK

From previous page: The breakfast area features a mod chandelier above a custom table made of old gears, with a pressed paper top. This page: Perforated metal lights from Tazi Designs and a wall hand-painted by Caroline Lizarraga created a Moroccan milieu on the front porch.



was doing it for me.”

Instead, the two viewed it as a collaboration. And that led to friendship. Early on, the pair took a hiking trip to Peru, where they bought textiles that covered the pillows on the back porch. There, a hand-painted Moroccan motif transformed a once-bland concrete wall. “This area begged for cozy seating,” Kopman says. Perforated metal globes reinforced the international ambiance.

Things took a more luxurious turn inside, where the formerly reddish cherry-wood floors were stained ebony, juxtaposing white walls. The yin-and-yang palette flowed into the kitchen, where black granite counters played off e-faced white cabinet doors and a marble herringbone backsplash.

In the breakfast area, a custom table made of old industrial gears, with a thick top made of recycled paper, acted as a rough foil to a sleek, contemporary banquette. Hanging above was a refined modern light fixture by David Weeks Studio. “This house was whimsical,” Kopman says, pointing to the mix of antiques, artwork and contemporary furniture.

A sense of elegance carried through the whole house. In the master bedroom, a wall-to-wall carpet from Stark and a textural wallcovering by Phillip Jeffries created a cozy backdrop for a custom winged headboard, which was flanked by bedside tables by Scala Luxury. When the client didn’t love the vintage Venini chandelier Kopman selected, the designer paired it with a shade to create a custom look that wowed them both.

Lighting also played an important role in the office, where teardrop-shaped pendant lights by Apparatus bounced light off the ceiling’s graphic wallcovering by Lindsay Cowles, and the hand-painted window shades by Carolyn Ray. “The lighting had to live up to the artwork,” Kopman explains, noting that there was a constant dialogue between art and decor during the design process.

Art is like air for a Mill Valley single mother and budding glass artist, who has served as a docent at the di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art in Napa. She’s also worked in a variety of roles at Burning Man and has attended the desert festival 13 times. “There’s really nothing like riding your bike around and looking at incredible, monumental art,” she explains. “Art nourishes my soul.”

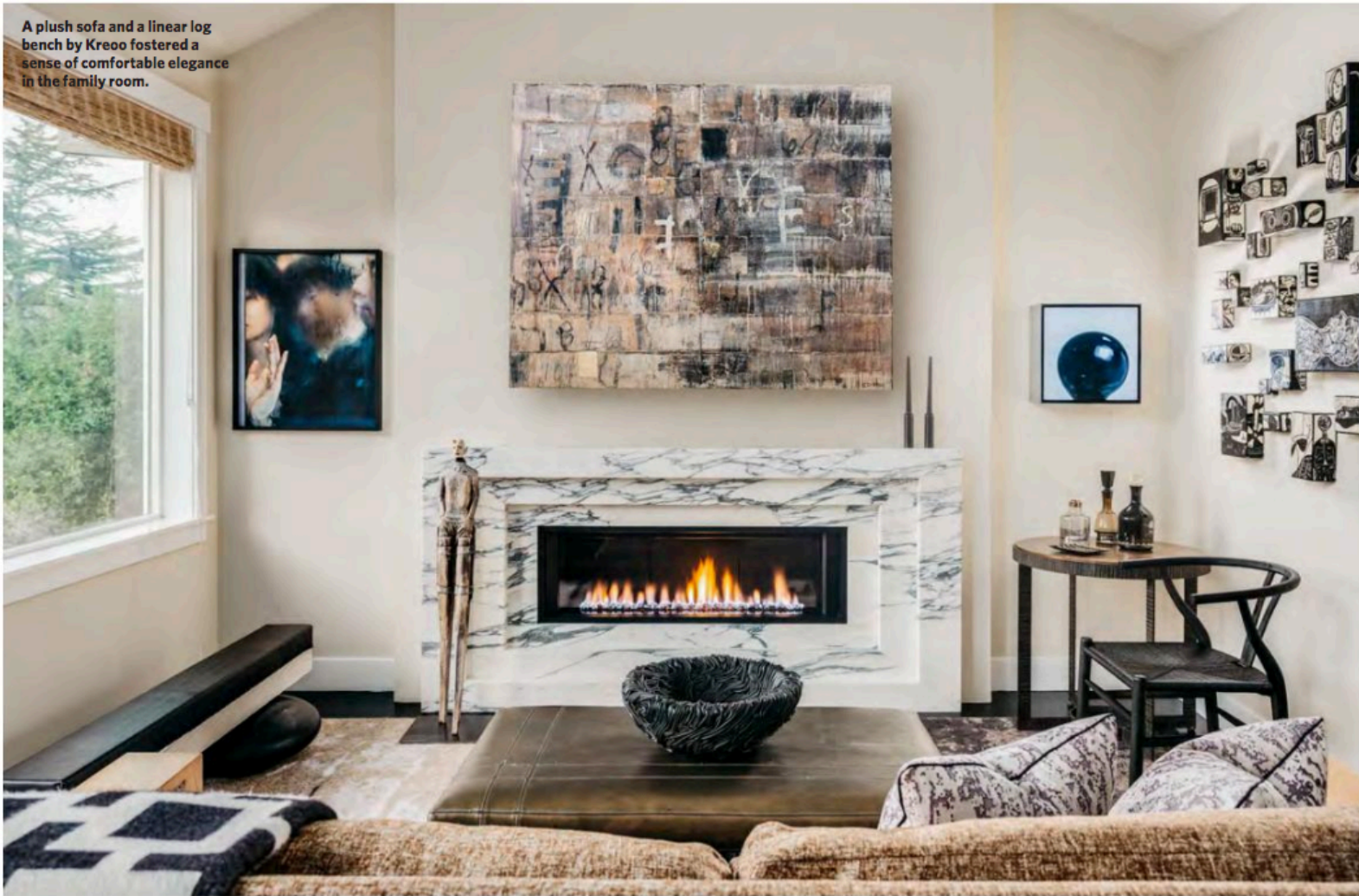
That passion is deeply reflected in her shingle-style, four-level Mill Valley home overlooking Mount Tam. It’s filled with pieces she’s collected over the years. That collection inspired interior designer Holly A. Kopman as she worked on the space over the course of a decade.

The homeowner and the designer were acquaintances when they bumped into each other in the grocery store. That chance encounter led to a consultation about window treatments, and then, an overhaul of the entire house, room by room. “I wanted to create a beautiful space, but I needed things to evolve organically, as an expression of creativity,” the homeowner says. “I didn’t want to feel like someone



A brass fireplace screen complemented the black tile by Heath Ceramics on the protruding fireplace wall in the formal living room. The chairs were by Jium Ho and the sofa was by Holly Hunt.

A plush sofa and a linear log bench by Kreoo fostered a sense of comfortable elegance in the family room.

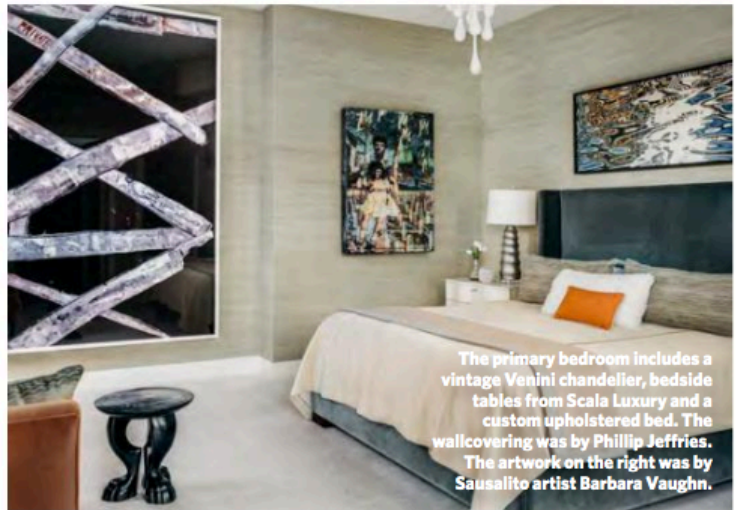


The gallery-like front stairway was filled with pieces the client collected over the years. A piece that spells out the word “love” in large red letters by artist Laura Kimpton made an uplifting statement near the bocci ball court. “The client kept moving and adding to the artwork, so the house was always changing,” Kopman says.

After many years, the project was finally completed, and the homeowner was overjoyed. Reinvigorated by her living space, she found herself spending more and more time in her garage studio, where she and her adult son made colorful, kiln-formed glass pendants, which they placed in the bark of redwood trees on a nearby hiking path.

“We loved that hikers may have felt a sense of surprise and delight upon discovering the pendants,” she explains. “Maybe we were making the enchanted forest a little more so.”

Tate Gunnerson is a freelance journalist who has written for numerous publications, including *Architectural Digest*. He is a passionate supporter of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.



The primary bedroom includes a vintage Venini chandelier, bedside tables from Scala Luxury and a custom upholstered bed. The wallcovering was by Phillip Jeffries. The artwork on the right was by Sausalito artist Barbara Vaughn.

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