

SF is Homes

A look inside Infinity

Walls of glass, spacious terraces provide endless views from this state-of-the-art high-rise unit



INSIDE

Custom-designed silk wall coverings personalize any living space. Page S4



Contemporary Marin County home offers comfort amid seclusion. Page S5



No serious color commitments, the Silver Sofa allows cover switches to match your mood. Page S18



INTERIOR DESIGN *By Emily Johnson*

Wallcovering works of art are woven with care

B. Mori & Co. creates silk custom-made masterpieces

The hand-painted silk wallcoverings from B. Mori & Co. draw gardens on the walls. They are unique works of functional art.

"Expressing a reverence for nature and symbols of good fortune, each intricate design is handcrafted from 100 percent silk threads," said Emily Lloyd, manager of B. Mori. "The dupioni silk is woven from two different hues that shimmer and change color with the play of light."

The great bulk of B. Mori's designs are custom, which makes the company stand out among wallcovering retailers.

"Our designers at B. Mori are always happy to create new designs based upon references provided by the client or through our own extensive archive," Lloyd said. "Also, if you wish to create a complete Chinese interior, such as those found at the Brighton Pavilion or the Chinese palaces of Oranienbaum or Drottningholm, we can help with research and then produce wallcoverings, fabrics and porcelain with the same quality and craftsmanship of 18th-century antiques."

The first choice a customer must make is background color. The extensive collection present in the showroom at 450 Ninth St. illustrates the various colors available. "We do have screens on display in our showroom, but they act as samples," Lloyd said. "Most of the customers coming into our shop want something custom."

Standard colors provided may not always suit a customer's particular needs. Because B. Mori's creations are tailor-made and distinct, it's only



More colorful options brighten a room when coupled with a buttery background.

Details

B. Mori & Co.
450 Ninth St., San Francisco
(415) 431-6888
www.bmori.net

after the client decides on a color scheme that the design is created.

While each signature design has its own palette, the background color can alter the appearance of the design, which can result in an unwanted color scheme. B. Mori avoids this complication by keeping their projects specific and client-oriented, which gives room for modification when conceptualizing the color and design itself.

"Our custom program not only allows you to choose a different design palette, but also allows you to create an entirely new design that we will execute to specific requirements," Lloyd said.

"Each design is hand-painted, as a mural, to exact specifications supplied by the customer," Lloyd said.

"There are no repeats in the pattern, making each piece unique. The hand-painted nature of our wallcoverings means elements of their appearance are subjective to the artist's interpretation of the drawing."



The bird motif is a popular design. When painted on a deeper background, the result is rich and elegant when paired with dark oak furniture.

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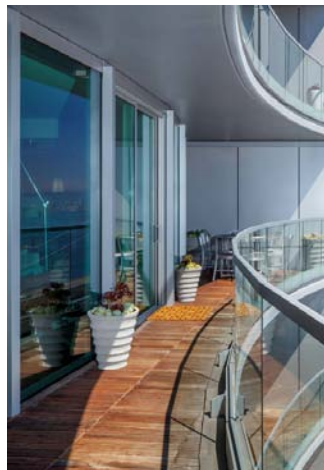
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On the Cover



To Infinity and beyond
Three-bedroom unit is first resale property in prestigious 2009 construction.
Story, page S13

Photography:
Jacob Elliot



This design evokes images of nature and is slightly more abstract.



The shimmering silk in this room is a recurring theme, from the curtains to the bed linens.

GETAWAYS *By Megan Mattingly-Arthur*

Perfect panoramas



With complete privacy at the end of Crest Avenue, the home boasts a large driveway and attached two-car garage.

Home was designed by Mill Valley artist James Richard Hyatt

Located at the very end of Crest Road, just inside San Anselmo, sits a sprawling and pleasantly secluded single-story Contemporary home with spectacular views of Winship Park, Mount Tamalpais and the Ross Valley for \$1.695 million.

Built in 1956, the spacious three-bedroom, 3.5-bath home at 75 Crest Ave. was designed by Mill Valley artist and architect James Richard Hyatt. When construction was complete, the 3,526-square-foot home was featured on the cover of California Home Magazine.

The magazine spread boasted an array of photos, as well as an article touting the home's modern style and design, according to listing agent Micheline Rourke of Frank Howard Allen Realtors. The home's brief brush with fame is far from the only thing that makes it a special and highly desirable piece of Marin County real estate. For Rourke, she said, it's all about location.

"The location is just phenomenal," she said. "It's a beautiful, gated, private property with gorgeous views of the Ross Valley all the way around, from the west to the north. The house is located at the very end of Crest Road, so there is perfect privacy. Once you pass through the entry gate, you find yourself in the midst of a gorgeous mature garden, with paths that run through it."

The home takes advantage of the magnificent location and stunning views with floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows in the living room and large picture windows spaced throughout. For example, the large windows in the breakfast room look out to the ex-

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Photography by Frank Howard Allen Realty



A kidney-shaped inground pool is the centerpiece of the backyard area.



The kitchen features cabinets hand-painted in the French Country style.

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quisitely maintained garden, giving diners the impression they are eating in the garden itself.

Also 75 Crest Ave. has two large master suites, one of which has an Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant full bath.

The kitchen features all the modern conveniences, including a large center island with a range. Hand-painted cabinets adorned with fresh fruits and vegetables lend a French country charm to the kitchen, which opens to the garden breakfast room.

The home also has a family room, formal dining room and library or office. Other features include two gas-burning fireplaces, an attached two-car garage and hardwood parquet and tile flooring throughout.

“The openness and size of the rooms is just tremendous,” Rourke said. “Also, the feel and ambiance of the neighborhood is really special.”

In addition to its lush gar-



A master suite has hardwood floors, a sitting area and stunning views.



Floor-to-ceiling windows in the living room offer breathtaking views of Mount Tamalpais and the Ross Valley.

dens, the property also boasts large decks and a kidney-shaped in-ground pool surrounded by plenty of patio space that's perfect for lounging in the sun.

There also is a guesthouse with a bedroom, full bath and sitting room that is connected to the main house via a walkway. With views just as beautiful as those seen from the main house, the guesthouse sitting room also could be used as an extra bedroom.

For those who consider a leisurely stroll an essential part of each getaway, the home is within walking distance of several area businesses and restaurants, boasting a Walk Score of 71.

For more information, call Rourke at (415) 250-8175, email mrourke@fhallen.com or visit www.fhallen.com.



One of three full baths, this bathroom features two sinks along with eparate tub and shower areas.

Photography by Frank Howard Allen Realty

OUTDOORS *By Chris Marshall*



A view to behold: from the home's front balcony, hills dotted with vegetation roll to the horizon's edge.

'Breezespace' has open feel

Blu Homes emphasized green design, connection to nature in Healdsburg home

The newly constructed home at 280 Long Acres Place is a perfect amalgamation of modern architecture and scenic, natural beauty. Resting on more than half an acre, the 3,600-square-foot house, which was partially built into a hill, combines the best of both worlds.

Blu Homes, the firm that designed the house, was founded in 2008 by Bill Haney and Maura McCarthy, two entrepreneurs with backgrounds in housing and environmental design. Their primary goal is to build green homes that drastically reduce the carbon emissions generated by most residences, and



This angle, from atop the rear casita, or guest house, shows the extensive deck perfect for entertaining.

this house is no exception. By using solar power for heating and cooling, as well as energy-efficient appliances, Blu Homes was able to limit the environmental impact caused

by traditional power sources.

Listing agent Betty Hagedon of the Wine Country Group describes the property as the optimal blend between the peace and quiet of living in the

countryside and the convenience of living near the city.

"It is designed so that it's all open," Hagedon said. "It's set up against natural habit where no one can build, and there are walking trails within half a block. It's just a real natural, wonderful feeling."

The area immediately surrounding Long Acres Place is almost completely wooded. Beautiful oak trees line the road and the property. There also are plenty of other hills, much like the slope abutting the house, and walking trails meander throughout and into the woods, providing an easy escape into nature. The east, south and west lead to vast



Fresh red mulch and tufts of ornamental grass wander up curvilinear cement planters to the front entrance of the home.

swaths of land to be explored, while heading north leads back into civilization.

The natural beauty of the surrounding environment is a major draw, but the luxurious interior is as well. An example of Blu Homes’ “Breezespace” design, the living areas are glass-enclosed, engendering a strong connection to the outside world. The beautiful windows allow residents the opportunity to view the local vistas from inside and fill the house with natural light. In addition, the sliding-glass doors may opened to draw in an organic breeze.

The main living room, which is separated into halves by a fireplace and floored in hardwood, contains ample room for seating and furniture. The high ceilings are specially designed to maximize energy efficiency. Like many of the rooms, the living area has windows on all sides, providing a view of the deck and beyond.

The full-size deck has a patio and seating area, complete with furniture, that looks out into the countryside. At the rear, a “casita,” or guesthouse, allows visitors to have their own bedroom and kitchenette.

While there are a few other homes in the immediate area, Hagedon said that the natural draw of the area is bound to stay.

“There can ultimately be four homes on the block, but [the home] is set back in a quiet area and surrounded by nature because of the trees,” she said. “It’s a rule that they can’t build on the natural habitat area.”

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Turning from the front balcony view, the sliding doors can be seen open to elements, utilizing the Breezespace concept to draw in fresh air.

Photography by Sibylla Herbrich



The guest casita behind the regular residence is well-lit and cozy.

Details

280 Long Acres Place,
Healdsburg
Built: 2012
Beds: Three
Baths: Four
Size: 3,600 square feet
Price: \$2.65 million
Listing Agent: Betty Hagedon, Wine Country Group,
(707) 473-3464,
www.winecountrygroup.com



Like the front of the house, the many windows lining the lower deck splash columns of ambient light to the exterior.



Interior lights gently emanate out the modern-contemporary face of the house at dusk.

Photography by Sibylla Herbrich

COVER STORY

By Allison Brophy Champion

Infinite opportunities



Panoramic views from the upper-level guest deck, the home’s second terrace buffered by a half-wall of glass, extend outward with the Pacific Ocean.

Three-bedroom unit is first in high-rise tower to be placed on the resale market

There’s an uncommon availability in one of the two rounded residential skyscrapers at The Infinity.

Perched on the Bay, the state-of-the-art Duplex 39C unit is near the top of the second tower’s 42 stories of glass. Recently listed for \$3.2 million, it is the first unit in the 2009 development to go up for resale, according to Sotheby’s International Realty’s Mickey Schlesinger, whose team is market-

ing the property.

Schlesinger said the listing is incredible. “The iconic Infinity condominiums [are] an exciting collection of modern residences located just one block from the Embarcadero and the water’s edge,” he said.

Globally celebrated architect Bernardo Fort-Brescia designed the towers, which are wrapped distinctively in teal glass “to create a striking landmark to the city’s famous

skyline,” according to information from the listing website www.infinityviews.com.

The three-bedroom, three-bathroom duplex offers 1,800 square feet inside, and an outdoor 470-square-foot private terrace on each floor that each give expansive panoramic views, including the Golden Gate Bridge and several picturesque counties. The home is uniquely positioned on the

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With views of the Bay Bridge and beyond, the spacious terrace of Duplex 39C in the south tower of The Infinity provides panoramic views of San Francisco and its surrounding counties.

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southern face of Infinity’s south tower, making it one of development’s largest residences, according to the website.

The inside entryway to the home gives welcome with African Wenge hardwood floors and over-sized curved walls of glass revealing water, land and sky.

The luxurious amenities throughout include substantial built-in cabinets and digital infrastructure systems for low-voltage recessed lighting, media, window shade and climate control.

Showcasing the living room is a custom media center wall adjacent to the modern kitchen with plentiful CaesarStone counters, custom cabinets and a breakfast bar that gives morning sunrise views over the San Francisco Bay, which is also viewable from an adjacent dining room.

The unit’s master suite expands and enriches its living space with a sky terrace, matching walk-in closets and dual sinks in the master bath along with a floating mirror, a soaking tub and a separate shower



In addition to the exceptional views, the living room’s highlights include a custom media center wall and a direct flow into the homes modern kitchen to enhance entertaining.”

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Positioned on the southern face of Infinity’s south tower, this 1,800-square-foot unit is one of development’s largest residences.



In addition to a full bath, the upper-level suite features neutral colors, hardwood floors and a sliding-glass door opening to the terrace.

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stall.

Afrosted-glass panel leads to an upper-level suite outfitted as an office with two work stations. Conceivably, the upper suite could accommodate overnight guests or serve as a full bedroom.

Newly constructed is the custom full guest bath with contemporary finishes such as the Concreteworks vanity and natural stone basin, an oak pocket door and ceramic floor tiles.

The Infinity’s monthly \$825 homeowners fee includes concierge service along with access to parking, a fitness center, a lap pool, a sauna and spa, and a waterfall-outfitted outdoor courtyard.

Residents also can enjoy a club

Details

The Infinity, Tower 2, Duplex 39C, San Francisco

Beds: Three

Baths: Three

Size: 1,800 square feet

Price: \$3.2 million

Listing agents: Gregg Lynn, Sotheby’s International Realty, (415) 901-1780, Alex Hachiya, Sotheby’s International Realty, (415) 314-6690, www.infinityviews.com

lounge with a catering kitchen and bar, access to a private screening room, conference and board rooms. Standard gas and water utility services and trash pickup also are included.



A sky terrace lends an open feel to the master bathroom, with other highlights including matching walk-in closets and dual sinks.

Photography by Jacob Elliot

FURNITURE *By Allison Brophy Champion*



Fashion finds the living room

Multiple compositions lets the Silver Sofa’s appearance change to match your mood

It may very well all depend on mood with the Silver Sofa. The super comfortable couch available at San Francisco’s Propeller Modern comes in so many cover compositions it’s possible to change outfits 20 times.

Propeller Modern is a curiosity shop peddling unique rugs, mats, lighting, linens, furniture, decorative items, art and other furnishings. The shop celebrates one decade on Hayes Street this year, a testament to the staying power of its one-of-a-kind finds for the home and office.

An integral part of Propeller’s Mooui Boutique, a fashion-comes-to-furniture concept, the three-cushioned Silver Sofa with back cushions featured here is manufactured in the B&B Italia factory in Italy, according to store owner Lorn Dittfield.

The Silver Sofa retails for \$6,695.

“You change your clothes every day, choosing your new day’s wardrobe depending on how you feel that morning. Why not change the clothing of your sofa every now and again?” he asked.

It’s 20 cover varieties use different fabrics, colors and textures for the seat cushions, back cushions and sofa body, Dittfield said. He said several new designs emerge annually, “depending on the fashion of the moment.” The fabric choices have cool names like “Easy Rider” and “Coco.”

A variety of leg options also are available. The sofa comes in single-seat chair, double-seat small sofa and triple seat, as shown.

Propeller, in the same location since

Details:

Silver Sofa at Propeller Modern
555 Hayes St., San Francisco
(415) 701-7767
www.propellermodern.com

2002, just celebrated its official birthday, and is looking to expand, said Dittfield, who began a career in advertising, but said he was always preoccupied with furniture and design.

Dittfield said it can be challenging to sell modern housewares in a town with so many Victorians.

“But, in fact, the more ornate details of a Victorian make for a perfect backdrop for simple modern furniture,” said Dittfield, a world traveler originally from Miami. “Overall, after 10

years, we’re really hitting stride.”

Propeller is about adventure and discovery with the goal of standing apart from other furniture stores, he said.

“You discover a new thing and in the process you discover something about yourself,” Dittfield said. “That opens up new opportunity to discover some other new thing. It’s a circle.”

The store makes it a point to support smaller independent designers who are creating high quality items. Propeller serves a clientele of free-thinkers craving individuality and the pleasure of creation, Dittfield said.

“And with us there’s also the, ‘Wow, that’s beautiful. I want that in my home. I want to look at that for a long time.’ That’s me!”