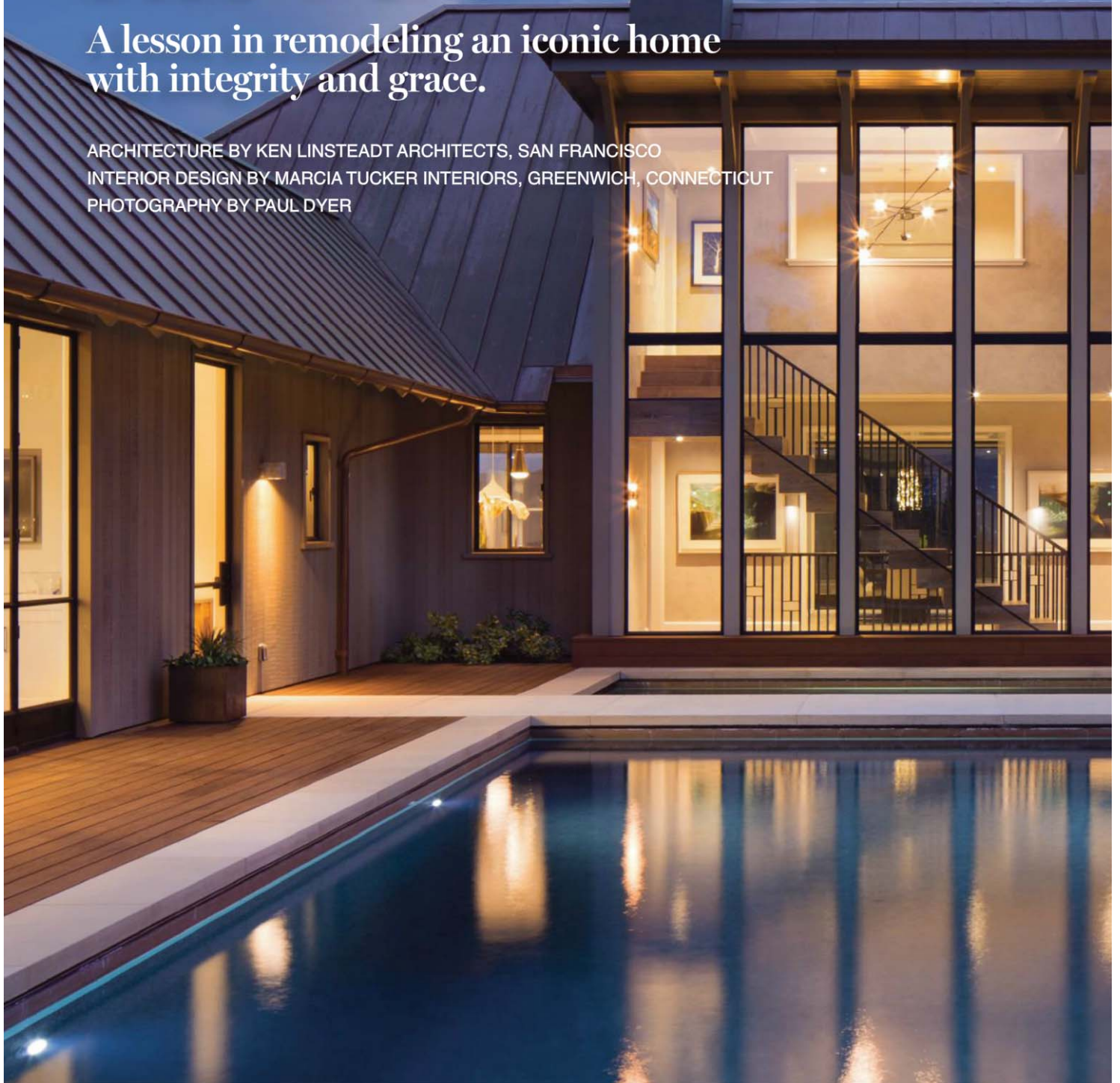


A CLASSIC RE-MASTERED

A lesson in remodeling an iconic home
with integrity and grace.

ARCHITECTURE BY KEN LINSTADT ARCHITECTS, SAN FRANCISCO
INTERIOR DESIGN BY MARCIA TUCKER INTERIORS, GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL DYER







The kitchen/family room (this page) was designed to take full advantage of the views of the Marin headlands and the Golden Gate Bridge. An entire wall of glass disappears, expanding the space onto a gracious deck. A bronze fireplace (opposite) dominates the living room and offers a sleek counterpoint to the rough-hewn beams.



The late John Marsh Davis is often hailed as one of the masters of Mid-Century Modern California architecture. His contemporary buildings—the likes of Chateau Souverain, Joseph Phelps Winery, and Rutherford Hill Winery—fuse the architect’s love of the Organic Movement with Japanese principles and details of the Arts & Crafts Movement.

When an East Coast couple decided to purchase an original John Marsh Davis home at the highest point in Belvedere, they were enthralled with its exceptional views (from Mount Tam to the San Francisco skyline) and the structure’s marvelous lines. However, time had taken its toll, and the house was in need of some serious updating. The Belvedere planning commission and its historians were adamant that this home needed to remain faithful to its original form. Friends of the homeowners recommended award-winning architect Ken Linsteadt (a protégé of Philip Johnson and BAR alum) for this delicate project.

“The original house had a very Taliesin feel,” recalls Linsteadt. “There’s a rigor to that kind of architecture that offers challenges to

any remodel. Our goal was to keep the spirit of the structure and pay homage to the detailing, but update it for today.” Linsteadt and his team inserted a second floor within the home’s existing shell and kept the dramatic feel of high ceilings by incorporating an awe-inspiring floating staircase inside a two-story-tall bay window overlooking an azure spa and pool.

“While this home boasts one of the most beautiful Bay views I’ve ever seen,” admits Linsteadt, “the property is often buffeted by wind.” One of John Marsh Davis’ elegant solutions to this natural fact was to create an interior courtyard that would be surrounded on four sides by walls offering a serene respite. Linsteadt expertly updated the home’s exterior with new wood cladding and terrific hardscaping that ingeniously creates a walkway/bridge straight through the pool to the front door. “The home has no formal or classic foyer. You essentially walk straight into the living room,” notes Linsteadt. He cleverly created a feeling of an entry by adding rough-hewn wood planks in a neat panel to the ceiling above the front door. “I love the interplay of the rough wood on the ceiling and the smooth bronze fireplace in the living room,” he adds.

Renowned Greenwich, Connecticut, interior designer Marcia





Interior designer Marcia Tucker balanced a combination of mid-century modern pieces with strikingly contemporary furnishings and accessories throughout, but kept the palette neutral in order to let the Bay and courtyard views take center stage.



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Tucker selected a soothing neutral palette of taupes and greys and incorporated a masterful mix of Mid-Century Modern antiques and contemporary pieces in perfect rhythm with the architecture. For a 7,000-square-foot home, the interior spaces feel intimate and relatable. The homeowners’ and Linsteadt’s favorite spot is the kitchen/family room with a Golden Gate Bridge view that takes your breath away. “We kept to steel windows throughout so that we could maximize the views,” he notes. “In the kitchen/family room, the entire wall slides back, opening onto a deck that truly extends the space. The family loves to entertain here, so we added some fun details, including a long trough in the Carrara marble counter top that can be completely filled with ice for parties. One wall of cabinetry is wrought in stainless steel, while an adjacent one features warm walnut cabinetry.”

That yin and yang of contrasting texture is a constant theme throughout the re-designed home. Perhaps nowhere is that more spectacularly evident than the aforementioned stairwell. Linsteadt utilized European white oak throughout the home as flooring. “It has a marvelous cereused finish,” he relates. “For the floating stairs, I wanted it to look like huge blocks of the same wood had been used.” To accomplish the effect, a massive steel beam was set in place to serve as the spine of the staircase, and pieces of the white oak were expertly mitered and fit into place—essentially hiding the beam completely. A textural bronze custom railing with cutout detailing completes the elegant focal point of the home.

“This was an exciting project and a challenging one,” notes Linsteadt. But a brief look at the architect’s impressive portfolio makes it evident that challenges are something this man relishes. ♦

