



By highlighting a single piece of furniture — the Italian marble-topped Mario Buetta console shown at right in the foreground — Linder was able to design a room that reminded the homeowner of his travels in Europe. The look is eclectic and stylish.

Designer Vision:
Kris Linder

As a young, single mother in the late 1970s, Kris Linder worked for an interior landscape business, placing plants and art in corporate offices. Her talent and ambition led her to take side jobs decorating the offices and living rooms of corporate executives. But it was a chance visit to the home of an interior designer in Santa Cruz that inspired her to strike out on her own.

“This designer had an office connected to her beach house and

I walked in and saw white sofas and vases of white calla lilies and I said, ‘I want this. I want an office like this and I want to be an interior designer;’ she says.

But with a child to support, she couldn’t afford to go back to school. Instead, she used her business savvy and considerable talent to create Interior Design Source, an interior architecture and design business in downtown Los Gatos. Now, more than 20 years later, Linder has been recognized by her

peers at both the American Society of Interior Designers and the International Interior Design Association for the quality and integrity of her work.

Cues from Mother Nature

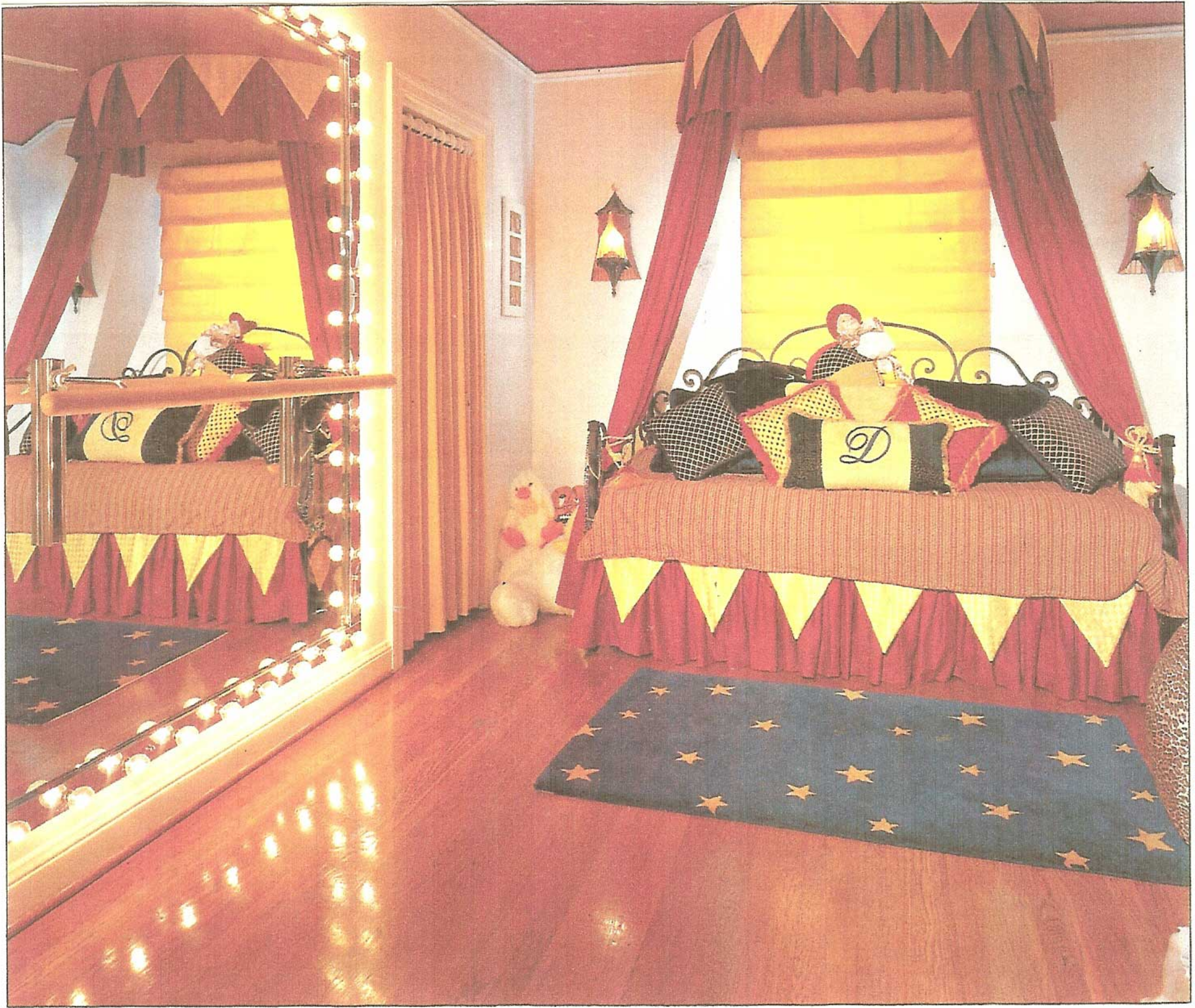
An avid gardener, Linder takes much of her inspiration from nature and enjoys creating a safe haven for her clients.

"I've always wanted to help people create environments that are sanctuaries, places that delight them," says Linder, who years ago transformed her Monte Sereno

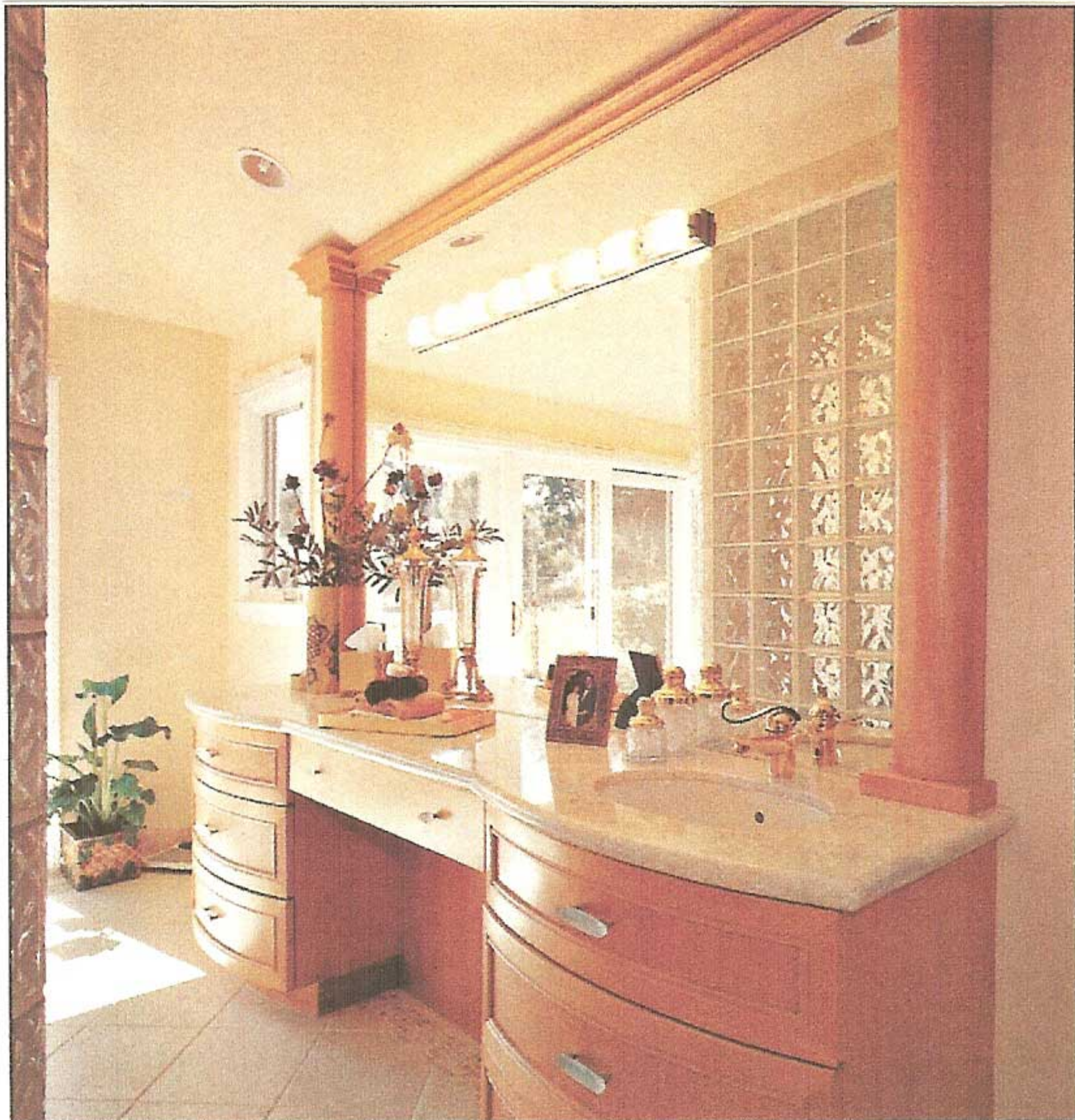
home into a seaside cottage, complete with sand and beach grass in the yard. "Life is tough on the outside and there are things you can't control. But if you can create your own environment, it helps."

Linder prides herself on her ability to connect with clients on a personal level to help them realize their dreams. She says she enjoys listening to her clients' ideas and then showing them the full range of possibilities. She's also willing to tell the client when a particular idea won't work.

"Many people's homes in the



Linder created this dance studio/theater-themed room for a San Jose client whose young daughter performs in musical theater. A ballet bar, dressing table and floor-to-ceiling lighted mirror complete the design — the room is the envy of the child's theater friends.



Linder designed separate vanities in the master bath of this Monte Sereno bathroom. The lady of the house required a sitting area with counter space and drawers (above), while the gentleman wanted a smaller space, but with shelves (previous page). Design elements such as columns and curved surfaces tie the two spaces together.

and he wanted a smaller space and preferred shelves to drawers," she says.

Linder designed separate vanity areas — the husband's in rich, yellow onyx with a simple vessel sink, and the wife's in gray and peach-toned marble with a standard basin and plenty of counter space. His area leans toward clean, classic lines, while hers has a distinctly feminine flair — but both coordinate beautifully.

The bathroom, originally long and narrow with separate toilet and vanity areas, was converted into a single, large open space, with plenty of windows to let in light and take advantage of the views of the yard. Central to the bathroom is a free standing circular glass-brick shower that doubles as a steam room.

"Kris was very good about finding out what our likes, dislikes and preferences are," Almassy says. "She did all the research and

presented us with many options — and she usually hit the nail right on the head."

Linder says creating someone's dream home requires careful listening and a lot of practical experience. As a designer she considers herself an advocate for her clients, occasionally going to battle with contractors over construction issues. With concerns about the economy, Linder says she is more determined than ever to create quality designs that will contribute to the longterm value of a home.

"Second-best is not an option," she says. "If you merely *like* something, it's not good enough. When you tell me you *love* it, that's when I'm satisfied."

Kris Linder is the proprietor of Interior Design Source, a full-service design firm located at 20 S. Santa Cruz Avenue, #220, Los Gatos, CA 95030. Linder can be reached at 408.395.4028.