

GOLDEN MEMORIES

BY STEFANIE K. LINGLE
INTERIOR DESIGN BY VILLA ASSOCIATES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHARON RISEDORPH



ON VALENTINE'S DAY 1994, ROSE AND EUGENE KLEINER'S BELOVED HOME IN LOS ALTOS HILLS BURNED TO THE GROUND. WHEREAS MOST COUPLES WOULD BE DEVASTATED BY THE LOSS, THE KLEINERS TURNED TRAGEDY INTO TRIUMPH, DECIDING TO REBUILD THE HOME IN WHICH THEY HAD RAISED THEIR CHILDREN.

Debra Walker of San Francisco's Villa Associates created a stunning custom front door with insets of frosted glass to complement the dramatic new entry to Rose and Eugene Kleiner's Los Altos home

opposite page: Rose and Eugene Kleiner at home in Los Altos. Rose runs a senior care management business from her home office while venture capitalist husband, Eugene, divides his time between his business office/study at home and company headquarters in Menlo Park.

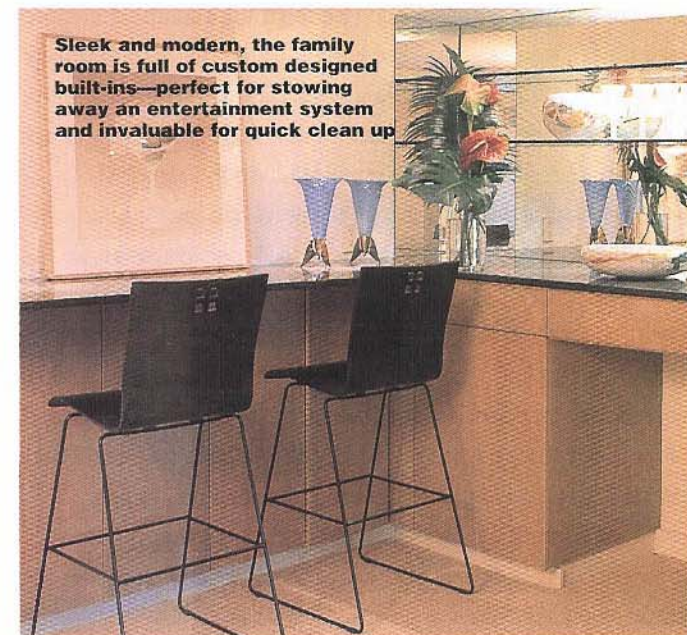
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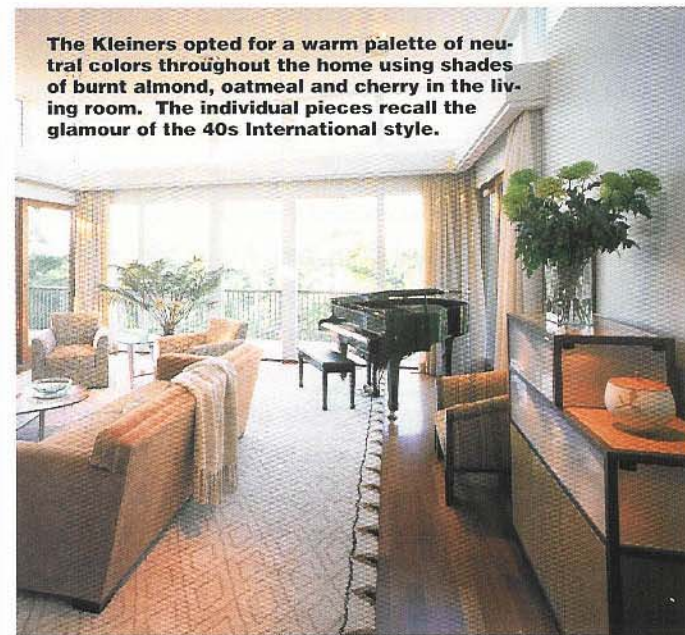
Clean, crisp colors were incorporated in the casual dining room. Designer Debra Walker chose a table and chairs with simple lines to highlight the room's architectural features.

It was a truly healing process to rebuild. So many people choose to just move following a fire, but after looking at house after house, we knew that nothing else would do," remembers Rose Kleiner. The couple enlisted the capable aid of their contractor son Robert to oversee the demanding project. "First we needed to recreate a blueprint of the original house for insurance purposes and with that blueprint we decided to improve the design and flow of the house so that it would fit the needs of my parents today," says Robert. Improve they have. Today the Kleiners' home perches gracefully

on a wooded hillside overlooking the sprawl of Stanford University and Silicon Valley, an appropriate view for the venture capitalist who has had a hand in the growth of hundreds, if not thousands, of the Valley's success stories. Indeed Eugene Kleiner, the 'K' of KP, or Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, is one of the men responsible for the high-tech industry as we know it. In contrast to the world of bits, bytes, fab plants and cyber jargon, the Kleiners' home is a peaceful oasis set among lush eucalyptus, pine and oak trees. The fire, thankfully, was contained to the former structure alone.



Sleek and modern, the family room is full of custom designed built-ins—perfect for stowing away an entertainment system and invaluable for quick clean up



The Kleiners opted for a warm palette of neutral colors throughout the home using shades of burnt almond, oatmeal and cherry in the living room. The individual pieces recall the glamour of the 40s International style.

Palo Alto architect, Bill Bocoock, added the spacious foyer to the design of the Kleiners' home. Soaring windows and a two-story ceiling make for a light and welcoming entry.

Floor to ceiling windows in the Kleiners' new abode take advantage of the tranquil setting, while a complementary blend of natural materials incorporates the serenity of the landscape within the house itself.

The original home was designed in 1961 by Robert Marquis of Marquis and Stoller, a well respected architectural firm in Palo Alto. The style was a combination of International and modern with an influence of California Arts & Crafts, but, as with many homes of the era, an emphasis on dark colors, dated earth tones and woods prevailed throughout the interior. As soon as the decision to rebuild was made, Robert Kleiner teamed up with San Francisco designer Debra Walker of Villa Associates. Walker helped guide the Kleiners through the process of recreating the feel of their former home with an updated, but classic look.

"My first meetings with the Kleiners helped me to understand their needs and sense of design. They both wanted a mix of comfort and elegance with a nod to their European heritage. We worked together on a warm palette of neutrals," says Walker. An exquisite light cherry floor was chosen to thread the rooms together and complement the hand-crafted cherry cabinets and built-ins that Walker incorporated throughout the house.

A lighter and brighter tack was taken for the overall design of the home—skylights incorporated where low ceilings had been, divided windows turned into long single columns of glass and a dramatic entryway added. "In the 60s, the trend moved towards very informal entries, the fussiness of grand foyers with great staircases was abandoned for straight forward functionality," says Walker, who worked with Robert Kleiner and architect Bill Bocock to create an exquisite soaring space as you step into the Kleiners' new home. "We incorporated limestone pavers in a soothing diamond pattern to play against the sharp angular lines of the new entry. Giant palms and spectacular lighting by Epifanio Juarez of Juarez Design in Palo Alto have a softening effect," states Walker.

The living room, which takes advantage of the Valley view from three sides, features a creamy custom hand-loomed carpet by Stark topped with two sleek sofas from Donghia covered in a burnt-almond-colored chenille. A brushed steel and Italian cherry wood coffee table from Limn and two taupe damask upholstered chairs complete the cozy, but sophisticated conversation area. Pale ivory linen drapes retract completely, so as not to obstruct the extraordinary

scene beyond. One of Rose's favorite features of the home is the music. "In every room I can turn on glorious sound," she says. A custom home audio system was installed throughout and the Yamaha grand piano in the living room is also CD capable.

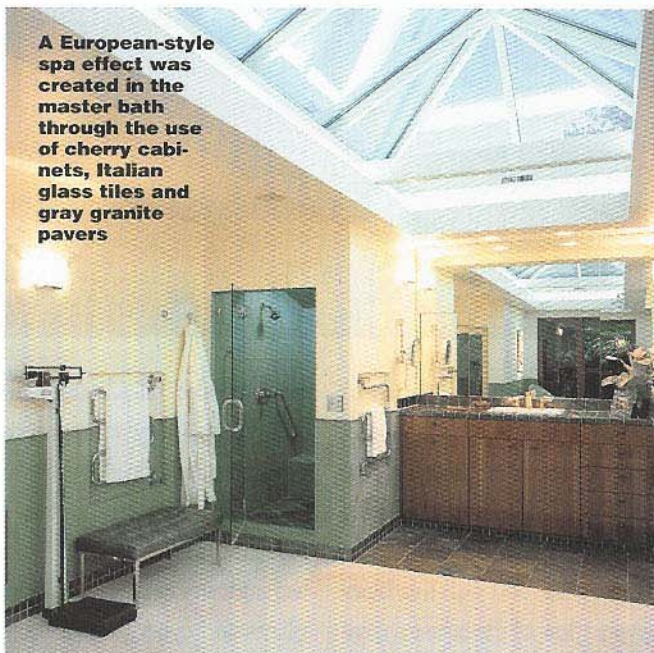
The informal dining room is particularly special to the Kleiners. "I try to make every dinner party casual just so I can use that room," claims Rose. Walker decided to minimize the furnishings since the space had maximum architectural effect. "The sky light and exquisite windows and window casings became the focal point of the room," relates the designer. Ivory walls and an oatmeal-colored carpet balance a marvelous sandblasted glass table from Roche Bobois and Donghia's distinctive Block Island woven rush chairs. A lone oil painting by San Francisco artist Mark Stock from the Modernism Gallery adds color. And pony tail palms add a touch of whimsy.

The bedroom wing of the Kleiners' original home housed three bedrooms and three baths—perfect for a growing family, but impractical for empty-nesters. The logical answer was to re-engineer the space as one large master suite complete with a European spa-style bath. The cherry wood cabinets were custom built at a level just a few inches higher than normal to accommodate Eugene's tall frame. Walker finished the cabinets with

metallic pewter hardware lending a cool sophisticated touch. Green glass tiles from Ann Sacks surround the room and a slate floor is topped by a plush cotton area rug. The Kleiners wanted the bath to be large enough to accommodate exercise equipment, so Walker made sure that they had room for a treadmill, steam shower and relaxing seating area in which she placed two minty green molded chairs by Felipe Stark.

Downstairs at the Kleiners, one is greeted by a great corridor with access to Rose's office, guest rooms, a well-used playroom for the grandchildren and a spacious family room. Built-ins abound, housing books, an entertainment center and extra games for the grand kids. A very grown-up bar where wiry black barstools cozy up to a granite counter with mirrored backdrop and glass shelves stands at one end of the room while the other is filled with oversized sofas and chairs perfect for enjoying long evenings with their family and friends.

"It was a team effort," says Rose, "A real labor of love. A chance for us to rebuild not just the house, but our memories and all the love, the fun and wonderful times we've shared here." ■



A European-style spa effect was created in the master bath through the use of cherry cabinets, Italian glass tiles and gray granite pavers



Walker added a seating area in the bath to take advantage of the view and to provide a "cool down spot after work-outs," she says. The bath boasts a treadmill, exercise bike and weights, as well as a soothing steam shower.