

Home

Nancy and Russ Davis like to decompress from the demands of their executive careers in quiet resort luxury. But these days, they head for a resort environment that's as close as the front door of their home in American River Canyon.

The house, designed by the couple with help from John Packowski at PCH Architects and from interior designer Paulette Trainor, has an airy, Mediterranean feeling that encourages indoor and outdoor living. "These were very active clients," says Paulette. "The main criterion was that this home feel like a vacation home."

Nancy and Russ wanted elegance without formality. The result is a softly sophisticated atmosphere that is still family oriented, making it as comfortable for the couple to spend an evening at home with their children as it is to host formal dinner parties for their friends and business associates. "The idea was to create a timeless, not a trendy interior," says Paulette. "Hopefully you can walk into this house 10 years from now and not know when it was done."

"Paulette read our personalities, yet brought in ideas we'd never have thought of," says Russ, vice president for project development at Elliott Homes. Recalling the six-month-long design process, Nancy adds, "Some of the ideas were so cooperative, it's hard to know who they came from."

As any couple knows who've done it, building a house together can strain a marriage. To guard against that, "we set some serious ground rules," explains Nancy, who is national marketing coordinator for SBA loans at The Money Store. "We mutually agreed on the design of the house, then the exterior was his domain and the interior was mine. We occasionally had to remind each other of the arrangement." Russ adds, "The only thing we disagreed about was the color of the mirrors in the wet bar."

The house is designed to display the couple's art collection, which Paulette has helped assemble from galleries in Sacramento and San Francisco. "Sacramento has some wonderful galleries," says Paulette. "They're pretty equal to what you find in San Francisco, but there's more variety in San Francisco."

Russ and Nancy are in no hurry to complete their art collection, which they add to as they travel to their favorite resorts. But when it comes time to return home from their occasional trips, Nancy sums up their mutual feelings: "It's hard to imagine living anywhere else."



Nancy and Russ Davis enjoy entertaining in their comfortable dining room (left), dominated by a Thomas Leaver painting from the Michael Himovitz Gallery. A glass-top dining table and chairs from the Kreiss Collection displays polished bronze candlesticks by Carl Gilbert for Randolph & Hein.

Sweet Resort



A cozy atmosphere is created in the formal living room (right). Three acrylic and collage works by San Francisco artist Dennis Parlente offset the white sofa and love seat from the Kreiss Collection. Color is added by Nomi pillows from Randolph & Hein. A decorative plate by Ron Mann, for the Ginsberg Collection, is displayed on a Dennis & Leen glass-top coffee table. The J. Robert Scott silk "puddled" draperies frame a view of the backyard.

Above: Russ stores his collection of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon wines in a subterranean wine cellar, reached through a secret door hidden in the home's woodwork. "The whites are running painfully low," he admits, without much regret.

Top: Terracotta pavers form the fireplace hearth on a third story deck overlooking Folsom's Rainbow Bridge. The view is recreated on painted tile by Renée Saur.