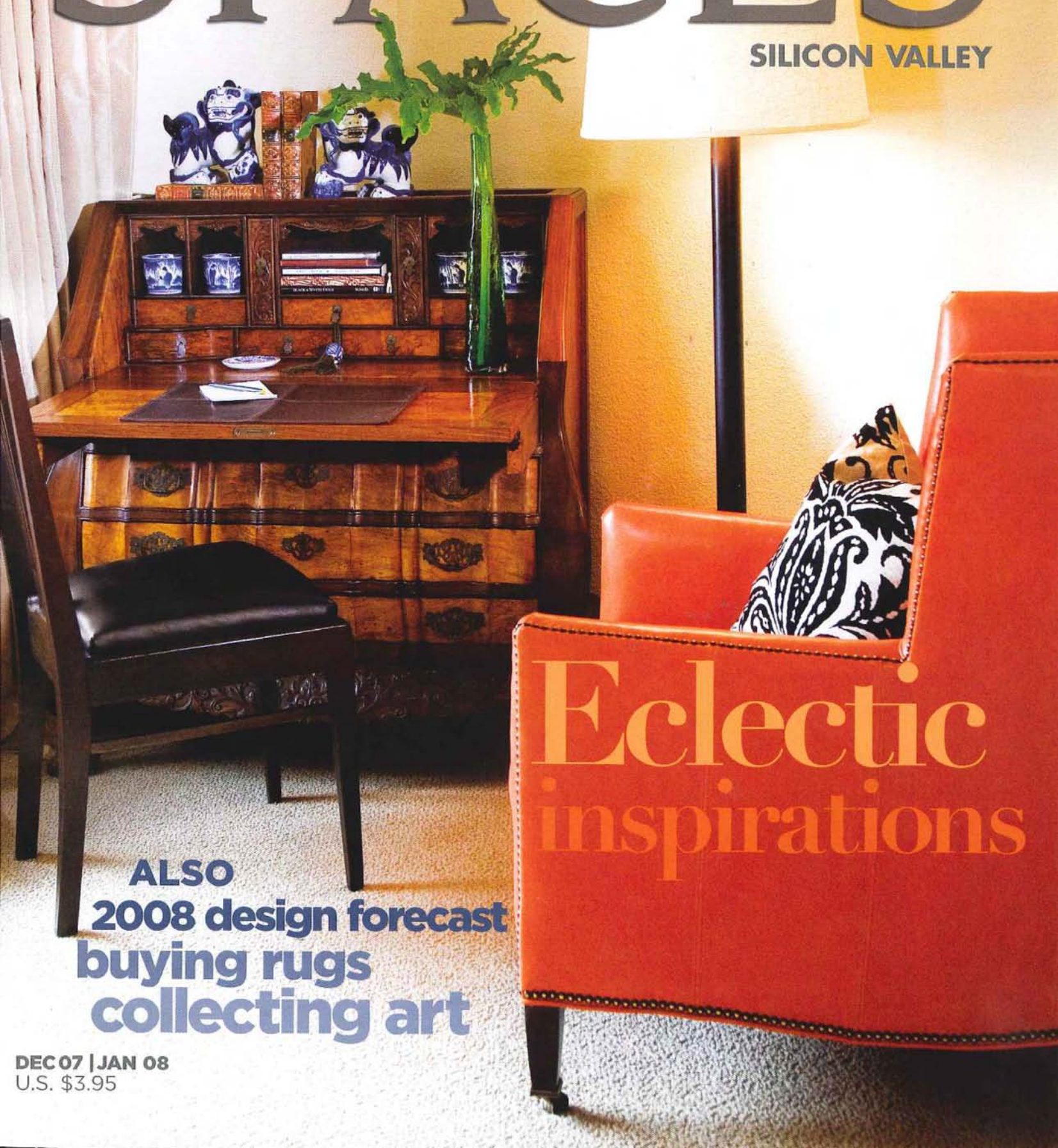


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WHEN IT CAME TIME FOR INTERIOR DESIGNER BEV VIGUERIE TO RENOVATE THE CAPITOLA HOME SHE SHARES WITH HER HUSBAND, MIKE, SHE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT SHE WANTED.

ASIAN FUSION

By Tina Barseghian
Photos by Norma Lopez Molina

“Being a designer, I like all furniture and types of design. But because of my personal history, I’ve been influenced by my surroundings and have collected pieces from Asia throughout the years,” she says.

Viguerie grew up on the tropical island of Sumatra, Indonesia, the daughter of a Dutch fighter pilot and a Southerner, and her home is a tribute to her diverse roots. From the lushly landscaped gardens to the ebony wood floors and varying shades of cream on her walls and furnishings, her home evokes the elegance of colonial Asia.

Mixing different styles and eras of furnishings — Asian antiques, her mother’s carefully preserved pieces, a few choice modern additions and handcrafted pieces from local artisans — Viguerie has managed to create a light and airy abode with an eclectic flair that reflects her personal vision.

Viguerie appreciates the clean lines of antiques from Asia. “When design is really good, it lasts,” she says. Consider the straight legs of Chinese furnishings that date back to the Ming Dynasty, and the shapes and blue-and-white colors of antique pottery. “Now they call it modern or contemporary, but that style really goes back to the 1600s.”

The 2,700-square-foot, four-bedroom, three-bath “cottage,” as she refers to it, recently was completely remodeled. As with most renovations, it all began with a small project: adding a second sink to the master bathroom. That eventually led to renovating the other bathrooms to keep the look consistent, using the same limestone countertops, marble, and neutral colors of taupe and cream. Eventually, the entire house was remodeled.

Visitors to Viguerie’s home are treated to a surprise from the moment they approach the front door. The copper structure, which is developing

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The front garden provides a quiet respite for Bev Viguerie, who planted bamboo trees as screening, complemented by the nearly black fence and door.





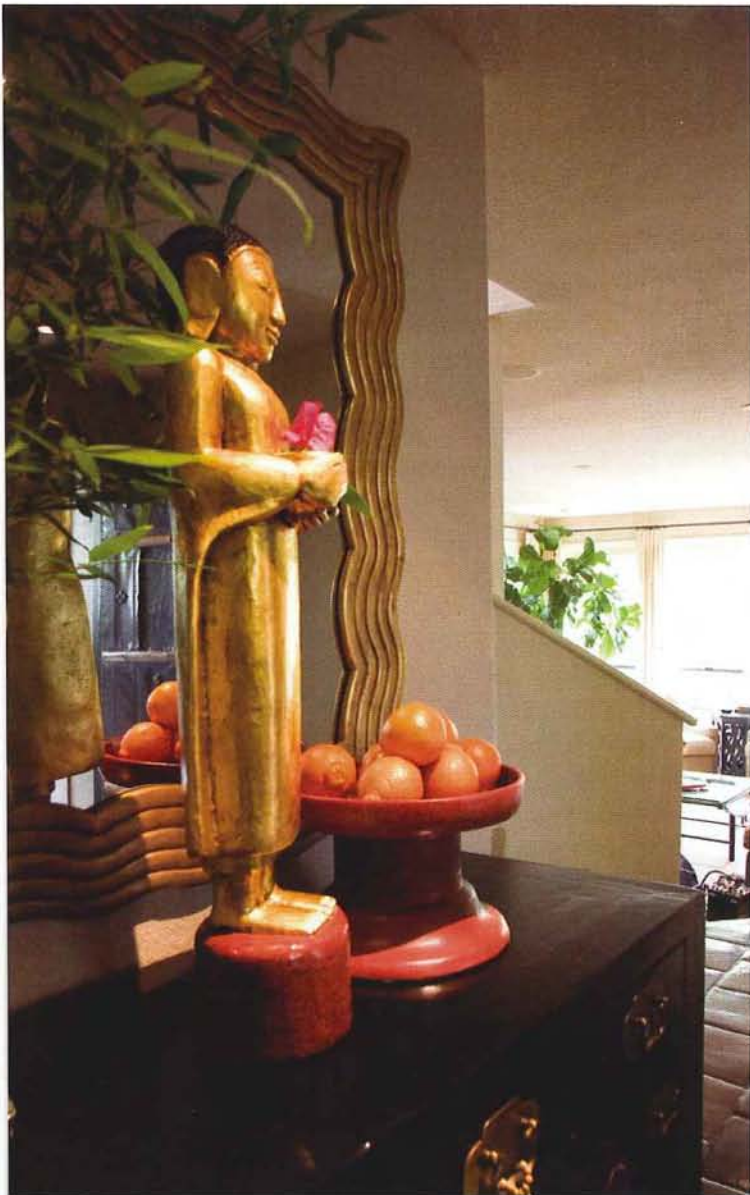
In the guestroom, amidst a sea of tranquil neutral colors, an orange leather chair adds a punch of color. The corkwood desk was made for Viguerie's mother in Singapore in the 1960s; the collection of blue-and-white soba noodle cups displayed on the desk are more than 100 years old (left). A delicate orchid contrasts with the garden's large stalks of elephant ears (right).



Soothing shades of taupe and cream prevail in the Viguerie home, including the bath.



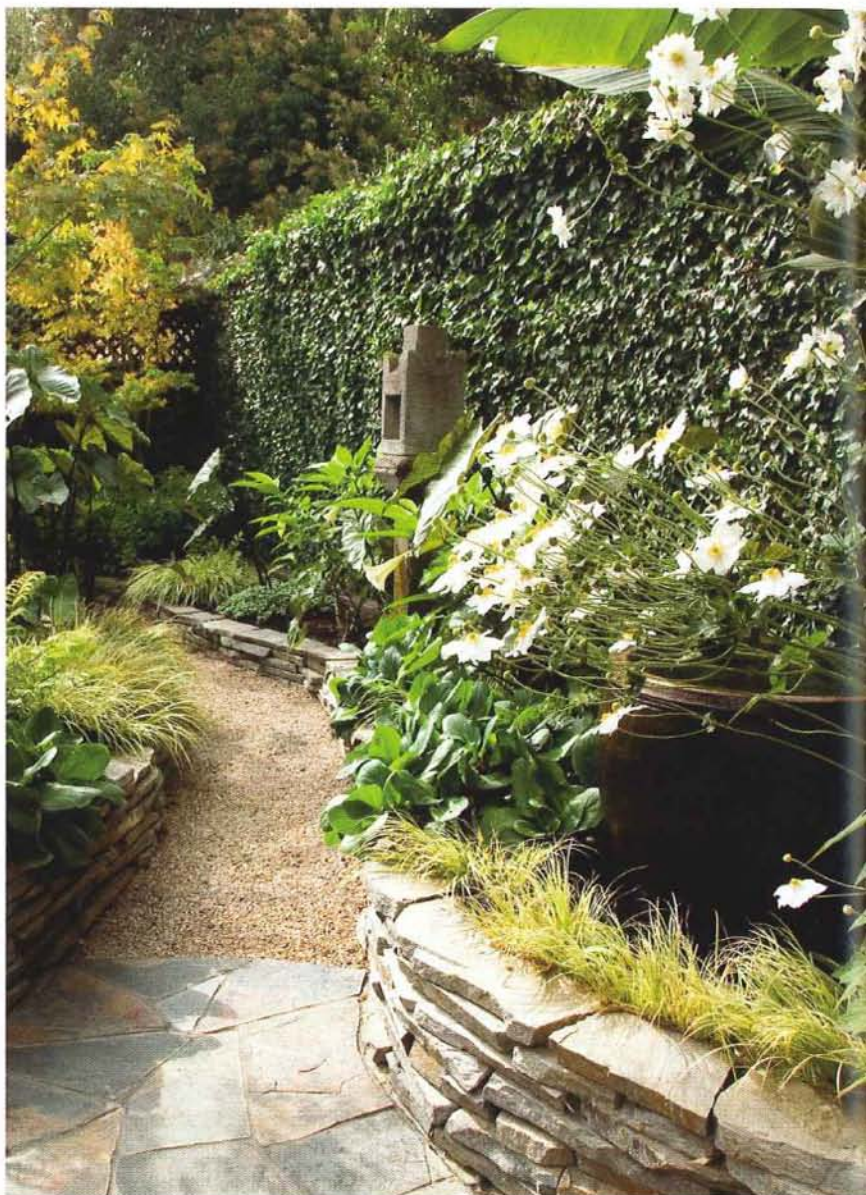
In the bedroom, the neutral colors of the chairs and bed linens contrast sharply with the dark color of the mahogany-framed bed, which is upholstered with crème-colored suede. An antique Burmese bell sits on the nightstand, next to a framed antique silk Korean fabric.



Guests to the Viguerie home are greeted by a gilded golden statue of a Thai monk with an offering, which sits on an antique black-lacquered chest from China (above left).

Grasses and other foliage grace the garden's gently curving path (above right).

Viguerie inherited her dining room set and buffet from her mother. She had both pieces — made of mahogany and rosewood respectively — painted black (facing page).



a green patina in certain spots, incorporates bamboo, glass and other materials used by the San Jose artist Cevan Forrist, who built the eye-catching piece. A bigger surprise appears on the interior of the door, which is painted red and covered with a vibrant patchwork of silver and gold leaf and blue and yellow glass tiles. "The door is yin and yang, with two completely different sides," Viguerie says.

In the front entry, a gilded antique statue of a Thai monk holding a bowl sets the stage for what's inside. The statue sits on an antique chest that Viguerie brought home from a trip to China. The Mexican paver stones in the foyer have been stained tobacco in order to make the house look aged.

Around the entire home, shades of crème on the walls and furnishings lighten the space and provide a sense of calm, as well as a neutral background for the art and antiques. "I love color, but I need my mind to just rest when I'm at home," she says. "When my clients are here looking at colorful fabric samples and paint samples, nothing clashes."

In the living room, Viguerie wrapped the fireplace surround in

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Asian fusion

From page 56

crème-colored crackled linen handcrafted by local artist Frank Bachara. Hung on the unique faux finish is a painting by Palo Alto artist Gregory Deanne; and surrounding the hearth, two vanilla-colored cushions cover rattan chairs handmade in Thailand.

Outside the tall living room windows one can see a lush garden where 30-foot tropical plants, such as birds of paradise, elephant ears, ferns and bamboo, thrive. Viguerie also uses Asian antiques in her garden: A stone Balinese spirit house holds peanuts for the resident blue jays and water lilies float in Korean grinding bowls made of granite.

Plants also play a big role in the dining room, ushering the outdoors in. Viguerie had the 100-year-old mahogany dining room set and the rosewood buffet — both handed down to her from her mother — dyed black. She has few qualms about altering antique pieces to make them functional for modern-day use. "If you want to adapt it in order to use it and enjoy it, I say let's do it," she says.

Taking such liberties has been a treat for Viguerie, who relished creating a personal retreat. "It was great fun to put all this together in the exact style I wanted," she says. "We think of this as our dream home — comfortable, calm and serene." ■