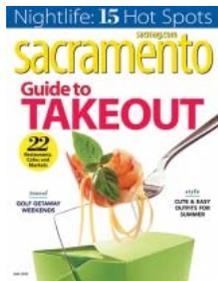


PREV

Hot Italian Summer Concert Series Returns Hot Italian is resurrecting its summer concert series in the park. Every...

NEXT

May 2010



Popular Shortcuts

- Home
- Best of Sacramento Ballot
- Best of Sacramento
- Events Calendar
- Spas & Salons
- Weddings
- Subscribe
- Advertise
- Contact



May 2010

Dwelling: Remodel in the Round

A basic tract house gets a stunning makeover. By Joan Waters

0 tweet Share Comments



Photography by Dave Adams

Whether he's designing a new house or a remodel, Sacramento architect Michael Malinowski likes to give his clients a range of possibilities. To that end, sometimes he'll include a "throwaway" design in his mix—a concept he is perhaps most excited about but doesn't really expect to make the final cut. That's what he thought would happen to the circular living room idea he came up with for a client remodeling a tract home in Natomas. "I thought he would be mildly amused and then return to the more standard rectilinear designs," Malinowski says. "But he went at it like, 'Oh, man, that's it!' He didn't blink twice."

Malinowski describes the homeowner as a man people love to listen to; he envisioned the "rotunda," as the living room is called, as a space where they could all crowd around and soak up his stories "about everything and everyone." "He's just an amazing guy and so much fun to be with," Malinowski says. "This whole project was like an adventure to him."

While the remodel didn't require a complete teardown, Malinowski says there's probably not a single space in the two-story home that wasn't "profoundly affected" by the yearlong makeover. The grand new version of what was once a tract house is just less than 7,300 square feet and has a super-sized corridor leading from the front entry to the rotunda, a sprawling kitchen indoors and another outside, plenty of strolling room for hundreds of party guests, and art everywhere. A lifelong collector, the homeowner says a great joy of the project was seeing his paintings, sculptures, ceramics and art glass come out of storage and adding color, humor and humanity to every room—even the kitchen. "I think if you really, really like something, you shouldn't be restricted about where you want to put it," he says. What's his favorite piece? He thinks maybe he hasn't found it yet. "I discovered something a long time ago: Nice things don't have to be expensive. I buy what I like and what I can afford." So, yes, he's still on the hunt.

Sacramento interior designer Kari Miner says her client's aesthetic strongly influenced choices of wood, metal, stone and furnishings. "He was very, very involved in the process, and, as much as I chose all the surface materials and was on the job every day, he really had a clear vision about all of it." Malinowski vividly remembers intense one-hour project meetings characterized by whirlwind tours of the rooms and much enthusiastic arm waving. The meetings were over when the homeowner happily buzzed off to his next adventure.

"It's great fun for an architect when someone's pushing the envelope, and that was his way," Malinowski says. "He pushed the gas pedal to the floor, hard, all the way through."



What's on your mind...

Stay Connected



Newsletter Sign up

E-mail Address GO

FREE State Fair Admission with each ticket!

CALIFORNIA'S GRAPE & GOURMET

Entertainment by **WONDERBREAD 5**

Wednesday, July 7

Presented by: **sacramento MAGAZINE** sacmag.com

700 Award-Winning Wines, 80 Restaurants and 50 Microbrews!

THEBESTCALIFORNIAWINE.COM

Current Issue



- Table of Contents
- Cover Archive
- Customer Service
- Subscribe Now
- Give a Gift

Echo 0 Items

[Admin](#)

EUROPEAN WAX CENTER
THE ULTIMATE WAX EXPERIENCE

Free Body Waxing

[Click here for more information](#)

4 LOCATIONS TO SERVE

Experience the difference,
book your appointment today

Subscriptions | [Contact](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Custom Publishing](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)
 Copyright 2009 Sacramento Magazines Corporation | [powered by RIVISTA](#) | A Godengo Technology

[Sacramento Dining Blog](#) | [Sacramento Restaurant Directory's Half Price Deals](#)
[Sacramento Weddings](#) | [Sacramento Entertainment](#) | [Sacramento Events](#)

This site is a member of the City & Regional Magazine Association Online Network See who we are affiliated with here
 Email Marketing powered by StreamSend