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SAN FRANCISCO

GOLD LIST 2022



PERSONAL EFFECTS

Honoring their heritage, a young family builds a lively home in Atherton.

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Architecture: Reza Norouzi, Memarie Associates **Interior Design:** Sarahliz Lawson, Sarahliz Lawson Design, Inc.
Home Builder: Brian Kelly, Kelly Gordon Development Corporation **Landscape Architecture:** Kay La Plain, KLP Garden Partnership

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levated but down to earth” is how designer Sarahliz Lawson describes the Atherton home she recently completed for a couple and their young children. “The wife has a love for fashion, color and interior design and that really shows in

this house,” she adds. The wife, a clothing designer, brought a host of ideas to the table. “She’s an artist—bright and full of ideas—so I was all ears,” continues Lawson. The duo worked together to source just the right pieces, and the result is a stylish dwelling that’s equally suited to hosting cocktail soirées or slumber parties.

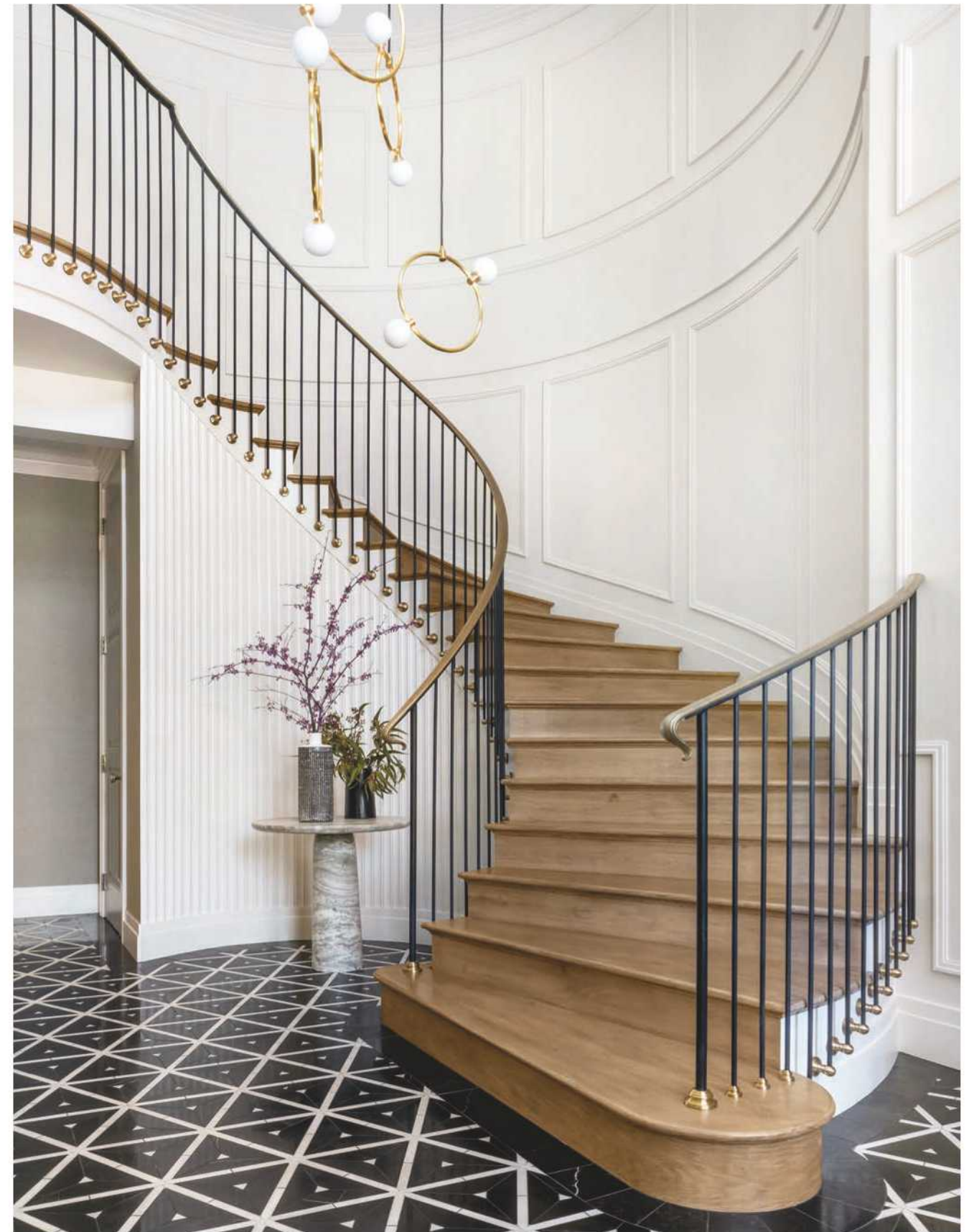
“We didn’t want anything precious or off-limits,” the wife notes. “We were looking for a true family home, the place where our kids would grow up.” She is from India, and her husband grew up in Dubai, but both spent a lot of time in Europe. When it came time to design this new abode, memories of traditional European residences came into play. “The wood siding, round windows and columns at the front door help create that look, but it is done in a casual way,” says residential designer Reza Norouzi. Working closely with Norouzi and general contractor Brian Kelly, Lawson and the clients were able to realize a home that will “evolve and respond to life’s changes,” says the wife. “It’s hard to make forever decisions, but this feels right for right now, and it feels good for our kids.”

Flanking the entrance—a dramatic space with dark inlaid-stone floors—the living and dining rooms reveal the dwelling’s more grown-up side. The former was created as the perfect place for evening cocktails, with the latter designed to let friends and family shine. “The dining room is toned down because the client wanted people, conversation and food to be the focus,” explains Lawson. To the rear of the residence is the sunny great room—a must on the wife’s wish list. Anchoring one end of the space, the kitchen was inspired by those she had seen in Europe.

“Because of our time there, it was important for that feeling to be part of our home,” the wife says. At the family room end, a floating glass fireplace warrants a double take. “That was one of the most challenging aspects of this house,” recalls Kelly. “We had to create a structure above the glass that could hold a 1,000-pound marble slab in the air.” And because it’s a space used by the children, Lawson and the wife sought playful pieces like a coffee table that rests on spherical forms—a whimsical shape that Lawson wove throughout the abode, including in the upstairs media room’s pillows. “There’s just something fun about the round profile,” the designer says.

Other elements tailored perfectly to the family’s tastes are the couple’s offices. The husband’s is library-like and painted a soft green; the wife’s features a graphic wallpaper, a light pink velvet sofa and a purple-hued rug. “They’re yin and yang,” says Lawson of the couple and their respective spaces. “He’s soft-spoken, grounded; she’s vibrant and charismatic.” The couple’s bedroom, swathed in a misty blue, was designed as a quiet oasis, but their daughter’s room features more vibrant design components. “She wanted a swing in her room and a pink bathtub,” the wife recalls. Although she was hesitant at first, she granted her daughter’s wish. “Everybody’s voice was heard, and the house feels that much more special,” she adds.

Making the home equally distinctive outside is a landscape by Kay La Plain that puts the spotlight on the property’s heritage oak tree. “They’re protected—and rightly so,” the landscape designer notes. The garden was “designed to grow with the family” and includes entertaining areas, play spaces and a new pool. As with the interiors, color also plays an important role. “There are crepe myrtles, ornamental cherries and maples—and hot pinks in front of the house,” says La Plain. “There’s a connection to nature throughout this home, not just with its views but with its natural woods and organic undertones,” adds Lawson. “It’s bold and elegant—the whole house is a colorful, tactile, sensory experience.” ■



A Marc Wood Studio chandelier illuminates the entrance hall of this Atherton home by designer Sarahliz Lawson, where a custom brass railing by Fable Inc. sets a graceful tone. The side table is by CB2 and the Tineke Triggs floor tile was found at Da Vinci Marble.



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The media room is a cozy family space with its Mario Bellini sofa from Eternity Modern, ModShop chairs, Alice Lane Home coffee table and Jaipur Living rug. The floor lamp is by Arteriors, and the ceiling and library lights are by Visual Comfort. Portraits by Elizabeth Sutton hang on walls hand-painted by Caroline Lizarraga.



Above: A live-edge silver maple dining table by Steel Wood Finishes is paired with Ochre leather-and-cane dining chairs from Coup D'Etat and a chandelier by Apparatus. The ceiling features a graphic de Gournay wallpaper, an item the wife spotted at the 2019 San Francisco Decorator Showcase.

Opposite: The Christopher Peacock kitchen was given a La Cornue range and a custom hood from Modern-Aire Ventilating, Inc. At the island are Apparatus pendants and Gabriel Scott counter stools. The quartzite countertops are from Da Vinci Marble.



Anchoring the family room end of the great room is a custom sofa by Grenard's Upholstery. The armchairs are by Scout Design Studio and the vintage walnut side chairs were found on 1stdibs. The coffee table is from Noir and the rug is by Jaipur Living. The Arhaus breakfast table is joined by Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams chairs and an Apparatus chandelier.





Above: A Schumacher wallcovering lines the wife's office, which features a CB2 sofa, a BDDW desk chair and Visual Comfort lighting. The gramophone-style iPad player is from RH, and the built-ins were made by Rabello's Custom Cabinets. The vintage rug was purchased at a fundraiser organized by Los Angeles furniture designer Cooper Reynolds Gross to benefit first responders.

Opposite: In the daughter's bedroom are a Lo Home x Tashi Tsering wallpaper and an Anthropologie hanging chair. The bathroom features floor tiles from Da Vinci Marble, an RH mirror and a Visual Comfort sonce.

