

# Family Affair



Two Sisters Design A Mountain Home  
For Their Parents And Find The Experience  
Both A Challenge And Joy

TEXT BY KATHY BRYANT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK LOHMAN



The architect of the home, Carl Schneider, used redwood and dry stacked ledge stone in sunset bronze for the exterior. Its location on a golf course makes for panoramic views. OPPOSITE The breakfast area overlooks the golf course and features a ceiling done in split la tilla willow wood. The flagstone floor has radiant heating underneath.



**BELOW** The unusual artwork above the range in the kitchen was purchased by the owners, Linda and Bill Hughes, on a trip to New Mexico. **RIGHT** The living room has a heightened ceiling with the fireplace as the focal point. The bronze eagle sculpture on the fireplace is from New Mexico.



**R**oxanne Hughes Packham and her sister Michele Hughes Hayes were lucky in their design heritage. They grew up in a family of designers, including one of America's greatest silversmiths, their late grandfather Allan Adler (1916-2002).

"I didn't realize what a blessing it was to have him as a grandfather," says Packham. "I still follow the design advice he gave us, 'A good designer knows when to quit.'"

So when Packham of Roxanne Packham Design in Camarillo and Hughes of Michele Hughes Design in Pasadena took on the project to design the 5,000 square foot home in Mammoth's Snow Creek Ranch for their parents, Linda and Bill Hughes, it was truly a family affair.

"We followed our grandfather's advice and didn't goop up the interior, but kept to the integrity of the architecture," says Packham. "We used clean surfaces and didn't overdo anything."

"We often asked ourselves what grandfather would do," concurs Hughes. They credit architect Carl Schneider of Santa Barbara for fulfilling their wishes in making the house contemporary and livable.

"My mother wanted a color palette of rusts and earth tones," says Hughes. "Although she likes the mountain, Ralph Lauren look, she wanted something different and more contemporary." The owners love the look of the stacked stone and felt that it complements a mountain design and the rugged Sierra Mountains themselves. The tile in the bathrooms and kitchen represents the contemporary bent of their tastes.

"A good designer knows when to quit." —Allan Adler



**BELOW** The bathroom can be made private through electric shades that disappear when not in use. **RIGHT** The master bedroom headboard is an antique Guatemalan door. A commissioned carved footboard coordinates with it. The lamps were antique tamale pots while the fireplace was built around the hand inlaid granite.



"The bathrooms are more contemporary than the rest of the house," says Hughes. "For example, we put pebbles at the bottom of the shower, which is very much in the Mexican design tradition of Luis Barragan." Hughes did her design thesis on Barragan so she's quite familiar with his work.

"Our love for Mammoth began thirty years ago when we bought a condo and came up for weekends," says Linda Hughes. "We always enjoyed packing the kids in the car and coming up here for vacations." The couple love the mountains and like Mammoth in both the summer and winter. Bill Hughes likes snow skiing and mountain biking, while the women love cross country skiing and spending time with family away from the city.

The four bedroom, four bath house is the perfect family getaway. Separated by a creek bed, yet part of the same structure, is a workout room with a sauna, massage area and wine cellar. There is also a mudroom and his and hers offices. Bill Hughes' office is octagonal with views of Mammoth rock, while Linda's office houses her art collection.

All the furnishings were bought new or custom designed specifically for this home. As an example, the headboard in the master bedroom was made from an antique Guatemalan door. The pottery lamps were tamale jars and the bronze eagle featured in the fireplace was commissioned. "We all had our hands in everything," says Packham.

"It was wonderful to work with both my daughters," says Linda. "They each come from different places in design. Roxanne is more European because she studied in Paris, while Michele favors clean lines more like her grandfather. We made this a fun project and didn't take ourselves too seriously."







"Working for our parents was both easier and harder than working with other clients," says Hughes.

Packham adds that it was easier because they knew their tastes. "It was harder because sometimes there were disagreements about actual design elements, like the height of the ceiling near the living room fireplace." (Packham and her mother won that mini battle and the high ceiling remains.) Design discussions are nothing new to this family, however, since it is usually their main topic, even at family dinners. "Much to the chagrin of our father," says Hughes, with a laugh.

The owners' art collection is an integral part of the house and is found in every room. Table settings are hand wrought silver by Allan Adler, featuring custom made flatware by him in ebony and sterling silver. There are also pieces by Mexican silversmith William Spratling, who was a friend of Adler's. Clever napkin rings made from antique silver belt buckles collected by the Hughes from all over the country are also displayed. In the kitchen the cabinetry was designed by the owners, as was the interesting split tattillas featured on the ceiling.

"My parents' collection here includes things specifically bought for this home and items previously purchased," Packham says. They include Native American Indian Art, Pre-Columbian art and works by local craftspeople. In the master bedroom there is an etched, cast stone fireplace featuring petroglyphs and pictographs by local artist Greg Kinney. Some special beading was done by a Native American artist who did beading on the costumes for the movie *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

The family enjoyed the experience so much that it may not be too long before they're joined by their grandchildren. "My ten year old grandson is always sketching and designing," says the Linda Hughes. "Maybe we're looking at a future silversmith like my father." □



The deck of the home has unimpeded views, with wire used instead of glass on the railings. During the winter the Hughes and family can watch snow boarders and skiers from this space.

OPPOSITE TOP In the family room, the armoire is built in and the game table and chairs were custom designed. No two cabinet doors in the house match, making them almost works of art on their own. OPPOSITE LOWER Bill Hughes' office has a glass covered desk and artwork displayed on built in shelves.

