

# Grand Award

Custom Home 3,001 to 5,000 Square Feet  
Piedmont, Calif., Residence

Conceived and constructed like a piece of fine furniture, this traditional house is a stunning example of the art and craft of custom home building at its most accomplished. "The house would be beautiful even without furniture," said the judges. They especially admired the fact that structure and ornamentation are one in this precisely detailed design. It took a team with a shared vision to carry off such a demanding piece of work.

Architect John Malick specializes in designing houses that give the illusion of being authentic period pieces. For this house he pulled out all the stops to create a home that could pass for an untouched Arts and Crafts gem from the turn of the century. The exposed post-and-beam structure, precise joints, and articulated grid become the home's decorative elements; they blend seamlessly with the hand-assembled, clear vertical-grain Douglas fir wainscots, casework, and door and window trim.

Building a house like this really shows off the builder's art; with no distinction between structure and finish, there's no margin for error. Builder Tom Andreoni, who has built many of Malick's designs over the past 15 years, executed this one flawlessly. The work began with sanding and prepping all the large structural members before they were erected.



(Above) "There's no difference between the cabinets and the wall in a post-and-beam house," says architect Malick of this kitchen. (Right) The 39-inch on-center grid that appears throughout the house was established by the size of the ovens the owner chose to use.





A detached garage at the front of the narrow lot (a tear-down site) protects the house from the street and necessitates entry through the lovely front garden.



FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR



The L-shaped plan carves outdoor living space from the garden. (Above) As in other first-floor rooms, double French doors open the sunny breakfast room to a patio overlooking the garden.

Once the structure was up, he enclosed it in a temporary plastic “bubble” that protected the wood until the walls and roof were in place. “The house looked like a big plastic greenhouse for a while,” Malick says. The bubble became an atelier for Andreoni’s craftsmen, as they carefully built the cabinets, panels, and trim that are the home’s walls.

Any nervousness the bubble may have caused neighbors was dispelled when the plastic came down. The beautifully detailed Stick-Style building fits naturally into the long-established neighborhood. Like similarly styled houses built 100 years ago, its exposed structure, deep roof overhangs, brackets, balconies, and pergolas add warmth to the shingle and board-and-batten clad walls. “Ultimately the home celebrates the vitality of craftsmanship,” Malick says. Indeed, this home can take its place in a long tradition of fine house making that continues to flourish in Central California.—*Leslie Ensor*

Entrant/Architect: John Malick and Associates, San Francisco; Builder: Andreoni and Stanton, Berkeley, Calif.; Living Space: 3,300 square feet; Site Size: .3 acres; Construction Cost: Withheld; Photographer: Michael Bruk. ■ Dishwasher: Gaggenau, Circle 498; Entry/interior/patio doors: Liberty Valley Doors, Circle 499; Exterior siding: Dryvit, Circle 500; Fireplace/wood stove: Majestic, Circle 501; HVAC: Dacor, Circle 502; Lighting fixtures: Rejuvenation Lamp and Lighting, Circle 503 and Restoration Hardware, Circle 504; Oven: Creda Electric, Circle 505; Range: Thermador, Circle 506; Refrigerator: Amana, Circle 507; Trash compactor: General Electric, Circle 508; Windows: Liberty Valley Doors, Circle 499; Wood flooring: Tulip Flooring, Circle 509.