

Five Remodeled & Redesigned Homes



CLASSIC HOMES REIMAGINED
29TH CSL TOUR

HEART
OF THE
HOME TOUR
APRIL 28-29



New Vitality for Century-Old Homes

The East Bay Heart of the Home Tour invites you to dream about remodeling your own home. The tour's fine-boned homes built in the early 20th century changed little through the decades before the current owners remodeled and refurbished to fit their needs and lifestyle.

The Children's Support League of the East Bay (CSL) presents the 29th Annual Home Tour April 28-29, with five beautiful properties in Piedmont and Oakland. Two homes in Piedmont were rebuilt: one a Traditional Manor, virtually in its entirety; the other a Santa Barbara Monterey, substantially enlarged with an upper floor and lower-level expansion. Two Oakland homes in the popular Crocker Highland district are on tour: In one, a professional designer shows off her 1920s French Normandy redecorated with flea market decor, fresh paint, and wallpaper; the other is a 100-year-old Cape Cod fully redesigned by the owner, a local realtor. Another Oakland home is a period-preserved 1920s Spanish Mediterranean in Piedmont Pines, where the present owners reworked the downstairs into a gem of family living.

The CSL Tour benefits locally based children's charities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Since 1988, CSL has awarded grants totaling more than \$3.5 million to support at-risk children. Last year, grants were provided to 17 nonprofits focusing on children's issues: child advocacy and crisis intervention; special needs; education support; shelters and the homeless; and therapy and mental health. CSL is an all-volunteer group. For tour tickets and more details, please see the following pages. . ➔

BY PATRICIA FORSYTH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TREVE JOHNSON





An Idyllic Spanish Mediterranean



Down a curving stairway is a magical green oasis that envelops this Spanish Mediterranean-style hideaway. Constructed in 1927 and nicknamed Snug Harbor, the home features stucco walls and a tile roof displaying craftsman quality, with steel-paned casement windows that stand the test of time, massive quartersawn oak doors, exquisite tile archways, and meandering walkways. The ironwork is integrated throughout in railings, hardware, and unique light fixtures. More Tunisian and Moroccan tiling decorates the stair risers, fireplace, counters, and more. The living room's ionic columns set the stage for a petite Juliette balcony on the landing above. A peek into the half bath reveals the period plumbing. A wraparound deck is generously broad and festooned with a lush garden spread in the courtyard below. The family just finished remodeling what used to be a makeshift lower level. Now, large windows look out at the garden, and the family enjoys a new den and playroom, and a wonderful guest suite. Their 1920s speakeasy is the real deal, with loads of history.



GET INSPIRED!

Tour visitors say CSL puts on the best home tour in the East Bay. The organizers take their role of offering ticket buyers an extraordinarily detailed tour experience seriously. You will be provided with resource specifics down to paint colors, wallpaper and fabric makers, manufacturers, and suppliers, along with many versatile design ideas to inspire your own project. You'll follow a self-guided tour armed with a map and comprehensive walk-through notes for each property. Details are cleverly compiled in a tour book you'll want to keep for note taking and contemplation. Tour-goers typically get a chance to meet the project designer, interior decorator, or architect on-site to happily chat about a particular project, as well as view drawings, elevations, and photography for in-depth analysis. You practically get a decorating education on every tour! Docents are also at your service, welcoming you to stroll every space open for touring.

LUNCH & SHOP

Plan on having lunch on tour day at Piedmont's lovely central park. Reserve lunch in advance for just \$10. The food is freshly made with a choice of the Grilled Cheez Guy's sandwich and salad, or El Sur's savory empanadas and salad—with vegetarian options available. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nearby, the CSL boutique's vendors beckon shoppers with traditional, fun, and trendy well-crafted goods at attractive prices. Many of these are manufactured by local artisans. You'll find home decor, fashion, and accessories; one-of-a-kind and fine jewelry; and textiles and decorative arts. Pick out an adorable gift for Mother's Day or a teacher, or just treat yourself to a fabulous bauble or yummy treats to take home. Also look for select vendors at the tour homes. CSL is proud to partner with local and regional vendors who in turn contribute a percentage of their sales to the tour event.

BE A VIP

Be an insider. The VIP Tour ticket at \$125 has lots more to offer than lunch and a tour of five fabulous homes. Additional amenities include an invitation to the CSL cocktail party on Wednesday, April 26, at a private Piedmont home that's extra to the tour. On Friday, enjoy Continental breakfast (and early admission) at the exceptional Piedmont hillside manor on the tour, which hosts the VIP event on a terrace overlooking the Bay. Enjoy coffee, fruit, and gourmet buns while listening to the featured speaker, Piedmont author Julie Barton, whose memoir, *Dog Medicine*, recently ranked on the *New York Times* best-seller's list.

CSL is truly grateful to the generosity of the families who open their homes to make the charitable tour event possible. CSL also thanks our media partner, *Diablo* magazine, underwriters, advertisers, and the platoon of dedicated volunteers.



DEBUT FOR A SANTA BARBARA MONTERREY

On a well-turned street in Piedmont dwelled an out-of-date, rather unadorned house built in 1922. Today, the Santa Barbara Monterrey is neither a plain Jane nor a one-level house. It has emerged beautifully from its remodeling cocoon into a substantially transformed home, confidently occupying its spacious woody property dotted with Redwood trees. An entire upper story was added for new bedrooms and a laundry room, while the lower level was carved out to host a brand-new media den, kitchenette, and wine cellar. The owners wanted an older home to bring back to life and didn't blink at demolishing 65 percent of the original. The front courtyard was removed to add extra space to the interior, gaining a larger entry hall and storage. The step-down living room is original, a well-proportioned room anchored by the fireplace and light fixtures that have survived the years. Glancing into the kitchen, you'll see straight through to the majestic Redwoods, their unmistakable beauty flanking the heavy glass doors.

+ NEW DECOR FOR A FRENCH NORMANDY



The 1924 French Normandy bungalow has a steeply sloped roof forming a dominant, two-story front wall, where triple rows of paned windows send natural light cascading into the living room. “We’re lucky the house has good bones,” says owner Chloe Redmond Warner, a principal designer at Redmond Aldrich. Along with fresh paint and wallpaper, the decor mixes heirlooms and vintage, eclectic and artsy, with bold or subdued colors, patterns, and textures. Warner is fearless in choosing vibrant Audubon-style prints of birds and flowers to upholster secondhand furniture. It mixes wonderfully in a cornucopia of patterns of stripes and plaids, yet the decor is child-friendly. The vintage Queen Anne dining table pairs with Mies van der Rohe chairs. The owners gutted the small kitchen, keeping its original footprint, then splurged on a glorious white-enameled La Cornue range “that still takes some practice,” Warner admits. The new kitchen’s vertical-grain, custom bleached oak cabinetry is a calm backdrop for Mirth Studio painted oak parquet floor tiles.



+ AN EXCEPTIONAL TRADITIONAL PIEDMONT MANOR

A beautiful 1906 Traditional Manor completed a three-year-long remodel that restored several original architectural elements that had been compromised over the previous century. To modernize and improve each floor’s interior layout, the home was gutted, essential new systems were installed, and the three-story stairwell was securely encased in steel. Dutch Colonial elements such as the Dutch gambrel roof, front columns, and a balcony were refurbished. As much of the old house as possible was repurposed, including a barn door built from salvaged redwood in the downstairs den, and a massive paneled pocket door that slides between the dining and living rooms. Contemporary furnishings and family heirlooms are mixed with neutral grays and off-whites. The public rooms are bathed in natural light, and large windows frame the hilltop vistas. The top-notch kitchen in chrome and white Shaker cabinetry uses reclaimed farmhouse ceiling beams and French oak for seating and floor.



+ NEW CHARMS FOR A 100-YEAR-OLD CAPE COD

Owners Cliff and Julie Gardner ingeniously redesigned a 1911 gable-roofed Cape Cod in Oakland’s Crocker Highlands. For interior to outdoor transitions, they built an alluring wraparound porch with its own white picket fence and repeated the fencing around the property. Bountiful gardens, irrigated by a triplet of new underground holding tanks, emerged from years of landscape neglect. Julie, a realtor with Grubb Co., is her own home designer with a knack for flea market finds. The serendipity double-decker sunroom (photo, page 53) uses glass transoms and recycled corbels to drop the height of a doorway. A matched pair of whimsical turquoise beaded chandeliers hanging above the kitchen table share a gleeful backstory as separate finds. Cast-off sunroom doors were painted red to reuse as kitchen pantry doors, and through the glass panes, every shelf is tidy with all-white dishware. Upstairs, multiple small rooms sharing just one bathroom were rebuilt into three stately bedrooms and three new baths.

TOUR INFO

ChildrensSupportLeague.org

DATES

Home Tour
Friday, April 28
Saturday, April 29
10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

TICKETS

In advance:
\$45 Tour Only
\$55 Tour + Lunch

On tour days:
\$50 Tour Only
\$62 Tour + Lunch

VIP TOUR PACKAGE

\$125 VIP Package includes
Tour + Lunch

Cocktail Party
Wednesday evening, April 26
at Private Home in Piedmont

Speaker Breakfast
Friday, April 28
at Piedmont Historic Home

Special Raffle

BOUTIQUE & RAFFLE

Open to the Public
No admission charge
Friday, April 28
10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 29
10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Piedmont Community Center
711 Highland Avenue

ABOUT CSL

CSL is a voluntary 501(c)(3) nonprofit that is exclusively charitable.

CSL invites underwriters, new members, and tour docents.

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