

Grounds for Elegance

An outdoor space for a grand Victorian.

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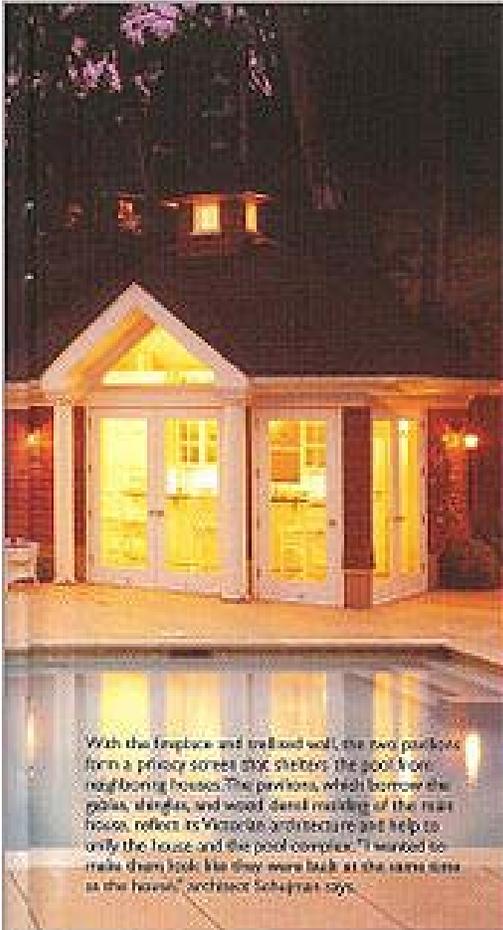


The deck of this Marin County, Calif., pool is a cultural treasure, with Hinge cast stone for the coping and steps. Cast stone runs around the entire site and, for his firm's vision and fully finished on the pool floor. The same site, into the spa.

The grand 1906 Queen Anne Victorian had glorious views of Mount Tamalpais, but its more intimate landscape was no match for the mission's elegance. So the owners turned to architect Elchi Dodson Schajman, who renovated a historical summer home on the site, and landscape architect Richard A. Vignolo for a master plan that would transform their overgrown, 2.5-acre hillside site into a sophisticated outdoor environment.

The centerpiece of the plan is a pool complex, designed by Schajman that provides everything necessary for Marin County, Calif.'s, outdoor good life. Linked to the house by formal, terraced steps, the pool is on axis with the home's entry and provides a dramatic view from the large bay windows opposite the front door. While the

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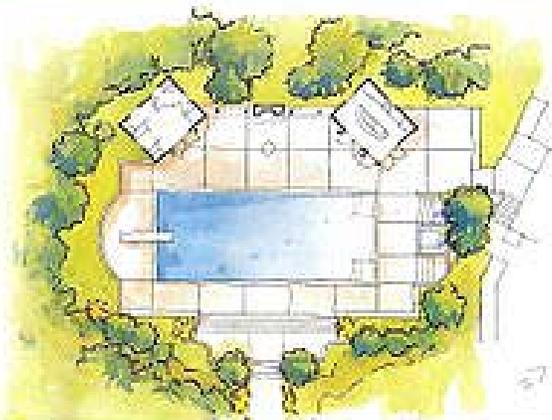
Contractor Morsaggi assembled the pool's cool-water fountain from reclaimed copper pieces that he had regional and embedded in the stone wall behind the pool.



The south parlor (above left) holds the bath house. Schujman added a touch of whimsy to its interior with a trompe l'oeil painting on the bathroom door that mimics the striped drapes of the dressing room.

The north parlor (above right) contains a kitchen and snack bar, offering refuge from the sun, a place to grab a cold drink, and a staging area for caterers.

Project Owner: Kaiser Permanente Construction Services (CA)
 Architect: Elida Doldan Schujman, AIA, CD/CA Architecture Studio, Mill Valley, CA
 Landscape Architect: Richard A. Vignolo, San Francisco
 Photographer: Jay Culbertson/Burtonac Photo Studio



The centerpiece of the plan is a pool complex designed by Schujman that provides everything necessary for Marin County, Calif.'s, outdoor good life. Linked to the house by formal, terraced steps, the pool is on axis with the home's entry and provides a dramatic view from the large bay windows opposite the front door. While the symmetrical relationship with the house gives the landscape a period feeling, it meant the builder would face some difficult site conditions.



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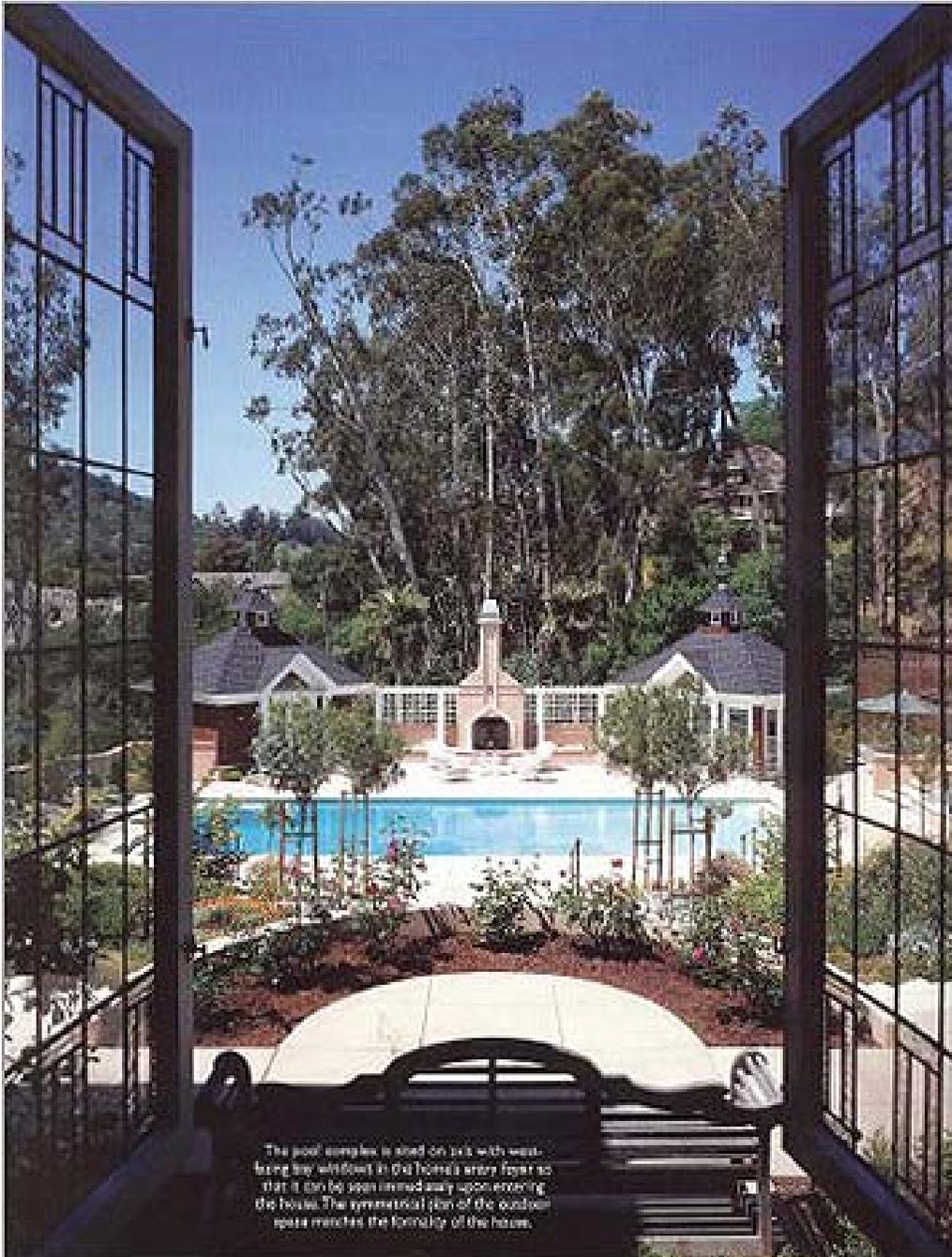
symmetrical relationship with the house gives the landscape a period feeling. It meant the builder would face some difficult site conditions.

That was just fine with Sal Veraggi, a general building and engineering contractor with a specialty in concrete. "My niche is anything other contractors won't do," he says. In this case, he had to cut through rock in the upper half of the site and fill the lower half to make a level pad for the pool and deck. After removing 27 excavator passes, Veraggi drilled and poured deep piers into the hillside. They support concrete retaining walls that are as tall as 11 feet in places. Next he brought in engineered fill, laid down and compacted 48-inch layers to bring the soil to 98 percent com-

pletion, tested in situ by a rock engineer. Then he began to dig the hole for the pool. The Granite pool, suspended on piers, is structurally integral to the retaining walls. Veraggi says for safety reasons he will never agree to build a pool unless it has a cover, as this one does.

Veraggi built all the project's hardscape and the two-pool pavilion. Designed to harmonize with the Queen Anne Victorian architecture of the main house, the pavilion contains a bathhouse and a kitchen. There's also an outdoor kitchen and dining area next to the spa at the north end of the pool. Schujman designed an operable fountain behind the spa that will make cold water should anyone feel too warm while relaxing in the spa's heated waters. ■

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The pool complex is sited on rock with west-facing big windows in the home's entry foyer so that it can be seen immediately upon entering the house. The symmetrical plan of the outdoor space matches the formality of the house.

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Project Credits: Builder:Versaggi Construction, Sonoma, Calif.; Architect: Elida Doldan Schujman, AIA, CID /Architecture Studio, Mill Valley, Calif.; Landscape architect: Richard A.Vignolo, San Francisco; Photographer: Sieg /Callister.