







# The Ultimate Guest House

Architect Andrew Wright And Interior Designer Paul Schatz  
Team To Create A Family's Private Resort In Fairbanks Ranch

TEXT BY MELISSA PEARL PHOTOGRAPHY BY GAIL OWENS

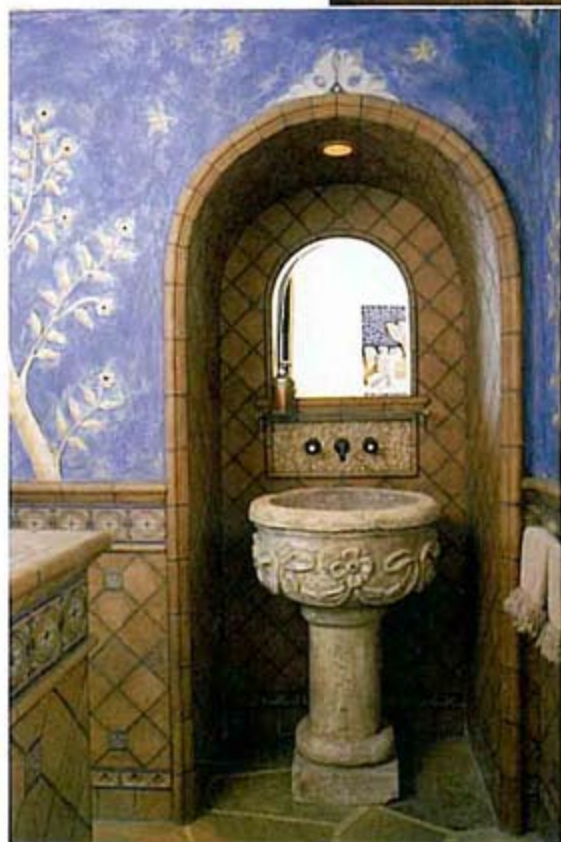
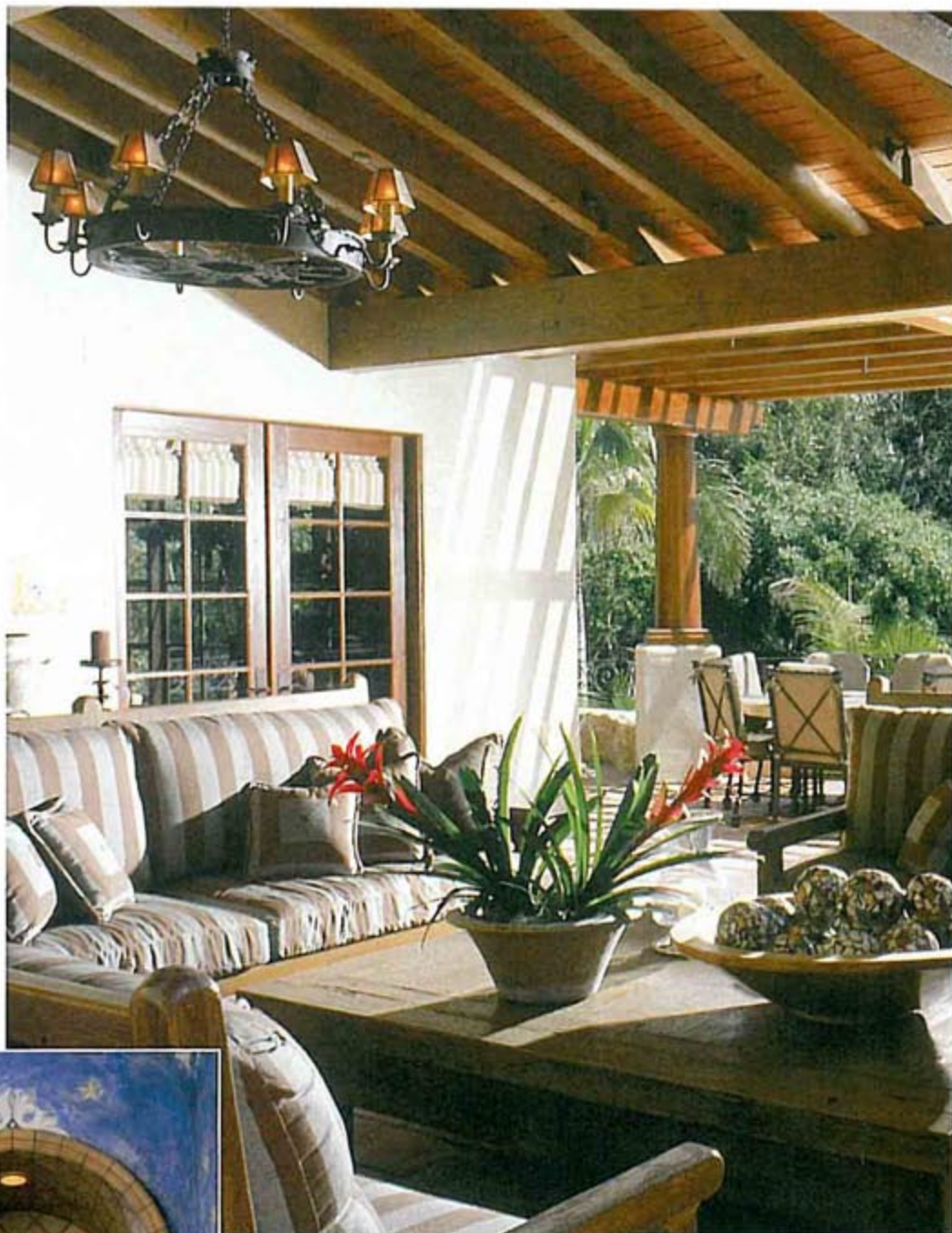
LEFT Designed by the late Getty Villa landscape architect Dennis L. Kurtz, the lush grounds allow for future growth and natural transition. ABOVE Intricately hand wrought swirled iron staircase railings, risers adorned with reclaimed French tile and decorative Poblana tiles, and Mexican Colonial doors work together in the entertainment pavilion's entry.







OPPOSITE The custom table and chairs rest atop a Pakistani rug in the dining area of the entertainment pavilion.  
RIGHT Truly an extension of the entertainment hall, the estancia features custom outdoor furniture produced in Puebla City.  
BELOW A Mexican baptismal fountain is used as a sink in this powder room.



**T**emperate and serene yet rich in beauty and texture, San Diego's North County claims many of California's most exclusive estates. Upon one such property, Andrew Wright, head of Wright Architecture, and Paul Schatz, principal of Interior Design Imports, worked with a prominent family to create a comfortable and resort style setting for visiting guests.

As design discussions progressed, so did the concept of developing an experience that ultimately transcended into what might be considered an entertainment village reminiscent of a southern Mediterranean coastal resort with a Spanish Revival façade. In taking home entertaining to many new levels, Schatz and Wright transformed the area adjacent to the house into an inviting space for family, friends, fun and philanthropy that includes an entertainment pavilion, a large guest house, a swimming pool equipped with water-slides and a grotto, a resort quality spa and a mirador.





More complex than is first evident, and incorporating the sloping nature of the site, the four structures were built to resemble a small hilltown within lush gardens surrounded by trails. As opposed to merely grading the slopes with terraces, Wright took this challenge head on and stepped the buildings down the hillside. Two separate bridge systems connect at different levels not only uniting the structures but also helping to create intricate spaces and shapes throughout the property. The flourishing grounds, designed by the late Getty Villa landscape architect Denis L. Kurtz, allow for future growth and natural transition. To maintain visual continuity and ambient sound, many water elements surprise and delight the visitor.

A series of spaces for large and small parties alike are housed under one roof in the entertainment pavilion. Carefully crafted natural light sources illuminate the multilevel building that offers a formal dining room, cozy television lounge, billiard area, game room, screening room, esthetician's station and spa featuring showers and a resting area. Caterers have made great use of the kitchen and bar for serving the up to 350 guests attending charitable fundraisers while the family has enjoyed using their built-in outdoor barbecue for more intimate gatherings. Almost every interior space opens onto an exterior seating arrangement enhancing the flow of each room.

**ABOVE** The lap pool complete with waterslide is surrounded by seemingly limitless lounging options. **RIGHT** The floral tile alcove was created in conjunction with ceramic tile artist Fernanda Gamboa. **OPPOSITE** Designer Paul Schatz employed an eclectic mix of antiques and reproductions to create the ambiance of the guest house living room. The fireplace surround was designed and fabricated for this project and the painting above it is by Mark Holmes.

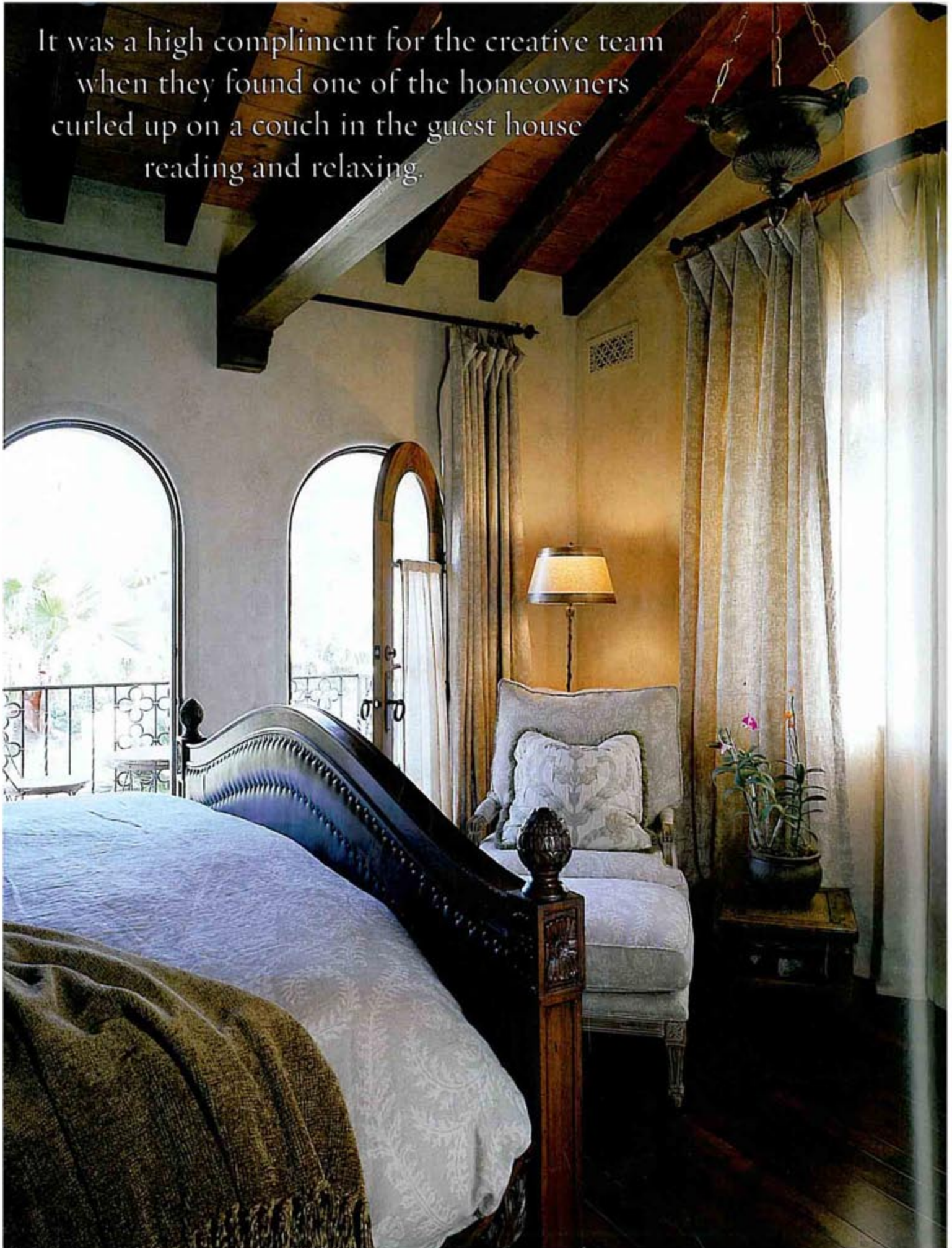








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OPPOSITE Window treatments draping from hand crafted curtain rods and finials open onto walls stenciled by Lisa Albert and Mark Holmes. Peppered with nailhead trim, the acanthus themed bed was commissioned by Schatz and made by a local woodworker. The antique lighting fixture and chair were found during international shopping excursions.

RIGHT At night the custom chandelier illuminates the iron staircase railing leading to the billiard loft, game room, wine cellar, theater, and many other amenities.

BELOW The European guest house master bath features a harmonious composition of antique furniture amidst Calcutta marble, hand painted Poblana tiles, and Carrara marble floors.




Overnight visitors are treated to the luxury of a three bedroom guest house villa. All comforts and amenities have been planned to create a warm environment filled with treasures from the owners' personal art collection as well as incredible finds from the collection of the designer. It was a high compliment for the creative team when they found one of the homeowners curled up on a couch in the guest house reading and relaxing.

Interior designer Schatz earned the 2006 Spectrum Award recognizing creative and innovative use of ceramic tile for his exceptional vision of color, texture and execution of tile design in the spa pavilion. A beautiful respite that outshines many of the world's best resort spas, it features therapeutic technology veiled within an artistic blanket of ceramic tile, stone mosaic, Poblana and vintage terracotta pavers. A partnership with a tile studio in Mexico allowed Schatz the freedom to personally create and commission the tiles and ceramics not only in the spa but throughout the entire property. With a total of nearly one dozen powder rooms and baths, Schatz worked to infuse the element of surprise and at times a sense of whimsy to define each room's distinct personality.





A project of this scale has the potential to become overbearing but the collaborative efforts between Andrew Wright and Paul Schatz generated results nothing short of breathtaking. The homeowners' trust in the exquisite taste, beautiful craftsmanship and amazing attention to detail of the architect and designer is a testament to their creative vision and professionalism. The team presented the couple with a complete collection of personally commissioned festive and fun ceramic dining and serving pieces during an inaugural party to introduce their clients to the entertainment complex that they will enjoy for years to come. 

ABOVE Dramatic ceramic reliefs by Michael King frame a ceramic tile Fernanda Gamboa mural. RIGHT Moroccan flavors in the spa where the ultimate in therapeutic technology resides within an entirely hand crafted display of reclaimed French floors, stone mosaic tiles individually cut and engineered within the grout, ceramic tiles, a Marmorino plaster finish by Scott Riddle, and hand painted Poblana tiles.

