

ORANGE COUNTY

AUGUST 2004

# HOME

DECOR | FURNISHINGS | GARDEN | ENTERTAINING

## SAVVY STYLE

DECOR TIPS FROM  
THE HOUSE OF DESIGN

## PERFECT MATCH

CHOOSING WINE FOR ELEGANT PARTY

TOUR THE AMAZING 'MUSHROOM HOUSE'

LIVING IN SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

Cover Story





# By design

INSPIRATION FROM  
THE PHILHARMONIC  
HOUSE OF DESIGN

BY JENNIFER J. BUSH  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN KING

**T**ransforming an 8,000-square-foot space into a design home that showcases the latest trends and techniques in style, craftsmanship and furnishings seems impossible to pull off in less than four months.

Yet, each year the designers from the American Society of Interior Designers Orange County Chapter seem to raise the bar with the level of design sophistication at the Philharmonic House of Design, an annual fund-raiser to benefit youth music programs.

"Daring" and "exciting" seemed to be most prevalent words used by visitors to describe the recent House of Design, according to Marianne Kreter, ASID chairman of the event. Those who toured the two-story European-style estate during the month-long event appreciated the "fresh approach," she said.

The 16-year-old home located in Nellie Gail Ranch received a makeover by 16 local ASID members and design students from Saddleback College and the Art Institute of California, who divided it into 22 separate design spaces.

The designers had only weeks to work their magic once the homeowners and event directors approved their plans. Although most designers would

prefer to work with a blank slate, many of the rooms presented particular challenges with existing murals or architectural features that the homeowners wished to keep.

To ensure unity throughout the home, designers worked with an established color palette from Benjamin Moore Paints. The colors were pulled from the existing features in the home that were to stay.

With these colors in mind, the designers first coordinated the architectural arches throughout the home. "The arches were all given a subtle, understated limestone finish, which gently moved a person from one space to another," Kreter said.

The color palette then connected the spaces and prevented the rooms from feeling isolated, she explained. The color that emerged for the walls was a soft gold called Desert Tan, which blended with the limestone arches.

Despite the different design approaches used in each of the rooms, the plan "moved and flowed," she said. "Nothing jarred the eye when you went from one room to the next."

The following pages represent only a glimpse at this year's House of Design. A list of all of the participating designers appears on page 43.



THE COLOR PALETTE included Old Country (blush), Buxton Blue, Kittery Point Green, Cherry Wine, Jet Black, Horizon Gray, Titanium, Simply White and Desert Tan (subtle gold) from Benjamin Moore Paints.

Nick Koon / OC HOME

