

The main kitchen features custom cabinets and hardware by Christopher Peacock, and Calacatta macchia vecchia marble counters and a backsplash from Specstones Studio. The range is Lacanche from Art Culinaire.



As Felix-Ashman orchestrated the home's transformation, he left the reception level's grand proportions mostly intact while he opened up the warrens of rooms that were once delegated to waitstaff on the top and bottom floors. Working with architects Jessica Vass and Jessica Wu, along with designers Alice Crumeyrolle and Ashley Herman, Felix-Ashman mined historical texts on French houses for inspiration to incorporate period-appropriate moldings, plasterwork and materials such as French limestone and reclaimed barnwood. "The 1930 vintage also brings Deco to the story," he says, "and this weaves with the French city narrative, brings a sense of modernity, and gives cues for furnishings and other details."

Light, too, was paramount, so the team expanded the dark entry hall and added terraces off the dining room and living area to establish a better connection with the garden below. Felix-Ashman also created more openness by inserting an expansive arched opening between the dining room and kitchen, and in a modern take on that theme, added oversize arched steel-frame windows to

the enlarged garden level below. "The steel mullions and muntins are extremely slender, lending a lightness to the space and the view," says the architect. The vista reveals a rambling English garden designed by landscape architect Eric Blasen and horticulturalist Silvina Blasen. "It was a jungle back there," says Eric Blasen. "Our goal was to make it more useful and attractive from inside the home as well as outside."

Other decisions, such as the installation of a home automation system, integrated lighting, radiant heating and new copper piping, addressed the home's functionality. General contractor Dan Matarozzi, project manager Alexandra Kovacs Jones and superintendent Robin Beauchamp oversaw the construction work and ensured all the intricate finish details were installed properly. "It speaks volumes of the skill attributable to the many artisans, plumbers, plasterers, cabinetmakers and other tradespeople on the job who helped bring the bones of the house up to date and create interiors that were a throwback to the traditional style," Kovacs Jones says.

Inspired by the bread ovens of old European kitchens, Felix-Ashman designed a fireplace encased in Venetian plaster. Wall art by Emily Payne from the Seager Gray Gallery in Mill Valley hangs above the fire feature and barstools by Soane Britain pull up to the kitchen island.