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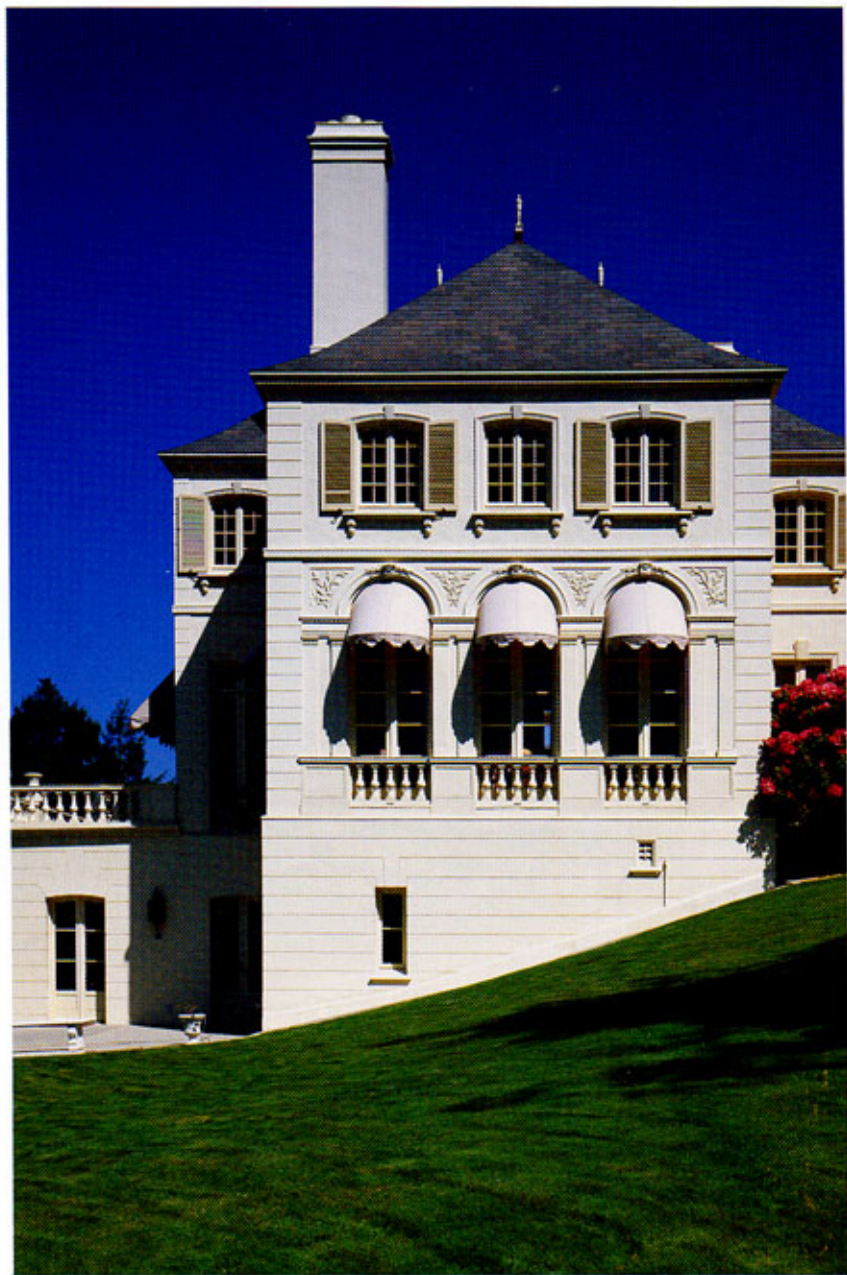


About face

"There is more cause to remodel in contrasting styles these days, but some are not willing to take the risk. However, if you do it and do it right, you won't sacrifice your resale value."

Dan Phipps, architect, Dan Phipps Architects





French flair

Architect Dan Phipps brings together traditional and contemporary lines in this 1929 French Revival home

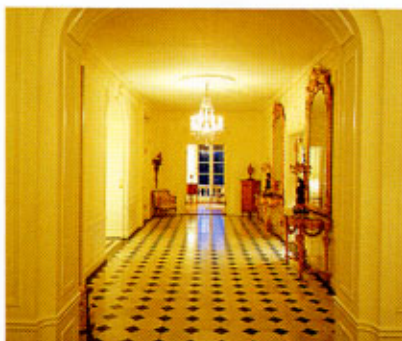
Historic homes are very sought-after. Not only do they represent a piece of the past, they are often spacious – ideal for family life and entertaining. However, these residences require a lot of maintenance and often need modifications to suit modern living.

Such was the case with the 1929 French Revival home shown here, which was originally designed by Albert Farr, a Californian architect well known for his work in replicating older-style homes. Although a lot bigger than normal, this is



a classic example of his work. Replicating the French Revival style throughout – from large balconies to interior detailing – the house was built exactly to the architect's specifications, uncommon in such a large and ornate home.

Architect Dan Phipps was recently asked to do some remodelling. While the owners wanted to keep Farr's style intact, they also liked Phipps' modern, clean-lined approach. The result is a complementary combination of the two styles, with the most striking contrast appearing in the



Facing page: Designed in the 1920s, this French Revival home is one of architect Albert Farr's trophy homes. His designs – replicating historical styles and buildings – were normally about 3000sq ft in size, however this, like only a handful of others in the California area, is 15,000sq ft.

Above: Architect Dan Phipps recently remodelled the home. This included restoring original features and modernizing more commonly used areas.

Left: The entry foyer measures 12ft by 48ft and has marble floors and wood wall panelling.



Above: Off the foyer is a sun room and parlor. The furniture was chosen especially for the spaces by the owners. Rooms on the ground level open to a terrace which runs the length of the house.

Right: Furniture in the formal living and dining rooms is a mixture of French Modern, Art Deco and some antique. The Chevalier sofas were purchased in Hong Kong and shipped from Italy to the United States.

contemporary kitchen and living areas.

Phipps says the remodelling of the house was like the French Revolution, because the new living area contrasts so strongly.

"It's like a stainless steel sword trying to take control of the masses," he says.

The home has four levels and includes a large entry hall, formal living and dining, parlor, breakfast room, ballroom, five bedrooms and eight bathrooms. Rooms on the ground floor that were originally servants' quarters were turned into a private







Above: The large dining room table is a favorite of the owners. It was custom made with a lazy Susan for Asian cuisine. The side table is an antique Art Deco from Chevalier.

Facing page top and above: The informal kitchen, living and dining area was created in what used to be the maid's quarters. The bedroom on the mezzanine level – now where the staircase landing is – was removed to create a grand, double-height space. This area was designed to be a contemporary space, in contrast to the rest of the home.

Right: The kitchen adjoins the formal dining area.



suite of three rooms (including bathroom and kitchen) and existing attic space was cleared out to provide extra storage and a private living room.

These parts of the house are furnished with a collection of French Modern, Art Deco and antique furniture either bought or custom-designed for the home.

As far as the restoration work was concerned, Phipps says most of it related to catching up on "deferred maintenance". The slate roof was replaced, walls and siding repainted, awnings and shutters



replaced, gutters and flashings made in copper and gilding replaced on interior architectural detailing. The white oak floors were generally in good condition, so were retained. However, the ballroom's parquet floors were replaced and the bathrooms stripped out.

"My attitude towards the furnishings was to open up all the doors and windows, let a tornado through and whatever was tied down would stay. Everything else – most of which did not fit into the context of the original drawings – was lost," he says.

The maid's quarters at the eastern end of the home were gutted and became a double-height, contemporary kitchen, dining and living space.

Phipps describes the style of this area as "architecture with a capital A".

"This is because of its soaring, double-story height and its structural staircase which allows you to be seen moving in and out of the space, something most staircases do not," Phipps says.

The contemporary kitchen features maple cabinetry, concrete and stainless

steel surfaces and a link outdoors to a well-established rose garden. Alongside is a dining area – with a concrete-topped table on wheels – and informal sitting area.

"It wasn't designed to complement the rest of the house, but strongly contrast it. It was meant to take the covers off and shake away all the frilly stuff and let you relax."

The architect describes the effect of this room compared to the rest of the house to being in the Land of Oz.

"You start in black and white and end up in Technicolor. That works both



Top and above: The master suite has neutral tones and minimal furnishings for a relaxing, spacious feel. The master bath was created by combining a bath and bedroom, and a former bedroom was turned into the dressing room/closet.

Above right: "The limestone used in the master bath complements any style and especially works well alongside the traditional tones and materials. The strong lines give the suite a relaxing, uncluttered ambience," the architect says.

ways depending on whether you like contemporary or Revival," Phipps says.

The master suite is one of only a few rooms which sits between the two styles. Although its detailing was maintained, complementary modern materials were introduced.

For example, the enlarged bathroom has limestone walls, floors and surfaces and the bedroom features veneers and soft neutral tones.

"Two bathrooms have kept an older style. One has a lot of original details

including the tub and dormer window above a pedestal sink. We didn't push the modernism too far, as we wanted to keep that traditional feel in parts," Phipps says.

"Whatever way you look at it, combining styles is a fresh and fantastic concept. There is more cause to remodel like this these days but some are not willing to risk the resale value of the home. However, if you do and do it right, you will keep – and increase – your real estate value."



Architect: Dan Phipps Architects (San Francisco)

Contractor: Stroub Construction

Roof: Slate

Living room sofas: Chevalier

Formal dining table: Custom made

Living room side tables: Antique Art Deco from Chevalier, and Ralph Lauren

Kitchen cabinetry: Designed by Dan Phipps Architects, built and installed by Detail A Woodworking

Structural engineer: Ron Morris, Morris Engineering

Kitchen cabinets: Maple, plain sliced with clear coat
Counters, backsplash and column siding: Brushed stainless steel

Island countertop: Integral color concrete by Buddy

Rhodes Studio

Kitchen floors: Concrete, custom colored by Bay Area Concretes

Kitchen stairs: Brushed stainless steel with maple treads and balustrade by Point Builders

Wall and ceiling paints: Buttermilk from Benjamin Moore

Windows: Sebastapol Windows

Range: Wolf

Microwave oven: KitchenAid

Refrigerator: Sub-Zero

Dishwasher: Gaggenau

Sinks and faucets: Franke

Cable lights: Translite Systems

Wall sconces: Piperita by Flos

Kitchen table: Designed by Dan Phipps Architects, integral color concrete top by Buddy Rhodes Studio, stainless steel legs fabricated by Point Builders

Master bathroom sinks: Waterworks Savoy Oval

Master bath faucets: Astoria lavatory set in nickel

Bathtub: Waterworks Classic II

Bathtub faucets: Waterworks Handshower kit
Walls, floors and tub deck: Limestone slabs from Bedrosian's

Bed: Pearwood veneer

Bedroom paint: Cashmere from Benjamin Moore

Photography by Tim Maloney