

# MOUNTAIN LIVING



August 2013

\$4.95 US  
0000102717  
08

## ART & ANTIQUES

EXPERT TIPS FOR MIXING OLD AND NEW



# TYROLEAN TRADITION

AN ANTIQUE-FILLED FAMILY LODGE BRINGS A BIT OF ALPINE STYLE TO CALIFORNIA'S SUGAR BOWL SKI RESORT



Surrounding a grand-scaled dining room table recently made but resembling an antique, Portuguese armchairs and side chairs by Michael Taylor Designs are upholstered in the luxe "Belisario" pattern from Bergamo Fabrics. FACING PAGE: Stylized heart and alpine flower cutouts in the handcrafted pine staircase echo a traditional Tyrolean motif. A hand-wrought iron sconce with antiqued finish from Ebanista enhances the Old World ambiance, while the jewel-tone Missoni Impala stair runner from Stark Carpet adds a subtle up-to-date touch.



## PERSONAL TASTE, PRACTICALITY AND A MEMORABLE EUROPEAN VACATION

led a San Francisco-area family of five to dream of building a retreat in the classic style of the Tyrol—the alpine region at the meeting point of Austria, Switzerland and Italy—in northern California’s Sugar Bowl Ski Resort. Shortly before the project began, they had vacationed in southern Austria and promptly fell in love with the area’s traditional architecture. That regional style is a perfect fit for Sugar Bowl, which was developed in the late 1930s and early ’40s under the guidance of Austrian ski champion Hannes Schroll, who modeled the place after his homeland.

The architectural style suits the climate of the High Sierra as perfectly as it does the Alps. Walls of local stone withstand the deep snowfalls that can bury a house’s ground floor during the winter. Steeply pitched roofs prevent the buildup of heavy snow loads, and broad eaves shelter porches and balconies. Tyrolean ornamentation, with its gingerbread woodwork, scrolled beams and carved doors and shutters decorated with floral and heart motifs, adds an inviting Old World charm.

To bring their vision to life, the family hired architect Greg Klein, a principal with J. Malick and Associates in Emeryville, California. Working with project architects Melanie Arps and H.K. Pae, Klein adapted Old World styles to New World materials, cladding the home’s lowest level in local salt-and-pepper granite and finishing the uppermost walls in Western red cedar. In one major departure from the past, he replaced tiny traditional

window styles with large, tall windows on the two upper levels. “Traditional homes in the Tyrol were almost dark inside,” he says. “Our clients enjoy a lot more light—and wonderful views.”

Interior designer Kathy Geissler Best, principal of Kathy Best Design in San Francisco, collaborated with the architects to create interiors that feel “very Tyrolean, but not stuffy or dated,” she says. To that end, she sourced a wide range of harmonious Italian, French, Belgian, Dutch and English antique furnishings dating from the 18th and 19th centuries, blending them seamlessly with traditionally styled custom-built cabinetry and an assortment of modern-day pieces (see sidebar).

A wealth of modern amenities helps the home function as a ski-in, ski-out retreat for the family of five or a gathering place for more than 80 party guests. The main entry features heated floors, boot warmers and lockers for snow and ski gear. In each of the kids’ rooms, which feature custom-designed queen-size beds, a twin bunk bed provides a cozy sleeping spot for a friend. A home theater is furnished with plush leather recliners and acoustic wall and ceiling panels, and in the kitchen, a professional-quality range, two sinks and double dishwashers make cooking for a crowd a breeze.

Helping to tie it all together is the ornamentation that distinguishes Tyrolean style. Best and her clients debated about creating a family crest but decided on a more lighthearted approach, a cinquefoil motif. The cinquefoil, as its French name suggests, is a five-petalled alpine flower often employed in heraldry. With the homeowners’ enthusiastic assent, the designer and architects worked it into custom designs throughout the house, from shutter cutouts and the stair railing to drapery trims, rugs and decorative wall paintings.

The result, Klein says, is a contemporary home that “evokes a very specific tradition.” Adds Best, “It’s historically correct but definitely not stuck in the past. We’ve achieved something interesting, comfortable and current.” ◦

FACING PAGE: English 19th-century lanterns of iron, tole (lacquered metalware) and etched glass from Coup d’Etat hang from the living room’s lofty bow-trussed ceiling with chevron-patterned wood decking. Interior shutters decorated with sapphire-blue-painted heart cutouts conceal a home office and attic storage. A 19th-century English wing chair upholstered in antiqued leather and an English oak joint stool some 200 years old, repurposed as a side table, transform the staircase landing into a welcoming reading nook.

Dating from the mid-18th century, an Alpine Baroque-period rent table from Foster-Gwin Art & Antiques serves as a cornerstone of the great room. Its broad, sturdy surface and multiple drawers, originally used as a simple filing system for a landholder's collection of tenants' rent payments, have been repurposed to serve as the setting for the family's frequent rounds of Scrabble and other games, for reading and meetings, and as a buffet for appetizer parties. Echoing its style, the stools surrounding it, designed by Kathy Best Design, were fabricated by Belmar Fine Custom Upholstery.





## Past and Present

Interior designer Kathy Geissler Best shares her tips on how to seamlessly incorporate antiques into your home.

**DECIDE ON A THEME** Think about the styles you like and that might best suit your location, the existing style of your home, and your lifestyle and needs. Making this decision in advance, says Best, “will help you achieve a feeling of continuity throughout the house.”

**SHOP AROUND** Don’t confine your search to one shop or town. Have fun shopping in lots of different stores and places. “We found some amazing European antiques in the San Francisco Bay area,” the designer says.

**BE PRACTICAL** Don’t let looks or charm alone convince you to buy an antique. “It needs to be functional and strongly built,” Best says. “You don’t want something rickety. An antique is no good to you if it’s falling apart.”

**INTRODUCE PRESENT-DAY TOUCHES** “Layer in newer, more contemporary pieces to keep your home feeling alive and vibrant.”

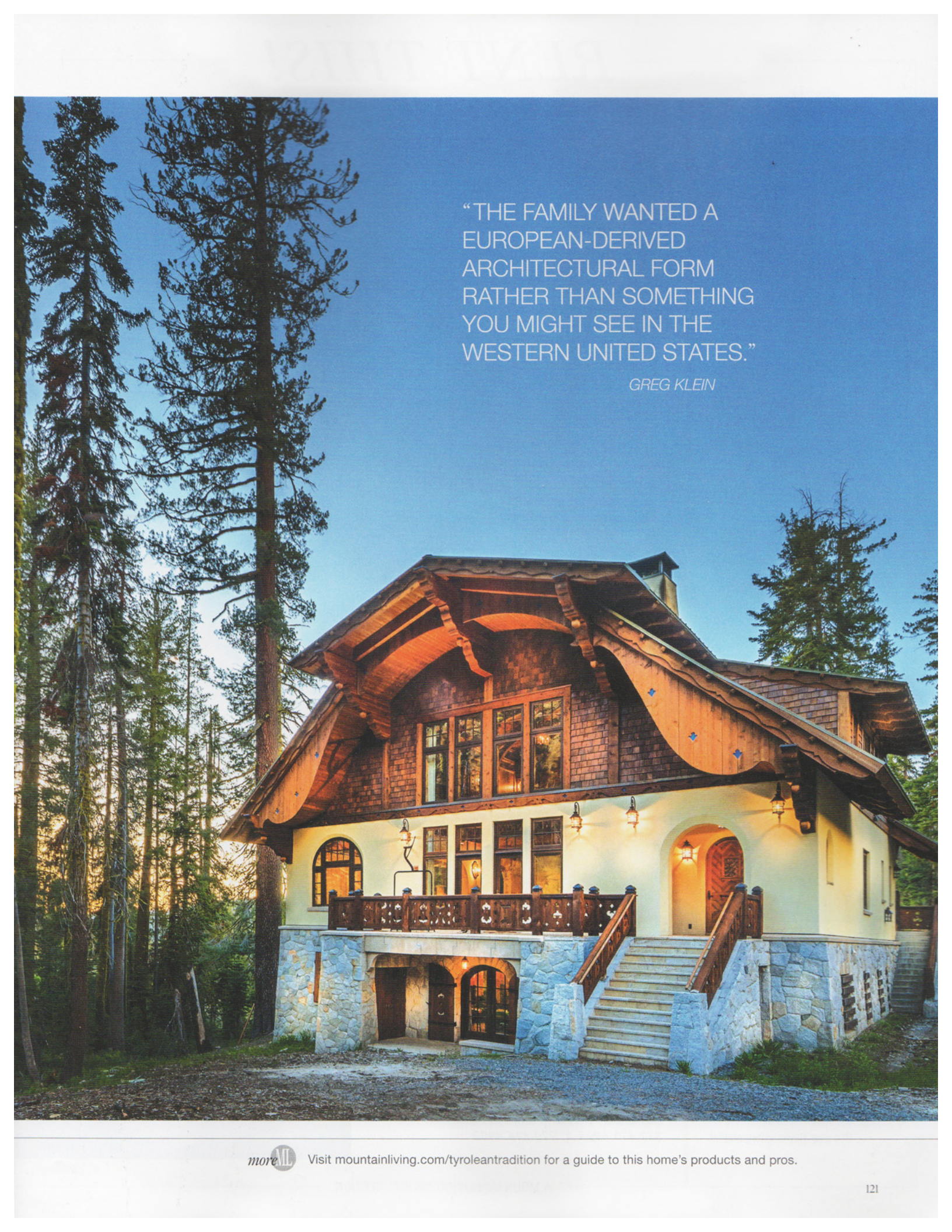
ABOVE: In the entry hall, an 1890s English demilune circular bench, upholstered in chocolate mohair velvet from Rogers & Goffigon, provides an ideal spot for removing snow-encrusted boots. RIGHT: An assortment of contemporary sofas by Kathy Best Design and antiqued-leather “Brionne” armchairs and ottomans by Hendrix Allardyce surround the granite fireplace with waxed-plaster chimney. The Sultanabad-style carpet, based on a 19th-century western Persian design, was handwoven in Pakistan.



RIGHT: Over the master bedroom's antique-black-and-gold-leaf "Flandes" bed by Ebanista, fabrics in cornflower-blue and butter-yellow silk form a custom-made *baldacchino*, a Baroque-style canopy. BELOW: The kitchen features custom clear-pine storage with a natural finish on the island and subtly distressed matte black wall cabinets. Professional-grade appliances include a Wolf range, Dacor warming drawers and two dishwashers. FACING PAGE: The south-facing entry façade showcases hallmarks of Tyrolean design, including stone walls, deep eaves and wood paneling with decorative cutouts.







“THE FAMILY WANTED A EUROPEAN-DERIVED ARCHITECTURAL FORM RATHER THAN SOMETHING YOU MIGHT SEE IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES.”

GREG KLEIN



Visit [mountainliving.com/tyroleantradition](http://mountainliving.com/tyroleantradition) for a guide to this home's products and pros.