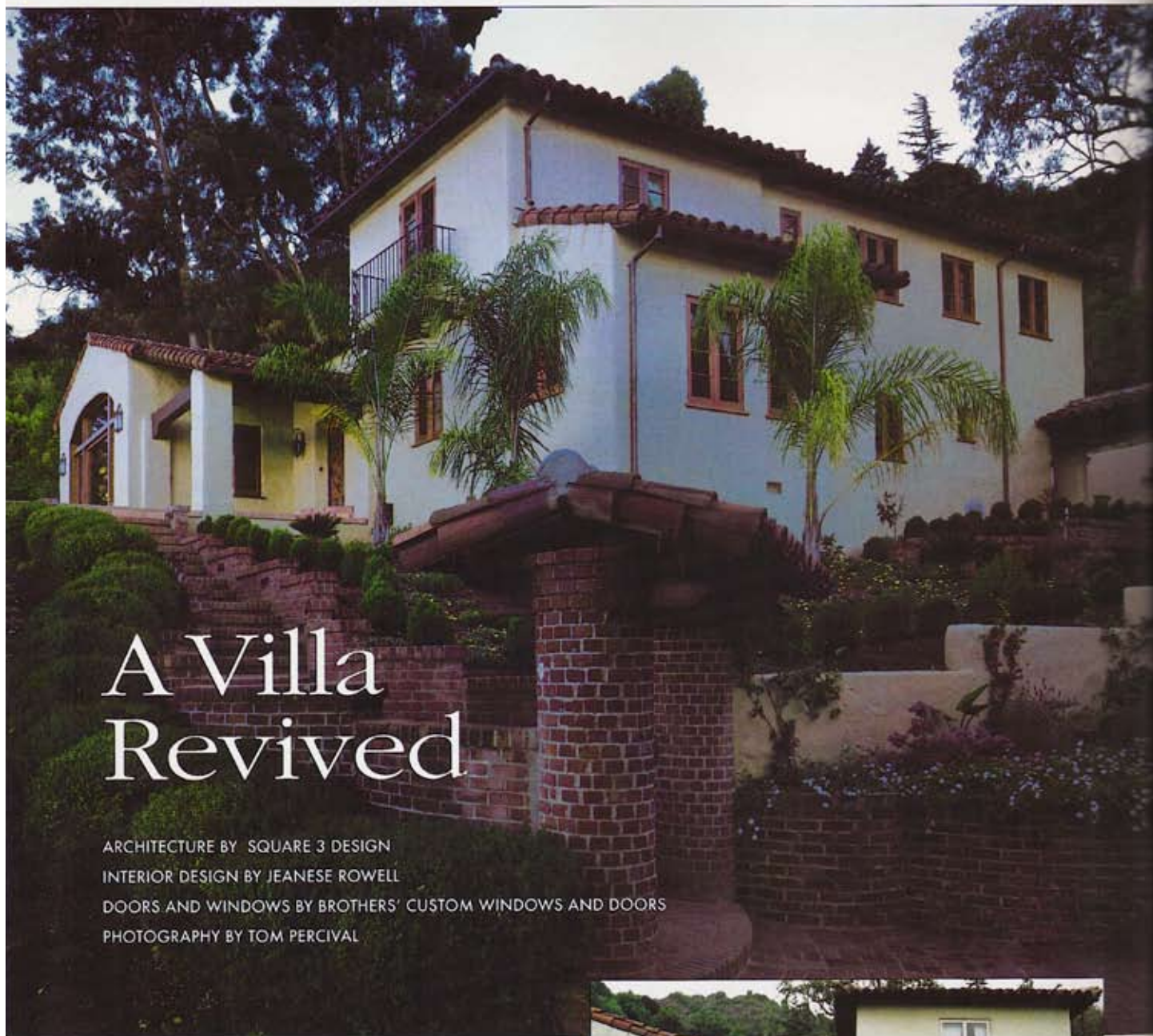


## BEFORE & AFTER



# A Villa Revived

ARCHITECTURE BY SQUARE 3 DESIGN

INTERIOR DESIGN BY JEANESE ROWELL

DOORS AND WINDOWS BY BROTHERS' CUSTOM WINDOWS AND DOORS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOM PERCIVAL

### THE CHALLENGE:

"The owners wanted to modernize, yet keep the feel of a Mediterranean villa. They wanted to maintain the aura and the originality of their existing Mediterranean home in the Saratoga Hills, but they wanted to create a new sense of comfort for themselves and their children," says Jack Topalian, president of Brothers' Custom Windows and Doors. This project was a complete re-gut and renovation of the existing property. No square footage was added, but several rooms were realigned and expanded. There were new floors, new cabinets, and all new windows and doors. →



## BEFORE & AFTER



*The warmth of the mahogany windows in the family room adds to the Mediterranean charm of this Saratoga Hills home*



BEFORE

### THE PROCESS:

After being recommended by the architects, Square 3 Design of Palo Alto, Topalian sat down with the clients to find out what they wanted to achieve. "We're capable of fabricating historic, traditional, or contemporary windows and doors," Topalian explains. "All of Brothers' windows and doors are custom made, and are exclusive and unique to each project. We look at the design of the house, confer with the architect, the builder (in this case, CSI Construction), →

## BEFORE & AFTER



*Before: The kitchen tile was colorful, but the clients wanted to modernize. After: The wood cabinetry creates warmth, and a sense of intimacy.*

and the interior designer (Jeanese Rowell), and then present some options to the clients.

The doors and windows everyone agreed on were made from European mahogany and featured multi-point locking systems, hidden rollaway screens, and anti-reflective specialty glass from Germany. "That allows the clients to see clearly outside day and night, even when it's dark and there are lights on inside. The house has a beautiful view of the Santa Clara Valley, and the glass was a special request by the owners to enhance that view." ➔



## BEFORE & AFTER



*Before: The design of the bath felt very dated, and there was very limited space. After: The bath now has an open, airy feel, with much more light coming in through the large windows. There is even a window in the shower. All the windows in the bath are fitted with anti-reflective glass.*

After the designs were agreed on, Brothers' budget was presented and approved. Brothers then put together a complete set of shop drawings in the latest version of AutoCAD, an architec-

tural computer program. "By having the flexibility to create windows and doors of all types and shapes," Topalian says, "we can meet any budget requirement. We are able to fabricate doors →

## BEFORE & AFTER

and windows that you cannot buy from a standard supplier. As long as a design can be put on paper, we are only bound by our imagination.”

To Topalian, doors and windows are the most important parts of a house. “They basically set the tone and mood,” he says, “and not only from a visual standpoint. By using wood, we can create a sense of warmth and stability.” Brothers uses only wood for their projects, usually Honduras mahogany, but they have also worked with oak, fir, walnut, cherry, and others.

### THE RESULT:

The elegance, grace, and warmth of the new doors and windows add to the Mediterranean ambiance on the exterior of the house while improving the looks of the interior and the ease of living there. “This home could be in Northern Italy,” says Topalian. “It feels like it is a million miles away.” ■

*The doors and windows enhance the home's Mediterranean ambiance while adding light and a feeling of space to the interior*

