

Tuscan Style

The Most Spectacular Rooms Ever



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Statuesque Italian cypress trees and rounded olive trees soften the horizontal lines of this California home. "Builders Paul Kinney and Keith Miller took time to figure out how to make things work," architect Everardo Garcia says. "It's because of their finishes that the house looks as wonderful as it does."



Beautifully appointed indoor and outdoor spaces unite to accommodate a California couple's old-world preferences and their family's everyday and entertaining needs.

Continental CONNECTIONS

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Designed to blend into its San Gabriel Valley neighborhood in California, this Tuscan-inspired villa and its verdant



OPPOSITE: Pencil sketches found at a swap meet and crusty ceramic vessels purchased at domestic and European flea markets bring collected appeal to the dining room. **ABOVE:** The home's inset arched windows and doors, a smooth-stucco facade, terra-cotta roof tiles, and iron and precast-concrete embellishments emulate historical Italian design elements.

setting are in perfect harmony with each other thanks to a dedicated team of design professionals. Architect Everardo Garcia designed the residence to replace a 1960s ranch home that no longer satisfied the owners' style and space requirements. He partnered with landscape architect Rob Pressman, interior designers Cee Atcheson and Don Cordova, and builders Paul Kinney and Keith Miller to ensure that inside and outside spaces would present a united front. "The homeowners wanted an Italianate home that was simple, stately, and that felt like it had been here for awhile," Garcia says. "Because the couple love to entertain and have three kids, we created indoor-outdoor connections for an easy flow. Then we created vistas that we framed with windows and doors to draw people outside."

The noteworthy vistas Pressman designed include a colorfully tiled swimming pool and spa, spacious entertaining patios, meandering decomposed-gravel paths, and plantings firmly rooted in Mediterranean

climes, such as dwarf citrus trees in aged Italian pots and date palms in poolside beds, that invite guests to enjoy alfresco pleasures.

Atcheson and Cordova continued the home's melding of old- and new-world elements inside. "The home needed to be comfortable but also romantic, with neutral backgrounds that provided an easy flow from room to room," Atcheson says. "We opted for a California interpretation of traditional Tuscan design that is lighter and breezier. It is all about detail, detail, detail—which you see as soon as you walk in the carved front door."

Construction crews set a style-apt stage by smooth-plastering walls, carving out cove moldings, forming arched doorways, raising columns, installing custom tile treatments, and adding a wealth of details that further the home's ageless appeal. In the foyer, for example, paneled walls direct attention to a ceiling sparingly clad in rustic beams and a gallery enclosed with custom iron railings. "We wanted to use appropriate Italian and Spanish details without overwhelming the home," Garcia says. "It was important to achieve a simple elegance that didn't scream brand-new."

In the formal living room, weighty carved armoires happily coexist with shapely leather ottomans and a travertine-top table. The dining chairs wear chenille upholstery accented with nailheads and pull up to a custom 12½-foot-long table. Interplays of ancient and modern nuances repeat in the kitchen, where an expansive marble-crowned island is surrounded by perimeter cabinets in varying finishes.

"It's the juxtaposition of old and new, dark with light, and carved with sleek that makes all these neutral rooms come to life and creates the sense that things have been layered in over the years," Atcheson says.



“Indoor–outdoor connections are celebrated with numerous arched French doors that center on landscape vistas and create rhythm and interest inside and out.”

—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT ROB PRESSMAN

THIS PHOTO: Sage-washed cabinets with an antiqued finish, a sculptural range hood, and a tile backsplash introduce old-world profiles and patinas to the kitchen. *OPPOSITE:* In the living room, silk pillows on a high-back sofa, a sparkling mirror, and shimmering lamps provide sophisticated counterweights to rustic carved armoires and a stone-top table.







OPPOSITE: A rusty grillwork panel from an Asian antiques store works as art above a streamlined chaise in the reception area off the foyer. A series of arches draws the eye from the home's entry to the back terrace. **TOP LEFT:** Precast-concrete columns form arches in keeping with traditional Tuscan architectural cues. **TOP MIDDLE:** Displayed with a modern mirror and Italian sconces, a 200-year-old leather chair adds Tuscan flair to a main-floor hallway leading to the guest rooms and library. **TOP RIGHT:** Custom iron fixtures sport mustache details that reference Renaissance Era designs. **ABOVE LEFT:** A barbecue station and a long teak table beneath an arched metal lattice roof expand the functionality of the pool cantina, which houses a living area and game room. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The foyer is home to a sinuous stairway designed with wooden steps to add warmth to the airy entry.





OPPOSITE: Embroidered-silk draperies tied back with substantial tassels frame the master bath soaking tub and garden views. A mirrored table adds a touch of glitz. **ABOVE:** The L-shape home's main floor houses public entertaining areas and guest suites on one side and the family's everyday living spaces on the other; both wings open to a centrally placed pool. An upper-level bay window mirrors those found on Tuscan villas. **LEFT:** Interior designer Cee Atcheson turned up the drama and romance in the master bedroom with luxe fabrics and finishes. "We used chocolate velvets and coppery silks on the bed, and nightstands with silver-patinaed tops to add a little bling," she says.