



# Home on the Range

OPPOSITE A European chest procured by interior designer Hank Morgan and an antique bench from the homeowners' personal collection flank the wrought iron and inlaid glass entry door designed by architect Jock Sewall and produced by Couture Concepts in Santa Barbara. Concept Studios of Newport Beach perfected the elaborate tile work.  
ABOVE The ranch is host to thousands of acres of prolific orange trees.



This was Jock Sewall's second project with the homeowners and Hank Morgan's first, which he then quickly followed up with three additional projects. These leaders in their respective fields concur that it was the ranchers' understanding of architecture and construction, coupled with a clear vision and ability to respond not only quickly but definitively to queries that made it possible to complete this project within two years.

The general manager has spent the last two years enamored with the new home as the founder enjoys a visit or two a month. It is rare today to encounter a region where one can appreciate a peaceful communion with nature. With this step back in time coupled with the home's modern comforts and conveniences, this ranching family has cultivated a fruitful business for themselves as well as for their next generations of ranchers to nurture and harvest. [4]

ABOVE Spectacular vistas of rolling hills and the entry courtyard further add to this simply elegant master bathroom complete with soaking tub, an antique angel and original oil paintings chosen by the owners. While a thematic continuity reigns throughout the home's bathrooms, each has been adorned with a unique hand-painted sink and corresponding tiles as a surprise treat for visitors.



Architect Jock Sewall And Interior Designer Hank Morgan Create The Perfect Ranch House In An Idyllic Location

TEXT BY MELISSA SHERMAN PEARL

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC FIGGE



Fifty years ago, a forty acre plot of land deep within the agricultural belt of Central California was willed to an entrepreneurial soul whose passion for ranching ultimately led to what is now 13,000 acres of working ranch land devoted to citrus groves alongside a thriving cattle operation. Though still active in the ranch, its founder, currently involved in a number of ventures, appointed a member of his family's next generation, one armed with a degree in animal science and agriculture, to oversee the day to day operations. He also decided this general manager needed a convenient and appropriate place to live. That began a collaborative effort between Santa Barbara architect Jock Sewall, Newport Beach interior designer Hank Morgan, and the ranching family.

ABOVE Central to the home's flow is the main corridor from which all rooms emanate. Purposely imperfect grout and tile placement in conjunction with the use of distressed beams, replications of centuries old light fixtures, and a host of antiques create an early 20th century ambiance that permeates the inviting abode.





In transforming the expansive 1800 square foot living room into a welcoming living space, interior designer Hank Morgan opted to design and commission warm rust sofas accented with floral pillows as well as the floral draperies that were further softened by the addition of bamboo shades. The crafty Morgan, who converted old candlesticks into the standing lamps that border the fireplace, discovered many of the room's other pieces in France. The European fireback, dated 1710, took nearly two weeks to hang as sheetrock had to be removed and the fireplace reframed in order to accommodate the 600-pound cast iron antique.

The expansive property was deserving of a home that would reflect a sense of California's earlier days in both solitude and sensibility. Coinciding with the vision of Santa Barbara Mission style architecture was a grassy knoll in a picturesque pastoral setting void of any residual proof of the surrounding community.

Ranging across the ridgeline, Jock Sewall's deliberately disjointed floor plan centers around an enclosed courtyard that brings in natural light while keeping the homeowners' dogs safe from lurking wildlife. While all rooms emanate off the main corridor, Sewall introduced additional patios, rather than merely imposing straight walls along the home's exterior, with alcoved niches affording extra window space to emphasize the panoramic views.

Reminiscent of the California missions from which inspiration was taken, the home derives much of its charm from calculated imperfections. Extra grout seeps out from multiple shades of terracotta roof tiles creating an uneven texture that runs perpendicular to the bright white semi-smooth steel trowel finished walls, producing an Old World feel. The interior tile work, designed by Hank Morgan in conjunction with installers Concept Studios, achieves the same subtle look. Enscenced in generous quantities of grout, the tile floors remain just uneven enough to impart the feeling of cobblestone amidst a smooth and comfortable assemblage. From the intricately detailed entry and corridor, through the bathrooms, kitchen and multiple fireplaces, each and every tiled area has a unique design specifically crafted to recall the look of life a century ago.

Island Bay exterior furnishings and a babbling fountain inspire a communion with nature in this private and serene patio.



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