

# Marin HomeDesign

Fall 2010



Kim Adam,  
and other Marin  
beautifiers, have  
designs on giving  
you the home of  
your dreams

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AFTER

The inspiration for Kim Adam's interior design business comes from many different aspects of her life—movies with historical settings, museum exhibits, nature's colors and textures, travel, her yoga practice, sports and her family. Her vision is woven into the fabric

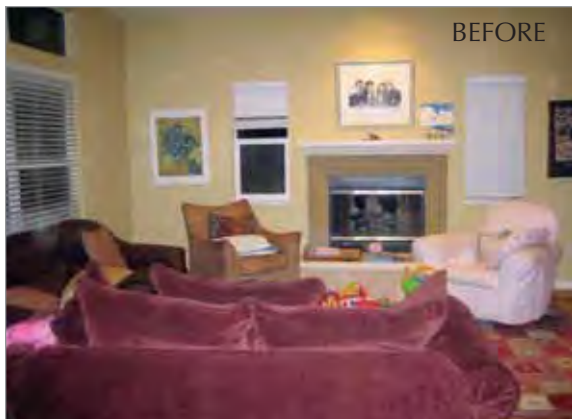
of what makes a home with heart, which she helps clients discover in their project. This is what makes Kim an exceptional designer. She is the master weaver, bringing all the elements together, working with the architect, contractor and clients to ultimately create a space that reflects who lives there.

*Kim Adam Interiors*

## A passionate sense of design

Kim Adam Interiors creates lovely rooms to fit your life

During her first meetings with a client, Adam will go through the area under consideration with each person involved in the decision-making process. She asks what they want to keep and what they really like



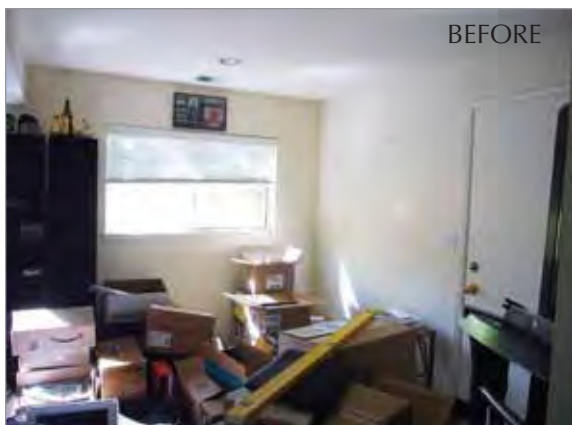
BEFORE

about their houses, and of course, what they can't wait to get rid of. She observes the objects in their home, artwork and photos, the natural setting and architecture of the structure and even the style and color of clothing the clients are wearing. "You can tell a lot about what makes people comfortable from how they dress," she says.

After the initial consultations, a design concept is created. Adam likes to use humor when coming up with the idea: for example, a remodel in a French chateau-like house



AFTER



BEFORE

*Adams' 'Zebra Room,' (facing page, top) is functional and durable for a client with four children, a vast improvement on the burgundy-couch 'before' version (below). Everything in the 'Old Gentleman's Library' (top) is brand new; the room before (bottom) was a blank slate.*

became “The French Baron Who Has Fallen on Hard Times”; “Young, Fresh, California, Vibrant” was the theme for a young family who had moved from the East Coast and was looking to liven up their home. Once the concept is agreed upon, then each

decision is viewed within that frame of reference to ensure that the end result echoes the original ideas and all parties are satisfied.

Although Adam works with every room in the home, “the great room” represents the heart of the home. The kitchen/dining/family room combinations are still wildly popular in home design. “The open floor plan is here to stay,” says Adam, “people are more communal now.” From monitoring the kids’ homework and computer use to entertaining in a large, comfortable space, the “great room” continues to be the most lived-in place in a house. The benefits of a multifunctional area fit the busy lifestyle of most families; small rooms with a single purpose don’t work anymore.

Adam designs all custom cabinetry for the great room herself. The kitchen should be laid out to match the needs of the homeowner, providing solutions for personal and lifestyle preferences as well as specific storage and technical cooking needs. Finding room for those sizable flat-screen TVs calls for a made-to-fit center to hold sound systems and corral that nest of cords. One thing she feels people often skimp on is the hardware for the cabinetry. She thinks of this as



“the jewelry on the outfit” and believes it adds flair, personal style and a more finished look. It helps to make the space special.

These personal touches, combined with a welcoming fireplace, good windows, utilizing the outdoors and incorporating the exterior views, window coverings that fit the design and are functional, as well as appropriate lighting for tasks and mood, all contribute to making a great room the heart of a home. Bringing all the elements together in a cohesive look is Adam’s specialty. “It’s the small things that make the biggest difference,” she says.

Her favorite projects are those where she is brought in at the beginning, before the architect and contractor. That way the design concept is conceived from the get-go and windows, doors, even roofing materials are thought through carefully to ensure that the finished space will have a unified look. She

*The bath in the ‘French Baron Fallen Upon Hard Times’ design (left), looks plush indeed; the kitchen remodel below was for a home with a ‘Nantucket’ theme. The dark cabinets (next page) suit the kitchen of a serious cook who wanted the space to remind her of the Tadich Grill.*



loves working with contractors and tradespeople and says she always learns something new.

When asked about common design pitfalls, such as appropriate groupings for a mantel or hanging artwork, she says many people are stumped by these challenges. Mantel groupings often contain too many mismatched little things that give a cluttered impression. Go big and use less is Adam's recommendation, and make sure the objects have an underlying commonality. Pictures are frequently hung too high and seem to be floating on a wall, rather than being part of the room. Photo groupings should have similar frames. Consistency throughout a house contributes to a more comfortable, balanced feeling.

Adam believes "Invention and good design arise out of the need to solve a problem." These principles guide her interior design business and enable her to assist clients in creating homes with heart that truly reflect who they are.

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