

# california

HOME + DESIGN

# 2008

CH+D AWARDS

With new products and noteworthy interiors, here are this year's nine winners from around the state.

Kendall Wilkinson's room at the San Francisco Decorator's Showcase was a clear winner, p. 118



2008 CH-D AWARD FOR  
RESIDENTIAL  
INTERIOR  
DESIGN  
(MORE THAN 3,000 SQ. FT.)



**JAY JEFFERS**  
JEFFERS DESIGN GROUP, SAN FRANCISCO



**T**his is not an over-the-top color story," says Jay Jeffers, a San Francisco designer with a reputation for creating vivid palettes. "It is about warmth and light, and about finding a balance between the house's grand scale and its country locale. This home wanted to be soft."

The 5,000-square-foot residence in the Sonoma hills is the getaway of Holly and Karl Peterson, a San Francisco couple who purchased the decade-old home just over a year ago with a growing family in mind. Like its venerable Wine Country surroundings, the house is majestic: Sunlight floods its lofty interior through expansive windows in nearly every room, shining off the polished oak floors. The towering archways are capped with regal moldings, which were beefed up from the "puny" originals to match the structure's dramatic proportions.

"We wanted to pay respect to the architecture and maintain some formality, but also keep in mind that

ABOVE: In the living room, a rustic clock face offsets more traditional furniture, including an 18th-century tray table. Jeffers custom-designed the persimmon hair-on-hide ottoman.

RIGHT: A mix of vibrant patterns on hues makes the family room a casual spot for entertaining.







it's still a country house," Jeffers says. A playful palette tones things down: Fresh persimmon and zesty green, accented by sunny yellow and juicy plum, recollect the vineyards of Sonoma. Eclectic elements, such as an enormous iron clock face in the living room, combine with an animal motif throughout—offsetting the traditional furnishings and reminding visitors that this is meant to be a retreat.

Along with Jeffers Design Group Senior Designer Kelly Hobbs, Jeffers planned each room with relaxation in mind. Beyond the spacious entry foyer, an elegant parlor-style living room invites guests with plush armchairs and a couple of Ironies sofas arranged in two bright seating areas. A number of vintage pieces—including an 18th-century tray table and a pair of 1930s Murano glass lamps—lend an air of history and refinement, while a mix of subtle graphic patterns and a custom hair-on-hide ottoman maintain the room's sense of humor. The horse was also designed to be kid-friendly—with durable fabrics, carpets and patterned upholstery that will help to mask stains.

ABOVE LEFT: A twisted copper pendant with exposed bulbs adds modern drama to the dining room.  
ABOVE RIGHT: In the kitchen, Jeffers glazed the original dark cherry cabinets for a lighter look and added a mosaic tile backsplash.



In the family room, antique wing chairs with hand-painted upholstery and an extra-deep sofa—designed to accommodate Karl's six-foot-four frame—are cozy and chic. Another custom ottoman doubles as a game-playing surface and coffee table. Flanking the sofa are a pair of rare 1920s carved-wood swan tables, manufactured by Grossfeld House and found at Benjamin Storck in San Francisco. A ceramic swan vase perches gracefully atop one of the thick glass tabletops. In keeping with the animal theme, a whimsical rooster sculpture watches over a built-in bookcase, which acts as a niche for a flat-screen TV that emerges from the ceiling at the push of a button. No other artwork is necessary in this room: Picture windows frame a 180-degree view of vineyards and San Pablo Bay.

An airy floor plan emphasizes that this home was built for entertaining. The family room is open to the kitchen, where a few custom touches make for a simple, functional space. "It felt too much like a city kitchen," says Jeffers of the original dark cherry cabinets, which were lightened to match the floors. The existing



"We really played with wallpaper in this house," says Jeffers, who used it to add texture and pattern. In the dining room, a branch motif from Cole & Son riffs on the home's country theme, while 18th-century gilded mirrors add glamour.

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island's granite surface was replaced with a new slab of Carrara marble, and a leafy mosaic tile backsplash is casual without feeling too country. The room's crowning feature is a carved-wood deer-head chandelier that Jeffers rescued from Heather & Company in San Francisco and then completely restored. "It was pretty much crumbling when we found it," the designer recalls. "The client wasn't sure about it, and it was kind of a hard sell, but I think it was worth it."

In the adjacent dining room, another light fixture steals the show. Created by Fairfax artist Carl Dern, "Night Fishing" is a pendant of twisted copper rods with dangling white-citrine crystals and bare bulbs hanging from exposed wires. A counterpoint to the room's more traditional furniture, the piece spans most of the length of the carved-oak dining table and provides a romantic, dinner-time ambience for

**RIGHT:** A midcentury stainless steel desk and a still life painting, found at Lost Art Salon in San Francisco, lend a vintage vibe to the guest room.  
**BELOW:** Graphic wallpaper and green polka-dot headboards are youthful elements in the kids' bedrooms.



Wine and chocolate accents are a chic contrast to quiet lavender walls in the master bedroom. Above the fireplace, "Kudu," a digital print by photographer Robert Stivers, provides color and graphic pop.



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guests seated in slipcovered chairs. An 18th-century cabinet from the Lorraine region of France prominently displays Holly's china, while a pair of gilded mirrors add Old World charm.

"Too many slick, new things would have felt too perfect for the country, but we also could have gone really crazy with the rustic elements," says Jeffers. "With proper editing, we found a balance that feels both luxurious and livable." Evidence of this harmony can be found in the master bedroom, where oversized windows look out onto rolling vineyards, and pale lavender walls create an ethereal grown-up haven. Opposite an imported French limestone fireplace, the dreamy bed features a vintage metal-framed headboard with floral upholstery. On either side of the bed, mirrored Art Deco nightstands are topped with matching alabaster lamps. Rich chocolate and deep wine accents in the drapes and a pair of comfy armchairs bring energy to the space.

OPPOSITE: In Karl's office, a handcrafted walnut desk with leather insets from French designer Helene Assant reflects his contemporary aesthetic. ABOVE: In the living room, shades of persimmon and green are a fresh twist on the colors of Sonoma.

Downstairs, the children's room and guest bedroom get far less light, a problem Jeffers solved with a bold palette. In the kids' room, tall headboards are upholstered in green polka-dot fabric and the walls are covered in cream-and-plum wallpaper from Cole & Son. The guest bedroom got the citrus treatment: The walls, bed, drapes and chairs are splashed with yellow, while a vintage stainless steel desk and 19th-century Italian wood side table keep it all grounded.

The relaxed mood continues outside, where a swimming pool and barbecue pit are ready for family gatherings. Painted with blue and white stripes, the lighthearted pool house resembles a tent. A large sectional with throw pillows, all covered in Lulu DK outdoor fabric, provides a flexible retreat from the sun. "Karl has modern taste, while Holly is more traditional," Jeffers notes. "I had to keep this in mind, but still make the house reflect its location. Sonoma is all about barbecues and flip flops." —*Chloé Harris*