

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 14 Issue 2 Wednesday, March 18, 2020



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

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Three ways to wow your walls



Photos provided

By Amanda Eck

As a designer I obviously love adding beautiful furnishings to a home, but beautiful design starts with the four walls that surround the room. You can place the most amazing pieces in a room but if the walls are the wrong color or are bare, the entire space will feel off. So today I want to share three ways to wow your walls.

Paint

Never underestimate the power of a can of paint. It is the least expensive way to make an immediate impact in a space. When selecting paint colors I like to look for the “muddy” more “muted” colors in the paint deck versus

the bright-saturated ones. And here is a little designer secret – we choose paint last.

It is much harder to match a fabric or piece of furniture to a wall color; there are more paint colors in the world than there are people! So pick your paint last. If you are using existing furnishings grab your paint deck and fan out the colors on your fabrics and look for a hue that picks up the color in the fabrics. Also make sure your paint selection plays nicely with your flooring. And when in doubt go neutral.

Some great neutral go-to's: Benjamin Moore Swiss Coffee, Sea Pearl, Revere Pewter and London Fog. And don't forget the fifth wall: your ceiling. Ceilings do not need to be white. Try painting them the same color as

the walls or paint them lighter or darker than the walls. We recently did that in one client's dining room and it added a wonderful dramatic effect.

Wallpaper

Wallpaper is making a comeback and it is here to stay. If you are afraid to commit to a patterned paper I would suggest textured wallpaper.

We have been using lots of these papers like grasscloth, vinyl, and silks. In a recent client's dining room we did this beautiful blue grasscloth to not only added color but interest to the space. If you are not ready to commit to a large room in your home, powder bathrooms are the perfect place to create a big experience in a small space.

Art

Art is another great way to create the wow factor in your home. Especially pieces that have meaning or you have collected over the years. Large-scale art is a great way to cover a lot of space and make an impact.

... continued on Page D6



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**513 Miner Road ~ 1.1 Acres
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Inspired by a love and lifelong appreciation of Japanese art and architecture and renovated for a contemporary lifestyle, this Orinda Country Club estate property is a spectacular work-of-art that beautifully harmonizes indoor/outdoor living. The more than 4,100 sf of living space, mostly on one level in the main house, is a celebration of natural light and open design. There is also a 704 sf guest house with separate driveway and 2-car garage.

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	2	\$1,143,500	\$1,500,000
MORAGA	1	\$587,000	\$587,000
ORINDA	1	\$998,000	\$998,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

1000 Circle Creek Drive #1002, \$1,143,500, 4 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt,
1962 YrBlt, 02-03-20, Previous Sale: \$900,000, 10-29-15
921 Dana Highlands Court, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3813 SqFt,
1994 YrBlt, 01-31-20, Previous Sale: \$1,096,000, 03-20-00

MORAGA

1472 Camino Peral #A, \$587,000, 2 Bdrms, 1281 SqFt,
1970 YrBlt, 01-29-20, Previous Sale: \$475,000, 08-05-14

ORINDA

21 Calvin Court, \$998,000, 3 Bdrms, 2149 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 01-31-20



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8 Vista Via, Lafayette

Call For More Details

Charming mid-century contemporary with spectacular views, beautiful gardens, hot tub and privacy. Great Lafayette location, close to the trail, downtown, BART, freeway and top-rated schools!



1045 Timothy Lane, Lafayette

5 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3,320 Sq Ft | \$2,100,000

Beautiful 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath completely remodeled single-story home with open floor plan on .75 acre lot in Upper Happy Valley. Engineered hardwood floors throughout. Large master bedroom with two walk-in closets, a second master-bedroom with ensuite bathroom plus three additional bedrooms, hallway bath and a powder room. Top rated Lafayette schools, close to BART, shopping and the reservoir.



PADDY KEHOE TEAM



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NEW LISTING!

1435 Camino Peral
Moraga

Adorable 2 bedroom,
2 bathroom with garage.
Offered at \$680,000

1435caminoperal.com



HOMES SOLD IN 2019



3167 Stanley Blvd., Lafayette
\$1,200,000
Represented Seller



110 Lombardy Lane, Orinda
\$1,750,000
Represented Buyer



3832 Via Granada, Moraga
\$1,450,000
Represented Buyer



8 Hidden Lane, Orinda
\$1,680,000
Represented Seller



5 Josefa Place, Moraga
\$950,000
Represented Buyer



4006 Laguna Ave., Oakland
\$980,000
Represented Seller



3383 Oswego Court, Lafayette
\$2,470,000
Represented Seller



1021 Seneca Ct., Walnut Creek
\$1,430,000
Represented Buyer



17 El Caminito, Orinda
\$1,940,000
Represented Seller



21 Sandy Court, Orinda
\$2,175,000
Represented Buyer




1804 St. Andrews Dr., Moraga
\$980,000
Represented Seller



4008 Happy Valley Rd., Lafayette
\$3,175,000
Represented Seller



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**Thinking of Selling in 2020? Contact Terri
for a complimentary in-home consultation.**

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Coming Soon

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528 Tahos Road, Orinda

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Lynn Molloy

—

Partner — The Beaubelle Group

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DRE 01910108



JUST LISTED

346 Birchwood Drive, Moraga
4 bed, 2.5 baths, 2300+ square feet



– Offered at \$1,295,000 –

This meticulously maintained Rheem Valley Manor single-story home with a mid-century vibe has a wonderful layout and large living room with dramatic vaulted ceiling and fireplace.

There is a formal dining room, spacious living room and eat-in-kitchen. The flat yard takes in views of the hills behind St. Mary's College. Close to shops, restaurants and the Lafayette-Moraga Trail.

www.holcenberg.com

Michelle Holcenberg

Coldwell Banker Top 100 SF Bay Area

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Three ways to wow your walls



Photos provided

... continued from Page D1

If original art is not in your budget, there are lots of great online resources for inexpensive art like www.art.com. We also like to use Minted (www.minted.com) for inexpensive prints of original art.

If you have a collection of smaller art pieces, I would suggest placing them in a gallery

style versus hanging on individual walls.

One of our clients had a collection of art from her travels and we had them framed in the same finish to create a cohesive feel. If you prefer a more relaxed, casual look, then you don't necessarily need to match the frames.

Now go add some wow to your walls! Until next time dear friends!

As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home's interior should be both approachable and well-appointed. She often asserts, "Beauty is a necessity."

With a distinct sense of style that mixes contemporary and classic design she fashions spaces that are both elegant and inviting. Her design aesthetic is inspired by anything visual but especially fashion, architecture and art.

Visit <http://amandacarolinteriors.com> for more design ideas.



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Live Where You Love.

· ·
· ·

Pending



133 Lombardy Lane, Orinda
4 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3,112 Sq Ft | 0.34 Acre
\$2,550,000
133LombardyLane.com

Pending



3347 Helen Lane, Lafayette
4 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 2,341 Sq Ft | 0.24 Acre
\$1,440,000
3347HelenLane.com

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- Burton Valley Modern Jewel
- Happy Valley Beauty
- Downtown Lafayette Treasure

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Spring ahead!



Chinese fringe is a fun-frilled foundation shrub. Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

“Spring drew on ... and a greenness grew over those brown beds, which freshening daily, suggested the thought that Hope traversed them at night, and left each morning brighter traces of her steps.” - from “Jane Eyre” by Charlotte Bronte

With the World Health Organization declaring the coronavirus a pandemic, daily living as well as travel is interrupted. While we need to be alert and prepared, we cannot panic. My method of staying healthy while diminishing anxiety during these very troubling times is to avoid crowds by going into my garden.

The vernal equinox is only three days away, yet we have been experiencing spring since the first days of February. The cows are munching on the green grass in the hills, the frogs are croaking their mating calls, and gardens are bursting with color. Other than the copious dancing daffodils, nothing spells spring more than abundant camellia blooms, the eye-catching Chinese fringe shrub, and the fragrance of both freesia and hyacinth. Garden chores performed in the fall is paying dividends now.

In the South, camellias are known as the “belles” of the plant world. There are over 30,000 cultivars with blooms in many shades of red, pink, purple and white. Some feature double petals, others look like roses or peonies. Most species prefer shade to semi-shade thriving in well-drained acidic soil. They are drought-tolerant and best of all, depending on the species, blooms can begin in the fall continuing through the beginning of summer. Float blooms in a shallow bowl for

a pretty centerpiece. Make sure to pick up fallen blossoms.

A fabulous foundation plant for any garden is the Chinese fringe flower, a fast-growing shrub that provides evergreen foliage and a strong structure to the garden. In spring, showy, frilly fringes of pink cover the plant. Prune the plant to keep it the size you desire knowing that it can grow to 20 feet. A great perk is that you can propagate with stem cuttings and even make a border or a wall of fringe. Did I mention the flowers boast a sweet aroma as well?

Freesias are bulbs that are grown for their beautiful scent as well as their gorgeous variety of colors. I happen to adore the upward-facing bells of the blue or purple freesia but the yellow, white, pink and red produce gorgeous presentations as well. These bulbs multiply and come up just as spring springs forward year after year. They are deer and rabbit resistant and very easy to grow. Cut a handful for a long-lasting indoor arrangement that provides beauty and perfume.

Hyacinths are dramatic with rich, deep blooms in many colors. Like freesia, they make excellent cut flowers, can be grown in containers, are deer resistant and bee magnets. Their heady scent exudes from both their flowers and their leaves. Plant them along pathways, stairs, and in the front part of your garden to savor their elegance and aromatic character. They, too, will surprise you each year, sprouting as the sunshine warms the earth to delight the senses.

Consider adding any of these favorite garden specimens to your environs for perennial spring enchantment.

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A single petal deep pink camellia with a yellow center.



Close up of a delicate and fragrant purple freesia.

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

- **START** seeds as soon as the soil is warm enough. If you are anxious, start your crops indoors near a south-facing window or use a fluorescent light for 12 or more hours per day.
- **CLEAN** out perennial beds now and prepare the soil for replanting.
- **WELCOME** home the migrating birds with fresh water in the fountain and seed in the feeder.
- **PLANT** edibles amongst your ornamentals. Lettuces, parsley, dill, and basil are pretty as well as delicious.
- **DIG** out and replace older woody lavender bushes. Lavender thrives for about 5 or 6 years then is ready for the compost pile.
- **ADJUST** your lawnmower to a higher setting and allow the clippings to nourish the soil.
- **PLANT** host plants for the butterflies such as milkweed and dogwood. Leave a patch of dense vegetation for protection from inclement weather and a small mud puddle to quench their thirst.
- **INVEST** in a well-made wheelbarrow or hand truck to haul heavy bags of soil, rocks or pots of plants.
- **RESEED** lawns with the people, pet, and planet-friendly Pearl's Premium lawn seed available in 5 or 25-pound bags of a sunny mix, shade mix, or sun/shade blend. The roots go to 4 feet needing 50-75% water, making for a better drought-tolerant lawn. To order, visit www.PearlsPremium.com. Use discount code STAR20.
- **EMPTY** all vessels that contain water as mosquito larvae is already hatching.
- **PICK** up fallen camellias and dispose of them. Camellia blooms are abundant this year and they drop daily. Do not allow the decayed petals to stay on the ground to avoid damage to the mother plant. If you notice dark brown veins in the petals, your camellia may be suffering from petal blight. Treat weekly with a foliar fungicide.
- **PRUNE** the new wood on your woodland or panicle hydrangeas down to 18-24 inches now to encourage fuller blooms later.
- **STAY** informed about Covid-19 only via reliable information. Visit Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov> or The World Health Organization at <https://www.who.int> for updates.

May hope traverse our nights and bring us all a brighter morning free of woes. Take a breath and inhale spring.

Stay healthy, be well, and be safe.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Spring.



Fallen camellias blooms must be gathered regularly to protect the plant.



Late-blooming daffodils sing with joy. Note the early bloomers behind are finished.

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Spring ahead!

... continued from Page D8

New fire code on the horizon that affects landscapes

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker has proposed a plan to declare all areas in our district as Wildland Urban Interface in the fire code to prevent insurance companies from canceling policies since Lamorinda is designated a fire zone. When it comes to landscaping, the proposed code would require a 2-foot area away from current structures and 3 feet on new construction to be cleared without any combustible materials. These materials include wood bark, mulch, and plants that are growing taller than two feet. Ground coverings that would be allowed would be green grass, river rock, gravel, crushed granite, or even bare earth. Some trees will need to be removed, especially eucalyptus, pine, bamboo, and junipers if they are within six feet of the structure. This new code is not yet in effect, but with spring on the horizon, this is a great time to start cleaning up your landscape to make it more fireproof.



Cynthia Brian outdoors on a cooler February day.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your spring garden. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Buy copies of her best-selling books, including, *Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul*, *Growing with the Goddess Gardener*, and *Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers* at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

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ORINDA



New Listing

2 Irving Lane

Single level 3 bed/ 2 bath on corner lot in popular Sleepy Hollow one mile from elementary School & Swim & Tennis Club. **\$1,345,000**

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New Listing

325 El Toyonal

Private custom 5 bed/ 3 bath home with updated baths and kitchen, hardwood floors, and charming curb appeal. **\$1,399,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

390 Camino Sobrante

1958 Midcentury modern contemporary 4 bed/ 2.5 bath. Designed by Ken Sakurai, just blocks from Orinda Country Club. **\$1,495,000**

ORINDA



8 Moraga Court

First time on market in over 34 years! Single level 5 bed/ 4 bath 3450 sqft home with pool & expansive grounds. **\$1,925,000**

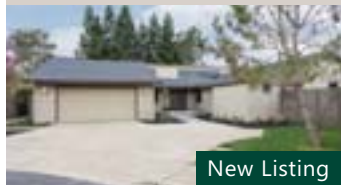
ORINDA



383 Miner Road

East Coast Meets West Coast! Updated Orinda Country Club Cape Cod home on 1.32 acres. **\$2,495,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

511 Hawkridge Terrace

Sophisticated, totally updated single story home on level view lot close to town, this home has it all. 4 beds, 3 1/2 bath and 3,012 sqft. **\$2,950,000**

ORINDA



21 Sycamore Road

Rare opportunity! Beautiful European architectural 4 bed/ 4.5 bath estate on .92 acres with modern open floor plan & 3 car garage. **\$2,995,000**

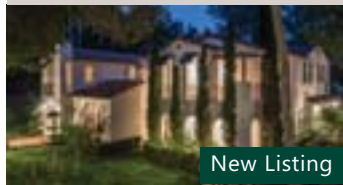
ORINDA



49 Overhill Road

Private updated 6 bed/ 5 bath. Close to BART, Highway 24/680 & top rated schools. **\$2,995,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

18 Charles Hill Circle

Santa Barbara style 5 Bed/ 5.5 Bath 6137 sqft gated estate on 2.99 acres complete with bonus room and In-Law/ Au-Pair Space. **Call For Price**

MORAGA



57 Charles Hill Road

A new SpringHill Homes masterpiece! 5 bed/ 4 baths +2 half baths with an open floor plan on a .75 acre lot. **\$4,395,000**

LAFAYETTE



3971 Canyon Road

Private gated 6 Bed/ 4 Bath/ 3 Half bath estate including two-story guest house located in desirable Happy Valley. **\$3,175,000**

WALNUT CREEK

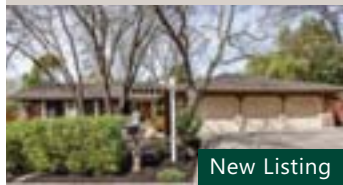


New Listing

49 Iron Horse Lane

Modern loft style 1 bed/ 2 bath condo located across from the Iron Horse Trail. Close to restaurants, shopping, freeway, and BART. **\$675,000**

WALNUT CREEK

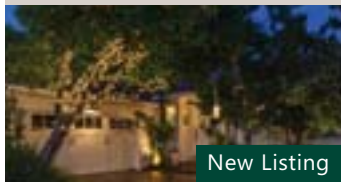


New Listing

4350 Walnut Boulevard

Dream home in the heart of Walnut Heights on .41 acre lot. Close to downtown, Walnut Creek schools, BART, and freeways. **\$1,545,000**

CONCORD

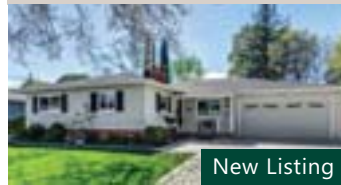


New Listing

1380 Schiller Court

Stunningly renovated 4 bedroom with huge bonus room, beautiful & private backyard in quiet cul-de-sac. **\$939,000**

CONCORD



New Listing

1793 Landana Drive

Updated home with two master suites and beautiful yard. Conveniently located next to Concord BART. **\$749,000**

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