

# california

HOME+DESIGN

## FRESHEN UP THE ULTIMATE KITCHEN + BATH ISSUE

**MILL VALLEY**  
A HARMONIOUS  
RENOVATION

**LOS ANGELES**  
READY FOR  
PRIME TIME

**PETALUMA**  
THE FRESHEST  
LUNCH IN TOWN

Designer Ryan Brown  
of Bravo's *Flipping Out*  
brings a historic home  
back to life, p. 108

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# SHOW AND TELL

This year's San Francisco Decorator Showcase featured 30 of the city's leading designers, who each transformed one room in a 1905 Pacific Heights mansion. Here, three veteran showcase designers offer an insider's perspective.

BY MIKHAEL ROMAIN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
DAVID DUNCAN LIVINGSTON



*"I love individual pieces for what they are, but it's the mix that makes a room interesting."*

"I wanted the room to have a library feel," says Geoffrey De Sousa. "It's a place where you could sit on a sofa and read a book—somewhere that you would want to stay for a long time."



## Geoffrey De Sousa LIVING ROOM

When designing the showcase house's living room, Geoffrey De Sousa of De Sousa Hughes set out to exhibit the ultimate in understated luxury. With a showroom-owner's eye for display, De Sousa combined custom furniture, couture textiles and one-of-a-kind art pieces. "I love individual pieces for what they are, but it's the mix that makes a room interesting," says De Sousa. "Choosing great elements—even if they're from different eras—will ensure that it's all going to work together."

The 26-by-42-foot living room has abundant natural lighting, which allowed De Sousa to choose a palette and furniture arrangement that might not have worked in a smaller, darker room. He covered the walls in midnight-blue silk and chose rust as an accent color on the furniture and draperies. De Sousa divided the room into two separate seating areas, with a hammered-metal Parsons table by Stephanie Odegard as the room's centerpiece. In one seating area, a cognac-colored suede sofa faces a pair of turn-of-the-century black leather chairs and is flanked by two Jean-Michel Frank chairs upholstered in Judy Ross embroidered textiles. Across the room, the other seating area is anchored by a Jean de Merry painting of horses that is composed of 36 hand-painted glass squares. De Sousa's favorite element is the custom draperies from Holland & Sherry; appliquéd and embroidered, they create a striking frame for the city views.