

## SHOWCASE

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She mirrored two walls, added an exercise bar, and put the fitness equipment in the center of the room.

Carmel refinished the wood floors in a light natural tone and urethaned them to withstand pounding and pool water. An area carpet in the center of the room permits a choice of flooring surfaces for varying kinds of exercise and dance. The soothing color scheme and art she has chosen makes the prospect of vigorous exercise downright appealing.

### 15. POOL AREA

The pool area is dominated by the relatively recent addition of a swimming pool of Moorish design with tile trim and a central fountain. Ailine Millar, ASID, set out to create an environment in the surrounding area which would give life to the strong pool design and divert attention from an existing elevation problem created by a neighboring residence. She solved these problems with a variety of plantings which add color, texture, and scale, and by adding a romantic pavilion which complements the pool and lends an air of recreation reminiscent of Renaissance games with its banners and awnings. The pavilion provides a shaded area for those who are unable to sit directly in the sun and houses a portable outdoor bar. Ailine added a few pieces of outdoor furniture, with clean, simple lines in light colors, to balance the environment.

### 16. CANYON TERRACE

Making the most of the Castle's dramatic east view, Marsha Sewell, ASID (Marsha Sewell & Associates), and Dolores Marquez, ASLA (RDI & Associates), chose to make this terrace a formal entertainment area that services the rooms which enter out onto it: the Great Hall, the dining room, and the conservatory. Marsha and Dolores designed the new paving and relocated plantings to create grander, more attractive entrances into the Castle. Marsha's selection of overscaled outdoor furnishings was intended to complement the scale of the Great Hall. All made of natural materials (bamboo, rawhide, stone, and natural canvas) in colors from nature, these furnishings reflect Marsha's use of informal materials in an elegant and formal way. Primitive, overscaled, Mediterranean-style sculpture and outdoor lighting give dramatic focus to the terrace as a sculpture garden by night.

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### 17. DINING ROOM

Robert Tuggey, ASID (Tuggey Design Associates), wanted the dining room to make a strong statement. As he says: "My objective was a feeling of opulence without formality or stiffness, the elegance of contemporary furnishings incorporated into a traditional room." He also decided to make the dining room as functionally flexible a space as he could for the young professional couple who would be using it.

Robert began by removing the existing 14-foot monastery table (slightly intimidating for dinner for two). He then painted the room a lighter, mushroom taupe, a color repeated in the room's marble flooring. Robert felt the low beam-and-vault ceiling gave the room a heavy, claustrophobic feeling, so he mirrored the sides of the beams and added *faux* malachite on the bottoms to raise and brighten the ceiling. To accentuate the lovely terrace views and let in more light, Robert decided against window coverings, instead using padded fabric panels that soften the walls on either side of the French doors.

Two furniture groupings make the room most functional for a variety of dining experiences. A striking glass-and-bronze dining table with black-lacquer chairs are for formal entertaining; and the soft, wrapped table for two located by the window is for more intimate dining. The addition of an elegant sideboard makes this a space ideal for buffets and cocktails as well. Throughout the room, Robert's use of art is an important element in achieving an opulent look.

### 18. DINING ROOM TERRACE

The only terrace with a western view of the ocean, this space off the dining room was put to maximum good use with a design by Donna Dowell, Associate ASID (Bullock's-Mission Valley), and Gregory Nowell, ASLA (The Reynolds Group). Donna and Gregory viewed this terrace as a comfortable retreat for light dining or lounging—not necessarily an informal space, but a relaxing one, the perfect spot to enjoy a sunset.

Donna added the table and chairs to one end of the newly paved terrace for outside dining or cocktail service. At the other end, Donna and Gregory designed the raised, cushioned lounging area within the existing curved wall to form a natural divider between

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the lounge and eating area. This retreat beckons even at night, when the recessed lighting under the platform is visible and a small fountain provides soothing background sounds.

### 19. KITCHEN/PANTRY

The Castle kitchen and pantry had some obvious problems before it was transformed by Eileen Bickel-Thomas, ASID (EM Interiors West). Not only was it huge and echoing, but heavy beams, brick walls, and dark cabinetry and floors all contributed to its gloomy atmosphere. The windows were much too small to do credit to the fantastic surrounding views, and the traffic patterns were notably inefficient. Eileen's aim was to contemporize and lighten the kitchen without losing its castlelike identity. Still, she retained as much of the original kitchen as possible.

Eileen improved traffic problems by opening up an original doorway from the wine room into the dining room, and by adding an octagonal island with two cook tops in the kitchen's center. This island addition freed up a niche previously used for a large commercial stove. By uncovering an original, plastered-over window in this niche, Eileen was able to create a well-lighted sitting area, upholstered to diminish sound. She also added bay windows over the sinks for better views and light emission. Other devices used to brighten the kitchen involved bleaching the floors, covering the brick walls with a thin plaster mud in a light mushroom tone, and adding an airy gazebo structure to the ceiling to conceal a low-voltage lighting system. Existing cabinets have a new look, thanks to a relatively simple face lift. New tile covers the countertops. The end result? An appealing transformation on a limited budget.

### 20. LOUNGE/BREAKFAST AREA

Adjacent and open to the kitchen, the lounge and breakfast area design by Kay Hines-Geiserman, ASID (Del Mar Design Store), required some coordination with the kitchen—hence, the same bleached floors and thinly plastered brick walls. Beyond this, Kay moved in her own direction, choosing to create a sophisticated, rather than casual, eating area. In Kay's opinion, the space was too cold, and she set out to warm it up with color and texture, keep the scale light, enlarge the space visually with mirrors, and generally to make the room more livable.

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