



Photos by Treve Johnson

Painted canvas playfully upholsters a pair of 19th century French armchairs at the top of the stairs of a contemporary home in annual CSL Heart of the Home Tour on April 29-30.

At the center of the remodeled master bath is a live-edge oak table in a new contemporary home in Upper Rockridge. The home on Acacia Avenue will be featured in the CSL Heart of the Home Tour on Friday and Saturday, April 29-30.

Contemporary Smart-Tech Home Is on CSL Tour

By Patricia Forsyth

Children’s Support League of the East Bay presents its 28th annual Heart of the Home tour on Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30.

Tickets may be purchased online at \$45 each in advance at childrens-SupportLeague.org. Guests will view five beautiful homes and help CSL raise money for at-risk children in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

To date CSL has awarded \$3.3 million to nonprofits that provide crisis shelter, child advocacy, counseling and therapy, special needs, and educational support.

In this feature series, each of the tour homes is spotlighted: the 1914 Italianate, a 1920s English Tudor, a 1940s Prairie design converted from a ranch style, a 1930s Tudor Revival. In this edition we will take a closer look at a contemporary home built in 2014 in the Upper Rockridge neighborhood.

Spotlight on Acacia Avenue house

The contemporary home on Acacia Avenue now stands handsomely on a lot where the previous home was devastatingly lost during the 1991 Oakland Fire. A local architect, resident Eric Manou completed the construction in late 2014 with a minimalist esthetic in its concrete, stucco, and clad wood exterior. A two-story glass atrium centers the front facade and houses the main stairway; privacy is achieved through the glass wall by an overlaying metal screen artistically punctuated to emit light.

The owners, recently married Adam and Amy Dornbusch, value foremost the home’s abundant natu-



ral light and the open floor plan that works extremely well for their considerable entertaining. The main rooms are spacious and high ceilinged and face the rear yard, where stackable glass doors open the spaces completely into the outdoors.

The couple decorated in an eclectic mix of styles that redefines traditional borders, such as a pair of 19th century French armchairs upholstered in abstractly painted canvas, and a dining table built from reclaimed wood.

New wave contemporary art is dominant on the home’s walls and tabletops. Since the couple moved to the East Bay from New York City last year, discovering emerging local artists is just one of Amy’s dozen of initiatives. She also heads up a family-owned Yountville vineyard. Adam is an executive at Go-Pro Cameras.

The upstairs office, bedrooms and master bath, with its unique centerpiece live-edge oak and grooming table for Amy, will be open to the public on the tour weekend.

VIP tickets at \$125 include the CSL Kick-off Party on Thursday, April 28 at a Piedmont estate on Glen Alpine Road. Holders of VIP tickets also will be invited to a breakfast with aguest speak-

er in Piedmont’s Duck House on Friday. The speaker is the intriguing, French-born Nicolas Bernadi, vice-president of food-delivery startup Munchery, an experienced food processing executive who notes that prepared and frozen foods suffers in quality in the U.S., compared to foods available in France.

The CSL tour delivers a new and different experience each year, but all the best parts are back by popular demand. Headquartered at the Piedmont Community Center, the hall is transformed each year into a very special boutique with gifts, jewelry and home goods.

The lunch crowd will be pleased with freshly prepared food from popular vendors that will park on the grounds and serve from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Doc’s Classics makes up sandwiches and salads, and El Sur makes empanadas. Lunch tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 on tour days.

Children’s Support League is an all-voluntary 501(c)(3) nonprofit that awards 96% of proceeds every year and sustains a very low 4% for tour expenses.

To volunteer as a docent on April 29 or April 30, call 338-4521 or email info@ChildrensSupportLeague.org