

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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Indoor and Outdoor Entertaining Spaces Showcased at Miramonte Tour

By Cathy Tyson

With six unique kitchens and new this year - gardens - on the tour, the April 18 "Heart of the Home" fundraiser tour highlights a range of designs to enjoy and inspire - all for a good cause. Funds raised will go to the Miramonte Parent Club that supports many academic endeavors for all students. "Our goal is to raise money for core programs that have been the victims of state budget cuts," said co-chair Jennifer Lavis.

Orinda's generally mild weather lends itself to this year's focus on indoor and outdoor entertaining spaces. From contemporary to French country to traditional, these kitchens seamlessly blend form and function to create more than just ground zero for nourishment, but personify homeowners' intentions and vision.

Lindy and Gary Sitzmann are empty nesters who were looking for a low maintenance place to enjoy when they weren't travelling. Lindy had a vision of exactly what she wanted and had contractor McKenzie Gray bring the welcoming French-country inspired space to life. They completely gutted the kitchen, enlarged the deck and converted the three petite bedrooms into two more generous bedrooms. Aiming for a



The Sitzmanns' cozy patio area with fireplace and heat lamps.

Photos provided

comfortable open space, they tore down the wall that separated the kitchen and family room, and raised the ceiling. Enchanting Planting designed the inviting enclosed patio; two heat lamps and a fireplace keep fog and wind at bay. Another deck

was expanded with wind blocking and built-in heaters over the outdoor dining table. While they love the view from their Orinda Woods home and hardly notice freeway noise, sometimes their guests do; so they've installed two water features

on either side to help camouflage the sound.

The Legallets' very generous pocket doors, by Quantum Windows and Doors, are a key element that invites the outdoors in.

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