

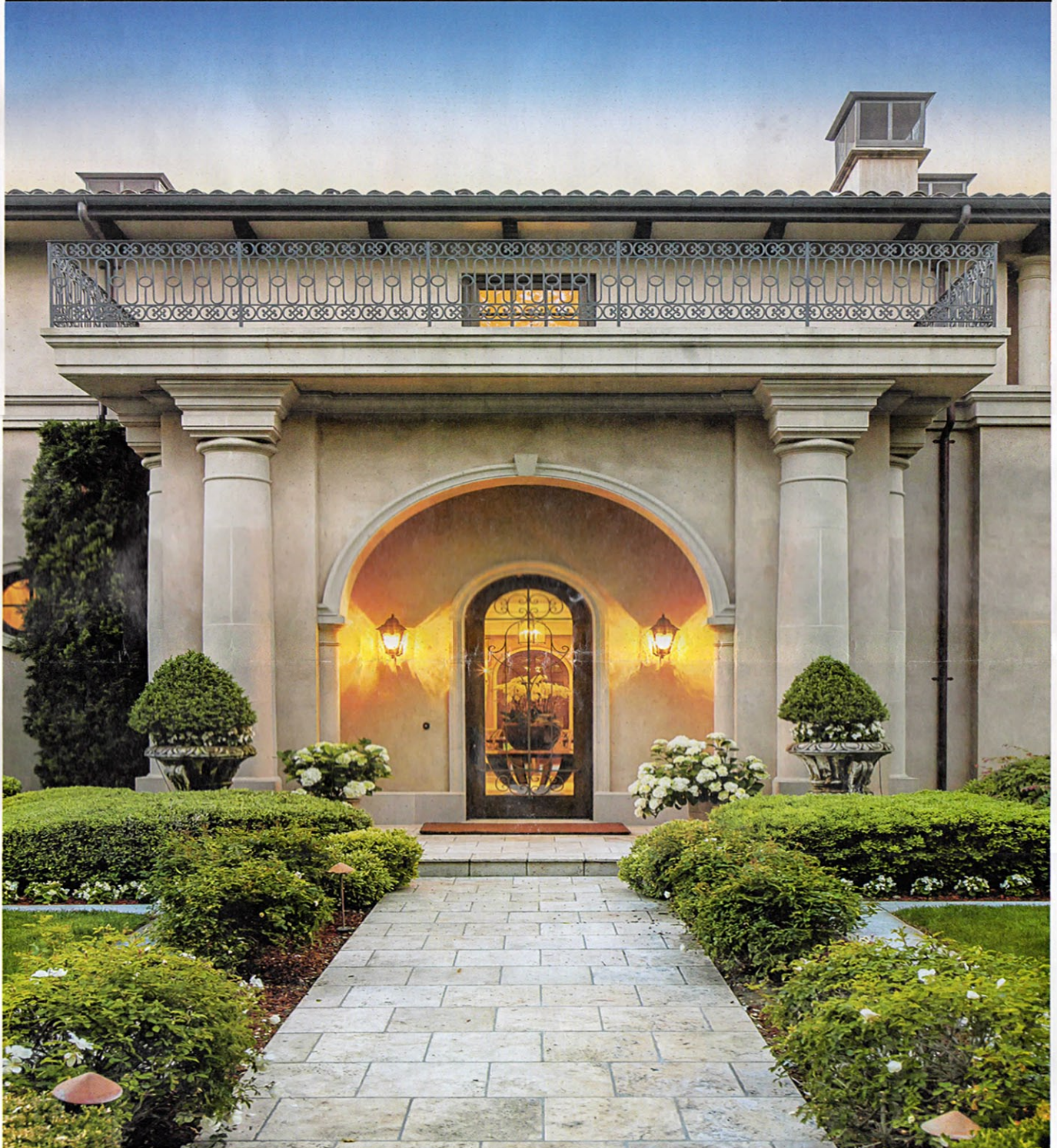
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SF is Homes



Italianate elegance in Atherton

Interior designer launched career with Tuscan estate

COVER STORY *By Jordan Guinn*



Photos by Scott Dubose

Atherton estate launches interior designer's career

Some fortuitous timing coupled with an encyclopedic knowledge of Italianate architecture forever changed Sarah Boyden's career path.

Now the head of an interior design firm bearing her name, Boyden credits her experience with Atherton's 1 Faxon Road as her springboard.

"There's no doubt that project launched my career in the Peninsula," said Boyden, the head of Boyden Interior Design, about the home set in the Menlo Circus Club.

Crystal chandeliers illuminate the banquet-sized dining room.

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Photos by Scott Dubose

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She played an integral role in crafting the property defined by hardwood finishes, antique fireplaces, plaster walls and arched entryways. Boyden relied on Palladian French doors to connect the public rooms to an expansive yard offering a solar-heated pool, fire pit, a golf hole for practicing your short game and a spacious terrace with outdoor kitchen.

Boyden came into the fold relatively early, as plans came together in 2003.

The owner just returned from a trip to Italy and was captivated by Venetian design. The pair crossed paths at an event and soon enough the designer shared her stories of overseas travel and similar appreciation of Italian architecture.

"I understood the direction she wanted to go in as far as materials and fabrics," Boyden said. "We were speaking the same language."

Boyden immediately reflected on the work of world-renowned designer John Saladino for inspiration. Saladino's style evolved from his time in Italy and centered around clean lines and classical design elements.

Boyden spent untold hours tracking down specific finishes and designs for the



Top: The 1.7-acre lot includes a solar heated pool. **Left:** This five-bedroom mansion is listed for \$20.7 million. **Below:** Palladian French doors on three sides of the living room expand the options for indoor/outdoor living.





Photos by Scott Dubose

nearly 13,000-square-foot residence set on a 1.7-acre landscape.

Southern California became a semi-frequent destination as Boyden searched for reclaimed stone for the kitchen and wine cellar floors as well as mantles for the living and family rooms.

The size of the home created unique challenges. Fortunately, Boyden's understanding and appreciation for Italian architecture meant she knew what she was getting into right from the start.

"It's very common for homes and buildings with that classical Italian design to have that type of grand scale," she said.

Everything in moderation extends to the world of design as well. Boyden knew the utmost care had to go into every choice.

Homes with such grand volume easily transform from stately to cold and impersonal, depending on the finishes. Mahogany-framed windows and solid-core doors complement plaster walls on the main level. These elements combine and create a warming contrast to the stone and tile accents found throughout the five-bedroom.

Blending formal spaces and casual living areas throughout the interior balances the overall design.

"It's obviously a home that accommodates parties and large celebrations," she said. "But there's still intimate spaces for day-to-day life."

A mahogany-paneled library with drum chandelier, oak floors and a granite bar provides a space for quiet contemplation or conversation over cocktails.

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Top: The home includes a spacious terrace with outdoor kitchen. Above: The temperature-controlled wine room can store roughly 5,000 bottles on its redwood racks.

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Right: The two-story foyer features a solid limestone staircase and extensive millwork. Below: Practice your chipping and putting at the home's private practice area. Bottom: The family room's fireplace offers recessed cabinetry beside its fireplace with antique stone mantle.

Photos by Scott Dubose



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Six sets of Palladian French doors open to the verdant grounds from multiple sides of the living room. Natural light pours into the room dominated by a floor-to-ceiling mantle sourced from a castle in Normandy. Just off a foyer with honed limestone flooring stands a banquet-sized formal dining room with two crystal chandeliers, plaster walls, wainscoting and extensive millwork.

Three sets of French doors link the dining room to a rear terrace near the golf practice area.

The fully loaded kitchen exudes Mediterranean aesthetics at every turn. Mosaic tile backsplashes and a rustic stone floor achieve a warming, welcoming ambience with Tuscan charm. The center island provides a dining area atop its honed

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Scott Dubose

The kitchen has an Italian stone floor, mosaic tile backsplashes and a center island that provides a dining area atop its honed marble counter.

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Above: The master suite's spa bathroom comes with heated marble flooring, a Whirlpool tub and steam shower with three shower heads. Below: The 1.7-acre gated estate features landscaped lawns, mature trees and a solar-heated swimming pool.

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marble counter and the adjacent casual dining area further cements the kitchen as an entertainment hub within the home.

The kitchen's built-in work desk easily serves as a child's homework area, enabling a parent to supervise them as dinner is prepared.

Italian stone also lines the floor of the home's wine cellar, which stores roughly 5,000 bottles on redwood racks. A hardwood counter in the middle of the room transforms the cellar from simple storage space to a secluded tasting room.

A mansion of this magnitude should offer an opulent master suite, and 1 Faxon Road does not disappoint.

A Calacatta marble fireplace framed by an elaborate mantelpiece warms the carpeted bedroom.

Pocket doors seal off the office/sitting area with custom cabinetry from the rest of the suite. Two customized closet rooms provide sub-

Details

Address: 1 Faxon Road, Atherton

Price: \$20.7 million

Features: Five-bedroom Italianate mansion featuring antique fireplaces, Palladian French doors, mahogany windows, banquet-size formal dining room, Tuscan-style kitchen and a master suite with two custom closets. The 1.7-acre gated estate includes a solar-heated pool, fire pit, outdoor kitchen and a putting green/chipping area. The home also features a mahogany-paneled library with drum chandelier, and a wine cellar, which stores roughly 5,000 bottles on redwood racks.

Listing agent: Tom LeMieux, Pacific Union Real Estate, (650) 465-7459, tom@tomlexmieux.com

stantial wardrobe storage.

A spa bathroom with heated marble floor, whirlpool tub and steam shower with three shower heads completes the extravagant suite.

Visit www.1Faxon.com for more details.



Left: The carpeted master bedroom includes a seating area and divided light windows looking out on the property. Right: The home's backyard includes a fire pit.