



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.

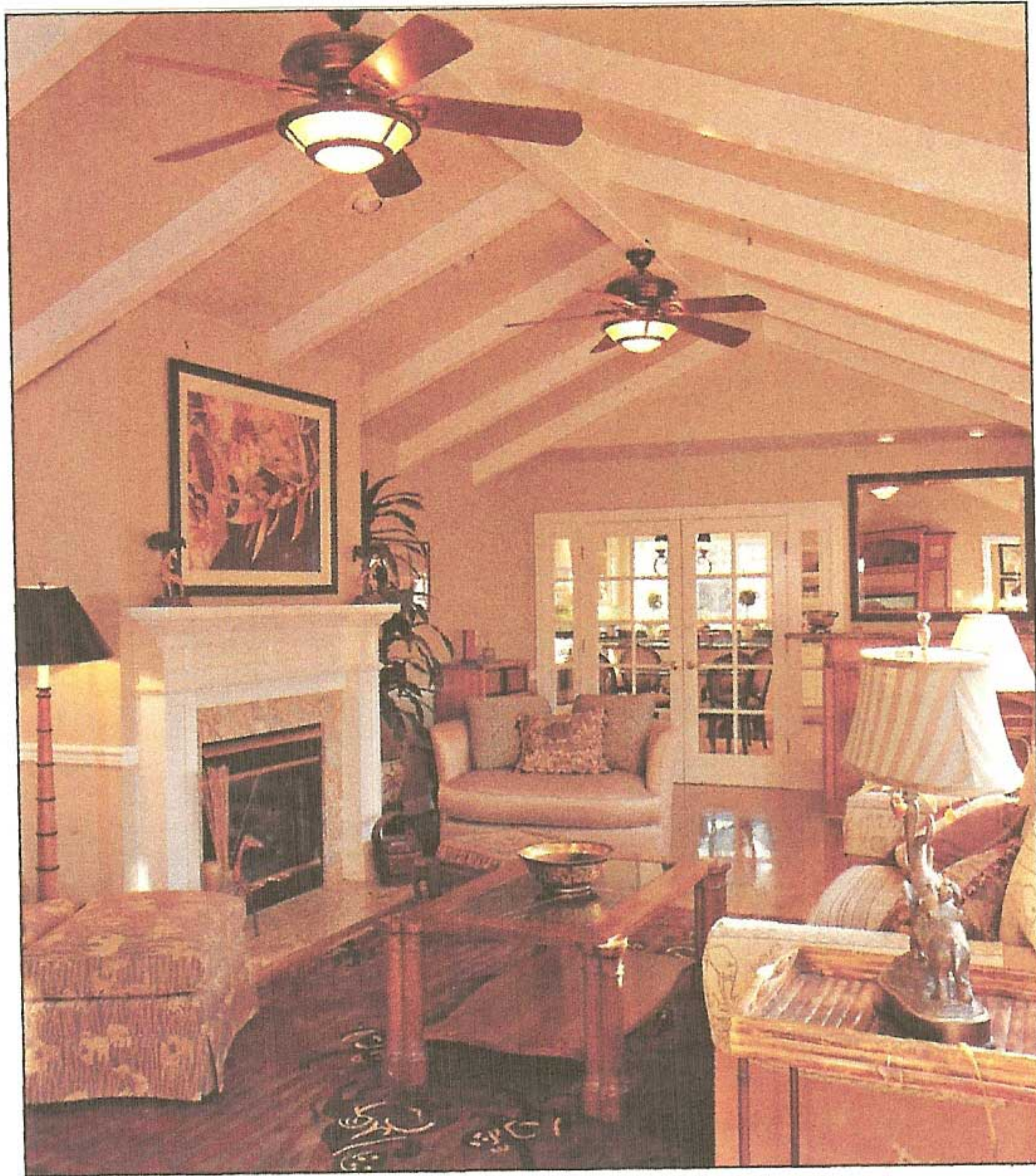
Designer Vision: Kris Linder

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



By incorporating furnishing, textiles and art from Africa and Asia, Linder created a 'room of many nations' for this home in San Jose.

Valley tend to look alike — that's *trend*. We don't do trend," she says emphatically. "Your style can be modern, traditional, anything — but good design never becomes out of date."

Still, Linder doesn't let her focus on enduring style hamper her creativity. While designing a home in the Rose Garden area of San Jose, she used Asian artifacts from her client's own collection, in particular a black lacquered Mario Buatta Italian console with marble top, to create an eclectic look that was sophisticated and polished.

"Kris was able to pull out not just the style I wanted, but the feel," says Linder's client, who particularly loves the console. "My husband says it reminds him of his travels in France. I would have walked by it a hundred times and not seen it."

But the most spectacular room in the house may belong to the client's daughter, a talented 10-

year-old who loves to perform in musical theater. Linder created a mini performing space in the girl's bedroom, complete with lighted floor-to-ceiling mirrors, a ballet bar, a dressing table and red velvet curtains above the bed. Gold wall sconces and a red ceiling with gold stars add to the theatrical flair. Linder's client says her daughter is now the envy of her theater friends.

"When they come over, they can't believe it. They all want a room like that," she says.

A recent bathroom remodel Linder completed illustrates how a good design can please couples with different tastes.

"We have very different personalities and different needs," says Mary Almassy, a Monte Sereno homeowner who hired Linder to design a number of rooms in her home, including the master bathroom. "I need lots of counter space, drawers and a place to sit,