

VALLEY VISTA Olive trees and chaises from Century Furniture surround the pool and spa on the entertaining terrace of a new home by interior designer Kelly Ferm in Redlands, about 60 miles east of Los Angeles.



mand

Idyll

REDLANDS

A new Redlands ranch house brings an authentic European touch to the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains.

By Maile Pingel

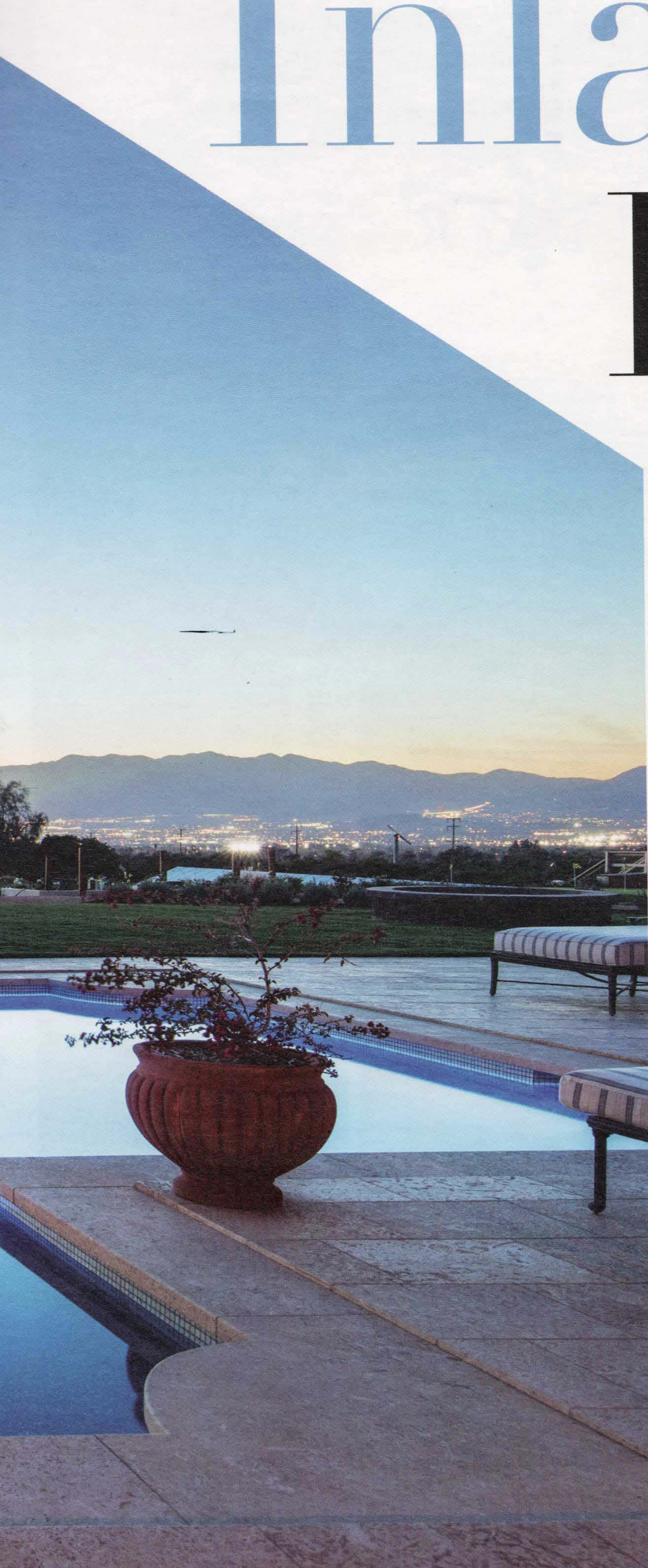
Photography by Mike Kelley Photography

“There’s beauty everywhere you go in the house,” says interior designer Kelly Ferm of the home she recently completed for clients, an active couple with grown children and grandchildren. The house, which sits on a 5-acre lot in Redlands, an undiscovered treasure of a town, was inspired by the owners’ love of wine country estates, especially the ones they love to visit in Napa Valley and Santa Barbara.

The owner, who has ties to the construction business, had purchased the property with a set of plans for a Tuscan-style ranch, but when Ferm, whose eponymous firm is based in nearby Claremont, came on board, she spent about a month tweaking the plans to enhance and open up the existing design. “We reshaped it,” she says, explaining that they stayed within the existing footprint but reworked walls to open up the flow, most notably in the entryway, which grew from a 36-inch hallway to a much more breathable space that’s nearly 6 feet wide. “The house is really built around that entryway now. It gave us the chance to place furniture and objects, and it provides viewpoints from different rooms.”

From start to finish, the project took only about 18 months, thanks to the owner’s building experience. “I’d arrive and find 40 to 50 guys on-site!” recalls Ferm. “My client was devoted to the project and had his sons run the family business while he focused on building the home. We worked on all of the construction and architectural details—he’s a fantastic decision-maker, so we could achieve so much in just a few hours together.”

The 8,000-square-foot home sits toward the center of the property, which allows for a sensory-filled drive past olive trees, cypress and a small vineyard before arriving



TIMELESS PASSAGE
Antiques, works of art, handforged lanterns and specially stuccoed walls create an immediate Old World feel in the entryway and central corridor of the main house. "My clients are collectors of beautiful things," says the designer.





PLACES TO LINGER From top: The dining room centers on a table that Ferm designed and had built on-site by a master craftsman. Handforged chandeliers, a painting from the owners' existing collection and a custom-carved fireplace from Spain round out the period-inspired features; in the wine cellar, which accommodates some 4,000 bottles, Fremarc chairs surround another custom table designed and built on-site. The homeowners are oenophiles and have planted a small hobby vineyard on the property.

at the courtyard entrance with its carved Moroccan doors. The home was truly designed with entertaining in mind and offers plenty of outdoor space that allows guests (and the dogs and the grandkids) to move easily outside. All of the main living areas, as well as the kitchen and master bedroom, have views of the pool area, which connects the home to a 1,500-square-foot casita. There's also plenty of roaming space for the couple's four dogs, one horse and 12 chickens—a sight that only heightens the estate's country charm. It's worth noting that the owners went to considerable effort to make this a home that's sensitive to its environment: There are solar panels and water collection systems at work.

When it came time to choose the furnishings, Ferm and her team put together a 100-page look book for the clients. "The book prepares the client and helps keep us focused," she says, adding that she and the wife spent one concentrated day of shopping together at showrooms like Ebanista. "It's so important to see a client sit in different chairs and to watch their reactions," she notes. Comfort and livability are key to the homes Ferm creates. One of the designer's favorite showroom finds was a mosaic-tile rug from New Ravenna, which now adds a floral note to the master bathroom. But



T CULINAIRE The kitchen's deep-red Lacanche range from France was ordered even before the couple joined the project, and she is more than happy to design the kitchen around it, sourcing antique beams and stone from Italy and a mosaic to lend a faraway feel.



There are also several plush rugs throughout, with luxury pieces from Mansour, Stark and Aga John.

"I really like to get out there and shop—no catalogues," she stresses. "We brought in art from London and antiques from European dealers that I've worked with for years." A particular highlight is a 17th-century tapestry that the designer had specially backed and hung on a custom-designed rod. "We call the project a Tuscan Ranch, but it's really very Continental," she adds. But there are also many custom designs incorporated throughout the house, like the white living room sofas. Other bespoke items include all of the stone fireplaces, which Ferm designed and had handcarved in Spain. Those fireplaces, which got stuck on the dock during the Long Beach port dispute, were perhaps the only little hiccup in an otherwise perfectly paced installation. All told, it took only about six months to build and place all of the treasures that now fill the house. "Though they're collectors of beautiful, special things, it's all very family-friendly," she continues. An emphasis on performance fabrics keeps it all easy to maintain. "This family really does party in their home!"

could build things as soon as she'd sketch them—a handy service considering the many special details of the home, like beamed ceilings and a wine cellar built to accommodate the owners' collection of some 4,000 bottles. As well, the husband is passionate about music and had Ferm design a room that would allow for a hanging display and easy use of his guitar collection. Ferm clad the space with reclaimed-wood planks from an old barn, but to surprise effect, as she placed them horizontally. "Their texture and tone create a platform for the color and beauty of each guitar," she explains.

The designer, who is working on myriad projects in Claremont, Newport Beach and Crystal Cove, as well as in Oregon, Nevada and Arizona, also recently launched an online division of her brick-and-mortar boutique, 707 Circle Lane: Shop 707 (kellyferm.com/shop707). The site offers click-and-purchase schemes geared toward young clients who want to style their own homes but with a little help from a professional eye. And if her online clients are anywhere as happy as her ranch-house clients, she'll be pleased as punch. "I get notes from them!" she says of the couple. "One



ON STABLE GROUND Ferm, who has been based in



DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE
Single-family

LOCATION
Redlands

INTERIOR DESIGN
Kelly Ferm Inc.
kellyferm.com

LANDSCAPE DESIGN
**SunScapes Landscaping
Company**
sunscapestandscape.com

VENDORS
Expression in Wood
Kitchen and bathroom cabinetry
expressioninwood.com

Eye of the Day
Planted pots throughout
eyeofthedaydc.com

Infinite Entertainment
Smart home and audio installation
myinfinitehome.com

Pirch
Kitchen and bathroom fixtures
pirch.com

Andersen Windows & Doors
Windows
andersenwindows.com

BATHED IN LIGHT The designer added an inlaid floral tile rug from New Ravenna in the master bathroom "to add a feminine touch," she says. A cast-iron claw-foot tub from Penhaglion anchors the soothing, sun-filled space.