



Santa Barbara Mediterranean meets Oakland Cool on the CSL Home Tour



Photo by Treve Johnson

A complete remodel produced lots of light and open space in the family kitchen.

By Melanie Wallace

When the homeowners saw a 1922 Piedmont bungalow on a woodsy property with mature redwoods, they knew they wanted to bring the home to new life. They had previously renovated a home in the Glenview neighborhood and were ready to meet the challenges of this project. This family effort – a brother served as architect, and the husband acted as general contractor – ended up demolishing 68% of the original home, added an upper bedroom story, and excavated to expand the lower level.

The attractive result now has an impressive entrance with 24-foot ceilings created by encompassing a front patio. A custom ironwork stair rail leading to the family’s personal space upstairs and a wrought iron chandelier set the Mediterranean tone that is carried throughout the house. A window at the top of the stairs looks out across the tile rooftop. Intentionally placed, this view reminds the homeowners daily of wonderful trips to Florence. The view from the master bedroom and balcony looks through the trees to the Golden Gate and beyond.

The homeowners committed to a consistent look throughout the house. The Santa Barbara feeling is reflected in the walnut floors, the warm stucco finish, and the custom-designed iron fixtures. Attention to detail prevails: arabesque and quatrefoil shapes are found in ironwork, wallpaper, and tile. An arch shape repeats in doors and windows.



Photo by Meera Fox

Chad Olcott, owner of Mulberry’s Home

The open-concept living room and kitchen provide multipurpose family space. The living room fireplace has been resurfaced and finished with a reclaimed Douglas fir mantle but maintains its original shape. The treasured redwoods are visible through massive glass doors in the kitchen, where custom cabinets are paired with Taj Mahal quartzite countertops and an island. The homeowners have created an intimate, cozy dining room. Separate from the kitchen, this room is painted a deep terra cotta.

Downstairs, additional guest quarters, a family media space with kitchenette, and a wine cellar complete the expanded floor plan. A lovely brick courtyard, with an original exterior fireplace, opens off the media room. This patio extends the family space and provides access to the gardens below.

Mulberry’s Home Steps In

The contribution of this family does not end with inviting us to view their home. They agreed to remove their own furnishings to allow Chad Olcott from Mulberry’s Home to provide tour attendees with an on-site boutique. Pieces in the living room, office, and deck will be available for purchase and/or order. Additional accessories also will be offered for sale.

If you’ve wondered how a sofa from the showroom would look at home, this is where you can see. Chad purposely blended Mediterranean style furnishings with selected pieces to bring in a bit of the “Oakland vibe.” While he has chosen pieces that work well in this particular home, attendees will have no trouble imagining them in their own homes.

Chad is enthusiastic about this new experience. “When you have gracious architecture as your backdrop, the interior decorating is easy and fun,” he said. “Mulberry’s Home believes strongly in the great work of the Children’s Support League, and we look forward every spring to the Heart of the Home weekend. This year has been the most special for us as we get to transport our showroom into the heart of a beautiful Piedmont home.”

He will be on site both Tour days and available to answer questions,

Heart of the Home Tour Details

Tickets to this year’s Children’s Support League Tour are \$45 for a tour of five homes, and \$55 for a tour plus lunch. Tickets are now available online at ChildrensSupportLeague.org.

VIP tickets (\$125) are limited and ticket-holders will enjoy a Kick-Off party on Wednesday, April 26 at a sixth Piedmont home, as well as a VIP Friday breakfast with guest speaker Julie Barton, Piedmont author of the New York Times Best-selling memoir, *Dog Medicine, How My Dog Saved Me from Myself*.

Once again the Piedmont Community Center (711 Highland Avenue) serves as the heart of the Tour. A pop-up boutique features offerings from new and returning local artisans. A catered lunch, provided by El Sur and by GrilledCheezGuy, will be offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on both tour days. Lunch tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 on tour days. Wine and desserts will be available for an extra charge.

In its history, the Children’s Support League has awarded \$3.5 million to nonprofits that focus on crisis shelter, child advocacy, counseling and therapy, special needs and educational support. CSL, an all-volunteer group, donates 96% of proceeds to the charities.