

ELEGANT HOMES™

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24 LUXURY HOMES DESIGNED FOR TODAY'S LIFESTYLES

2006

Display until October 31



MeredithSpecials





LEFT: A cobblestone driveway leads visitors to the front door, through which views of the valley beyond are visible.

FAR LEFT: Floor-to-ceiling windows lighten the family room, where a custom-carved, French limestone fireplace creates a strong focal point.

Historical Charm

The moment the lot in a prestigious Pasadena neighborhood went up for grabs, Michael Reeves knew he couldn't let it get away. Even though he wasn't in the market for a new home, he realized that the lot offered a priceless panoramic view of the Rose Bowl and the Los Angeles basin. "It was the last empty lot on the arroyo," Michael says. "I couldn't pass it up."

As a builder, Michael understood that to make his new home fit with the neighborhood's 1920s homes, he would have to pay close attention to detail. His first step was to create an exterior

that would blend with the neighboring houses. He relied on Santa Monica architect Ward Jewell for the floor plan and exterior design. Jewell even incorporated Michael's favorite early-20th-century architects—George Washington Smith, Wallace Neff, and Reginald Johnson—into the plan.

Michael already had an idea of appropriate building materials for his house, thanks to the original owner's 1920s Mediterranean home next to Michael's lot, which was actually a side garden the owner sold because he decided he didn't need so much space. Michael chose a six-color blend of clay





In the kitchen, Michael let go of his period criteria and created a state-of-the-art cooking center. A pale yellow tile wall is the backdrop for a full-size, professional-grade oven, and dark green granite countertops frame the stainless-steel appliances. An island topped with honed marble stands at the center of the room. It looks "like a separate piece that's been bought and brought in—like an antique that didn't quite match, but felt like a natural part of the space," Michael says.

Upstairs in the master bedroom, a limestone fireplace adds Mediterranean style to the room, and light green plasterwork creates a serene and calming

LEFT: The honed marble-covered island in the kitchen serves as a comfortable breakfast area and accommodates casual meals.

ABOVE: To create the dining room's coffered ceiling, the homeowner applied plaster on top of 2x6-inch wood planks.



space. A curved exterior wall of windows allows Michael and Annette to marvel at the sweep of the north end of the Los Angeles basin.

Although the views drew Michael to the lot, the home now garners just as much praise as its surroundings. He says, "The biggest compliment is when friends drive by looking for the new house on the block and have to call us on their cell phones to say they can't find it—that there doesn't appear to be a new house anywhere around." ■

ABOVE: A Louis XV-style limestone fireplace, plush velvet furniture, and light green plasterwork create a warm setting in the master bedroom.

LEFT: French doors on the lower floor open from the family room onto the patio by the pool. Three more sets of French doors lead from the master bedroom to an upstairs balcony.

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CAPTURING THE CHARACTER and integrity of its 1920s residential setting, this new home thrives in its true-to-the-era architectural detailing inside and out. In the entryway, cast-iron balustrades with a rust-and-wax finish, carefully selected antique furniture, and even an arched door that leads to the coat closet create era-appropriate style. Elsewhere in the home, limestone fireplaces and mahogany woodwork steal the show.



TOTAL SQ. FT. | 3,500
 BEDROOMS: | 3
 BATHROOMS: | 3 full, 1 half
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