

Business News

Miramonte mansion finished CONTRACTOR'S CORNER

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The finishing touches are now being applied to a multimillion-dollar mansion on Miramonte Drive which commands stunning views over Santa Barbara, the mountains and the ocean.

During a 14-month project, the original house, built in the 1960s, has been completely remodeled inside and out, while the grounds and an adjoining lot have been extensively planted and landscaped.

The home belongs to Chad Dreier, chief executive officer of Ryland Group Inc., one of the nation's largest home builders, and his wife Ginni.

Joe Campanelli, president of Campanelli Construction, the main contractors, said the final landscaping is now taking place, including the planting of an orchard of fruitless olive trees.



A driveway made of tumbled quartzite from China leads up to the 5,000-square-foot house which was designed by Santa Barbara architect Bill Wolf.

The property, visible from miles around, is characterized by subdued earth tones to help it blend in with the natural surroundings.

Outside features include a hilltop spa and pool, lined with mosaics and tiles and divided into day and night sections. The latter is imbedded with 200 fiber optic light points which create a starry sky effect after dark.

Also outdoors are two bronze water sculptures by international artist Aristides Demetrios; a third one, destined for the spa and pool area, is on the way.



There is a large barbecue area featuring, on the chimney, two inlaid sun medallions, handmade by Mr. Campanelli.

The same sun motif, a favorite of Ms. Dreier, has been worked into the driveway design and pops up elsewhere around the property, both indoors and outside.

The landscape architect was Rob Fowler; the landscape contractor, Plowboy Landscapes, while Pyramid Tile was responsible for the driveway and other stonework and tiling. All are from Santa Barbara.

-- Frank Nelson

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