

interiors

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FROM THE SHADOW OF VICTORIAN SPLENDOR EMERGES A CHIC
COLLABORATION FROM INTERIOR DESIGNER WENDY POSARD AND
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT MICHAEL B. YANDLE

text: Saxon Henry photos: Nathan Kirkman





This

house is very moody," says interior designer Wendy Posard. "If it were music, it would be a Tom Waits song." And it's one of Waits' famous tunes, "Little Trip to Heaven," that best describes Posard's duet with landscape architect Michael B. Yandle when they revived this once downtrodden Marin County Victorian summerhouse. "We're often paired on projects," says Posard. "We enjoy it because our collaborations are a wonderful blend of axial arrangements and vantage points."

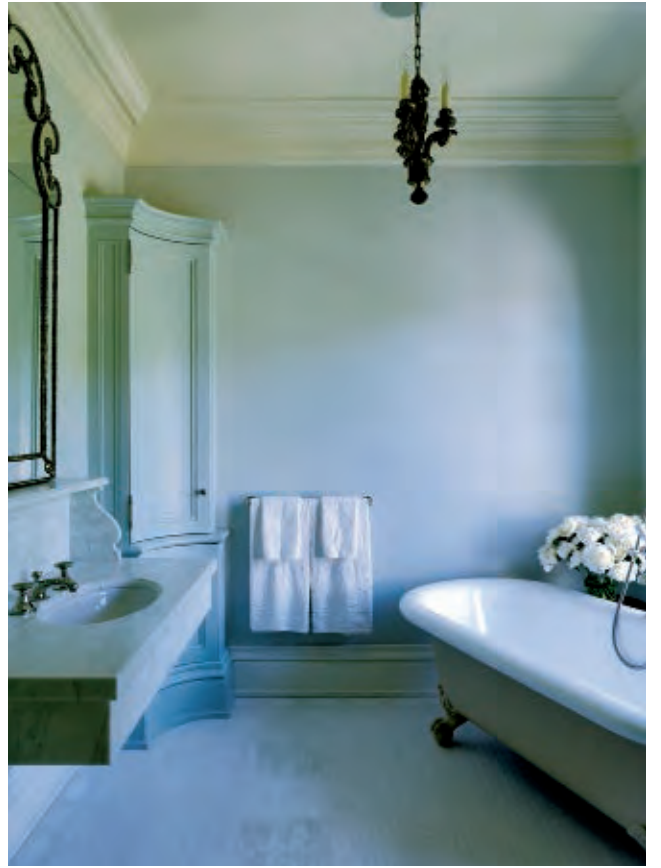




Creating

a chic atmosphere perfect for glamorous gatherings was high on the design agenda, and Posard credits her clients for this achievement because they had faith in her and Yandle to give them free reign. "When you dine formally, you should be engulfed," says Posard of the dining room—its sensual walls covered in book-matched burl walnut. "It's evening, so guests should feel they are wrapped in the velvet of it all." Yandle's contributions mirror Posard's inclination for intimacy. His classically beautiful outdoor room offers the warmth of a stone fireplace as well as curved arbors, whose draping roses shelter roomy banquettes—enveloping the space in a close embrace.









From

every orange blossom placed in the gardens to every inch of painstakingly drawn hand-carved trim, no detail was born of chance. "I made a conscious effort to bring fragrance into the landscape, and soft lighting was critical," says Yandle. "My guiding principal is that most people look better in candlelight." He chose antique French elements for the garden to complement the home's Victorian architecture—a fountain bought in Paris and a pair of iron gates found in San Francisco are among his favorites.





Though

staying with a strict Victorian theme in the interiors would have been a natural inclination for some designers, Posard was thrilled that the homeowners were willing to experiment. "There is an edginess to the wife's fashion sense that I wanted to reflect in the interiors," she explains, "so I brought in contemporary art and sleek furniture to proclaim that a thoroughly modern family lives in this formal house."





Posard

mixed B&B Italia furniture with vintage finds and antiques, including the 17th century Swedish rock-crystal chandelier that seduces visitors into the dining room. “We have all of this sugary frosting in the moldings and finishes,” she says. “Then we went on this crazy trip with the kinky furniture—I wanted people to walk into the house and find the unexpected.” Posard cautiously kept furniture heights to a minimum so that views of the gardens would be unencumbered. “We wanted to keep everything low, sexy and understated,” she explains. “What we achieved is a testament to the formality of the home but one that’s easy to look beyond to enjoy the beauty Michael created outside” ■ Wendy Posard & Associates, 112 Pine Street, San Anselmo, CA 415 456 2020 wendyposard.com, Michael B. Yandle, 13 Ross Common, PO Box 1695, Ross, CA 415 464 0765 mbyandle.com