

SAN DIEGO EDITION

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**JEFF SMITH**  
**SMITH BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION**  
AS FEATURED IN LUXE INTERIORS + DESIGN  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDITION

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**STYLE SELECTION**

Carved in rich mahogany with a hand-painted faux black marble top, the elegant curves and demi-lune-shaped top of this table are both formal and functional. *Irish Puca Table, \$3,350; bakerfurniture.com*



■ STORYBOOK ENDING ■

WRITTEN BY **MARISA SPYKER**  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **LARNY MACK**

ON A SECLUDED LOT IN NORTH COUNTY SAN DIEGO, THERE LIES A HOME WHOSE LUXURIOUS DESIGN AND LUSH SURROUNDING GREENERY SEEM TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM THE PAGES OF A FAIRY TALE. But for its owners, it was a long road to a happy ending. “The clients purchased the house thinking they could move right in,” says Doug Dolezal, principal designer at Dolezal Design Group in La Jolla. “But it in no way reflected their design aesthetic.” The original structure, though grand in size, was designed both inside and out in a heavy Tuscan style; the couple favored a timeless, elegant home that would serve as a comfortable retreat for their family.

And so, the owners hired a design team that included Dolezal, builder Jeff Smith, president and owner of Smith Brothers Construction in Solana Beach, and architect Tony Crisafi, AIA, principal of La Jolla-based Island Architects, to transform their 25,000-square-foot Mediterranean manse into a scaled-down version of luxury. “The renovation started with just a handful of rooms, but gradually grew to include the entire house,” Smith says.

Determining exactly what the transformation would entail proved difficult. “With most remodels, it’s easy for me to see through everything in the original home,” Dolezal says. “But this house was a little more daunting because there was so much to be done.” First on the list was reworking the interior layout, which featured a mix of spaces—some very large and others quite confined—that were separated by obstructive walls and columns. “There were long galleries that ran from one end of the house to the other,”

<b>HOME BUILDER</b> Jeff Smith, Smith Brothers Construction
<b>INTERIOR DESIGN</b> Doug Dolezal, Dolezal Design Group
<b>ARCHITECTURE</b> Tony Crisafi, AIA, Island Architects
<b>BEDROOMS</b> 5 <b>BATHROOMS</b> 7 <b>SQUARE FEET</b> 25,000





**SCALE OF LUXURY**

Grand-scale furnishings in the living room fill the expansive space and reflect the palette of the lush greenery outside. Subdued green lounge chairs are from A. Rudin; the chandelier overhead is from Therien & Co.



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Crisafi says. “And when you have a house of this size, it feels very processional in the way you experience the space.” To remedy that, the team removed columns and expanded rooms throughout, which significantly opened up the floor plan and relaxed the overall atmosphere.

With the classically elegant aesthetic the homeowners longed for in mind, the team then moved on to interior finishes, with the goal of complementing the architecture and updating the look. “The original home was in serious disrepair; finishes were outdated and non-functional,” Smith says. Thus, the existing faux crackle façade and Palladian-style moldings were replaced with hardwood floors and accents of marble, stone and travertine. Walls clad in wallpaper and fabric add interest and,



**FRENCH TWIST**

In the French-inspired kitchen, a U-shaped island increases functionality and adds interest, while a Frank Sciarrino backsplash and countertops add sophistication. Overhead, the ceiling was dressed in blue wallpaper for an unexpected pop of color. Stools are from Kneeder-Fauchere.



**GREEN WITH ENVY**

In the wife's office, an air of femininity is evident in the intricate door and ceiling detail, both custom built by Smith Brothers Construction. The sofa is from Baker, Knapp & Tubbs; the wingback chair is from Kneeder-Fauchere.



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in the kitchen, the ceiling was dressed up with textured sky-blue wallpaper and thick white beams. "We were really looking to refine what was already there, instead of changing it completely," Crisafi says.

Furnishings in the home range from custom pieces to antique finds. "My goal with any house is to make it look as if the owners have lived there for a long time," Dolezal says. "So we used a lot of the couple's own artwork, and most pieces are either one-of-a-kind or antique." Addressing the challenge of transforming large-scale spaces into intimate family gathering spots, the designer incorporated oversized furnishings and accessories; color was kept primarily neutral, with certain rooms, such as the living room, kitchen and wife's office, demonstrating a more dramatic saturation of color. "We went with the concept of 'less is more,' using lots of soft neutrals, and nothing too jarring," he says.

**WORK AND PLAY**

The husband's office features rich colors and a masculine juxtaposition of textures and finishes. The leather recliner is from Baker, Knapp & Tubbs; the ottoman is from Dennis & Leen.



**STYLE SELECTION**

Available through Arteriors Home, this classically elegant lamp is made of mango wood with a whitewash finish. *Blake Antique Whitewash Turned Wood Lamp*, \$399; [arteriorshome.com](http://arteriorshome.com)

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The finished product is a symbol of happily ever after, for both the clients and the design team. "It was fun to be able to design a house of this size for a family," Dolezal says. "You can tell they really love it." And according to Smith, success came as a result of the trio's teamwork: "Working together was the best part. We finished on time and on budget, and it's all because the client had the wisdom to bring all of us in at once. It was a hugely successful collaboration." 



**ROYAL TREATMENT**

The home's design aesthetic is highlighted in the master bedroom, which combines the timeless elegance of its simple ceiling and fireplace detail with the comfort of an inviting canopy bed, featuring custom designed bed draperies. Nightstands are from Niermann Weeks.



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