

CALIFORNIA HOMIES

The Magazine of Architecture
The Arts & Distinctive Design

MODERN *design*

PASADENA
SAN FRANCISCO
SANTA BARBARA

*A Tuscan Style
Desert Retreat*

\$5.99 US/CAN FEBRUARY 2012







Artful *living*

This Stunning
Light-Filled Montecito
Home Showcases
The Work Of
More Than Sixty
Santa Barbara
Contemporary Artists

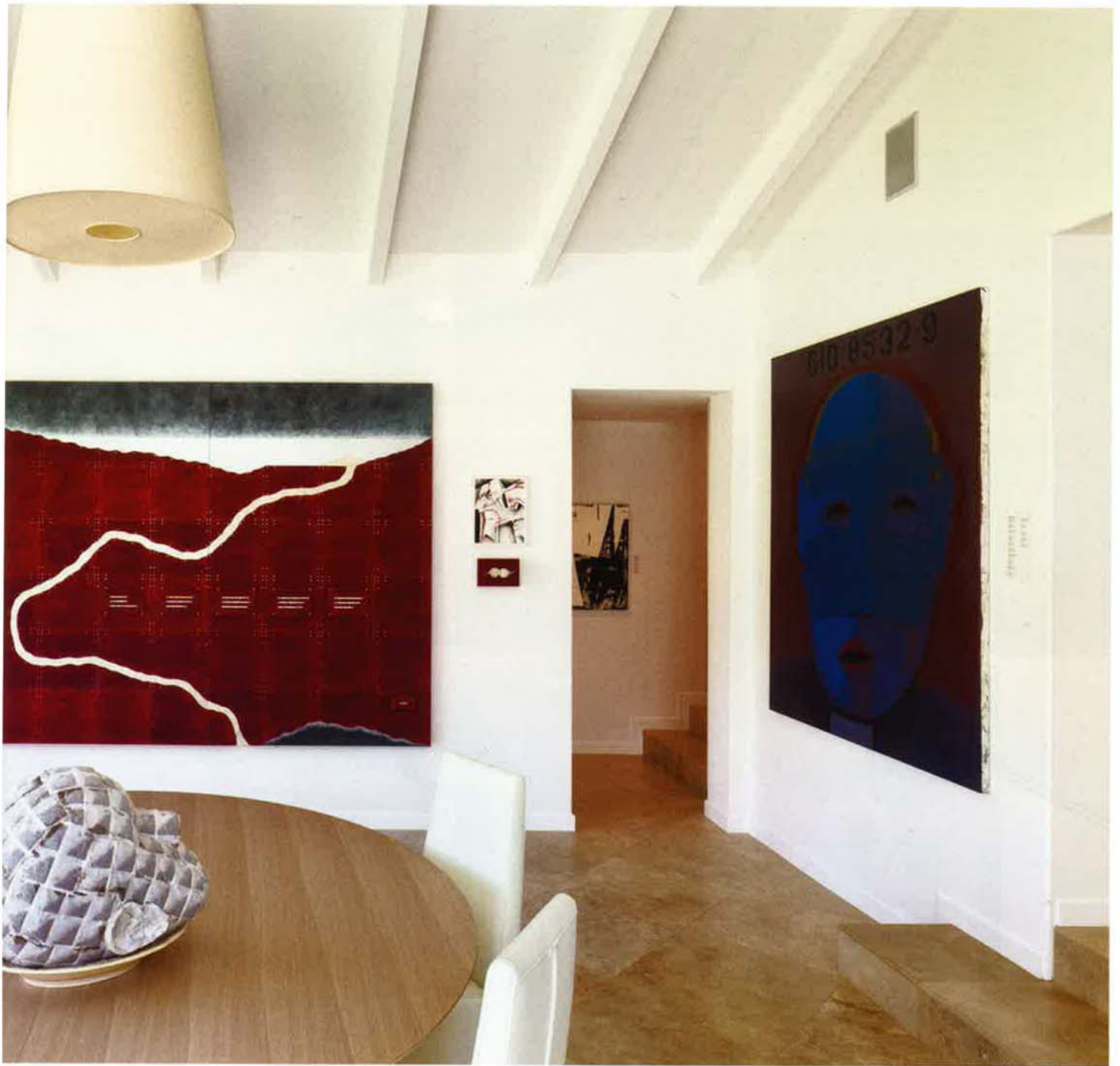
TEXT BY LESLIE A. WESTBROOK
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CIRO COELHO

No surface is left uncovered in the Gifford house/gallery. The entrance hall showcases works by Saul Gray Hildebrand, Alexis Pittmon, Frances Scorzelli, and Dan Levin, among others.

“The best way to find good artists is to ask other artists...they all know each other.”
 — Nancy Gifford



ABOVE A large head made of tea bags by Santa Barbara City College graduate Chloe Gray rests unexpectedly on a platter in the center of the large circular UFO dining table by Ferruccio Laviani for EmmeMobili, imported from Italy. Other works in the dining room are by Penelope Gottlieb, Cass Ensberg, Zack Paul, Nancy Gifford (“Rip in Time” on back wall) and “The Priest” by Henry Rasmussen (right wall). LEFT The glass-walled living room, dining room and master bedroom look out to a magenta powder coated sculpture by Santa Barbara City College professor Ed Inks. The wood construction on the wall is “Vessels” by Nancy Gifford, and hangs aside her collection of Buddha heads.



The roots of Nancy and Michael Gifford's stunning, light-filled, Montecito home filled with contemporary art evolved from a simple adobe packing shed on a fifty acre lemon orchard that was part of a turn of the century estate. Over the years, the original thick-walled adobe was slowly expanded to suit the needs of various owners: first as a garage, then as a music room and later as an enlarged living quarters now including four bedrooms, four and half baths, an office and art studio.

"When we purchased the house from a sculptor, we didn't change the footprint but we did reconfigure the interior spaces. He had already converted and

enlarged the garage into a sixteen foot high studio," says Nancy Gifford, a former high fashion model who is now a contemporary artist in her own right.

After two years of renovation, the couple finally began the fun task of decorating. Their collection evolved organically out of Nancy's immersion in the local art scene. "We had no idea that we were going to fill the house with the artwork of Santa Barbara artists," she says. "But I spent those two years during the renovation visiting studios in Santa Barbara and now have the work of more than sixty local artists." The pieces on display include whimsical drawings, bold paintings, quirky assemblages and both indoor and outdoor sculpture.