

# CALIFORNIA HOMIES

THE MAGAZINE OF ARCHITECTURE  
THE ARTS & DISTINCTIVE DESIGN

## Creating New Spaces

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*The Call of the Wild*

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# STAYING HOME *in* Style

THE 2020 SAN FRANCISCO DECORATOR SHOWCASE

TEXT BY KENDRA BOUTELL

**T**HE 2020 SAN FRANCISCO DECORATOR SHOWCASE survived a pandemic and California wildfires to be the first-ever virtual showhouse, with a league of talented designers creating the perfect interiors for staying home in style. The 6,500 square-foot West Clay Park mansion featured three levels and 27 design spaces, including seven bedrooms with five and a half baths. Architect William H. Toepke designed the 1926 Mediterranean-style estate for businessman George H.C. Meyer, of the shipping firm Wilson & George Meyer. Toepke, a San Francisco native, studied architecture in the office of William Mooser and later formed a partnership with Charles I. Havens. As Havens & Toepke, their most well known commercial project is the Gothic style San Francisco Landmark Flatiron Building on Market Street.

For Meyer's home, Toepke incorporated nautical motifs into the architecture to reference both the owner's trade and the nearby Pacific. The real estate firm Lyon & Hoag developed West Clay Park as one of San Francisco's Residence Parks located in its western neighborhoods. Their 1910 marketing brochure called the district "A sheltered spot cut up into large lots commanding the most magnificent outlook over ocean, beach, and mountain." Along with Meyer's Mediterranean-style mansion, West Clay Park's single-family houses exhibit diverse architectural styles, from Chateausque to Art Moderne. A January 9, 1977 article in "California Living Magazine" characterized the secluded neighborhood as being like a Bentley compared to adjacent Sea Cliff's Rolls Royce persona. Perhaps today, Tesla would describe the residential oasis. **CH**

THE SUNDOWN LOUNGE BY **CHROMA**

PHOTOGRAPH BY SAM FROST

Don't we all need a place to escape to now? That was Alexis Tompkins and Leann Conquer's idea pre-COVID, and now their moody indigo and auburn adult at home cocktail-lounge provides the perfect getaway. Based on a 1934 Danish design by Vilhelm Lauritzen and Jacob Kjær, a seductively curved settee joins a mid-century sofa upholstered in midnight mohair to provide enough space to socially distance. Nearby, Palle Suenson's mahogany and teak cabinet contain barware and spirits for a long night or an ongoing pandemic lockdown.

