

**F**or empty nesters, downsizing can be a breeze. But for a family of four in Los Altos, a move from a large, traditional home to a more compact dwelling posed challenges for Palo Alto interior designer Pamela Pennington, who had to help make their belongings fit. The three-level, 2,600-square-foot home was designed by Arcanum Architecture Inc. of San Francisco and built by MJK Homes of Los Altos for a couple in their 50s with two sporty teenage boys. It features floor-to-ceiling glass windows and an open plan, and materials such as board-formed concrete, custom-finished wood, and glass and steel, with a neutral color palette throughout. "Every square foot really had to be thought about," Pennington says. "All the storage was built in; there wasn't any storage on the first or second floor just for overspill."

The ground level contains a kitchen with Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances, a laundry room, a living area, a powder room, an office, a dining room and a master bedroom suite opening onto a captured courtyard. All cabinetry throughout the home is by



Clockwise from top: An antique stool and a painting found on a trip years ago add dimension to the master bedroom; patterned tiles provide textural interest; natural finishes shine in the bathroom.



Corner windows in the master bedroom require a curving overhead track for draperies. Entitled "Women's Bodice," the painting above the dresser is by a friend of the homeowners.

## DESIGN DETAILS

### TYPE

Single-family home

### LOCATION

Los Altos

### INTERIOR DESIGN

Pamela Pennington  
pamelapenningtonstudios.com

### ARCHITECT

Arcanum Architecture Inc.  
arcanumarchitecture.com

### BUILDER

MJK Homes  
mjkhomesinc.com

## VENDORS

### BENJAMIN MOORE

Paint throughout  
benjaminmoore.com

### BLU DOT

Bedroom lounge chair  
bludot.com

### BRILLIANT FURNISHINGS

Custom cabinets; Shinnoki Desert  
Oak veneers (throughout)  
brilliantfurnishings.com

### DESIGN WITHIN REACH

Kitchen chairs  
dwr.com

### LUMA DESIGN WORKSHOP

Dining room Strap table  
lumadesignworkshop.com

### NIDO LIVING

Dining room Walter K. leather chairs  
nidosf.com

### ROLL & HILL

Dining room and powder room  
lights; kitchen pendant lights  
rollandhill.com

### SOLISTONE

Kitchen backsplash in Shogun  
solistone.com

### STONE SOURCE

Bathroom tile  
stonesource.com

### SUB-ZERO AND WOLF

Kitchen appliances  
subzero-wolf.com

### THE FUTURE PERFECT

Master bedroom bed;  
bedroom dressers  
thefutureperfect.com

### WATERMARK

Bathroom fixtures in  
Gun Metal finish  
watermark-designs.com

Brilliant Furnishings with Shinnoki Desert Oak veneers, and all floors are done in custom oak. Large glass windows at the home's rear open out onto eucalyptus and oak trees that back up onto a creek. A floating staircase leads to two upstairs bedrooms and a bathroom for the teens, while the lower level contains a soundproof music room, a wine room, a TV room, a guest room with a bathroom, storage and all the home's mechanical equipment. A light well and glass doors bring in natural light.

The couple's art collection and a blue dining room rug were among the few pieces carried from the old home into the new, its modern interiors calling for more streamlined furnishings. Pieces such as a Cassina Dodo

chair in the living room, a Luma Design Workshop Strap dining table and Walter K. leather dining chairs were specifically selected and sized for the rooms. Only the home's master bedroom windows needed drapery. There, two glass windows joined in a corner and posed a problem for installing rods. Pennington's solution, a curving track attached to the ceiling, "worked out nicely—you get this simple, folded drapery that's very continuous on a one-way draw," she notes. Now complete, the home is a modern oasis that everyone, even the neighbors, flock to, says Pennington, noting, "People were literally knocking on the door to see what was going on." ■