



Showcase for Real Life

BY ANN SEYMOUR, *San Jose Mercury News*

It is no secret that the San Jose Symphony Auxiliary's 22nd annual Decorator's Showcase is in Saratoga...and the house is a knock-out. It has Greco-Roman architecture, and around it grows a garden with rhododendrons taller than a basketball player...

The powder room is a remarkable feat. It was created from a space the size of a closet by Marie Chan, a decorator who specializes in "electronic cottages", home-based businesses where the computer is an integral part of the operation.

Space planning is critical here; every inch counts. In this bathroom, she walled off the commode and housed the basin in a granite counter. A wire mesh shelf is suspended on slim wire cables; here perfumes and cosmetics are kept. The walls are faux finished in tones of cinnabar, burgundy, mahogany, blue and metallic copper. They are not merely sponged, but rather brushed in a painterly manner. You want to take one home and frame it...