



CHARLES SCHNEIDER

the massive, carved entry doors were actually brought from Spain, most of the decorative detailing in the house was re-created in San Diego from photographs Requa brought back from his trips to Europe. The basic structure of the Castle consists of two-foot-thick, cement-filled block walls, an original building form that Requa patented in 1918. The roof structure is wood and tile, and the floors are magnesite, a colored cement composition with inlaid, decorative shapes. Also characteristic of Requa's design are the hoods over the fireplaces and the ornamental use inside of wrought iron.

Five families have owned the Castle since it was built, but it has endured basically unchanged except for the kitchen. Stories and rumors about its past abound. It had the first telephone in Del Mar with a number—number 1, naturally—and during World War II, individual rooms apparently were rented out to aid in the critical housing shortage. The juicier rumors involving film stars and gambling raids are more difficult to substantiate, but they lend credence to the Castle's colorful image. Both historically and architecturally, the Del Mar Castle is a significant landmark in San Diego's heritage.

Ideas for today

Creating comfortable interiors for a castle is no mean undertaking. This year's Showcase designers, under the chairmanship of Carmel Repp, ASID, faced some common challenges: huge spaces which dwarf human scale, the visual and physical coldness of the masonry and magnesite, and the strong, dominant architecture itself. Added to the architectural realities were the preferences of the Shaperys, who favor contemporary furnishings. Though the designers are granted creative freedom, some did choose to keep the owners' tastes in mind as