Page: D6 LAMORINDA WEEKLY OUR HOMES www.lamorindaweekly.com \$\mathcal{C}\$ 925-377-0977 Wednesday, January 14, 2015

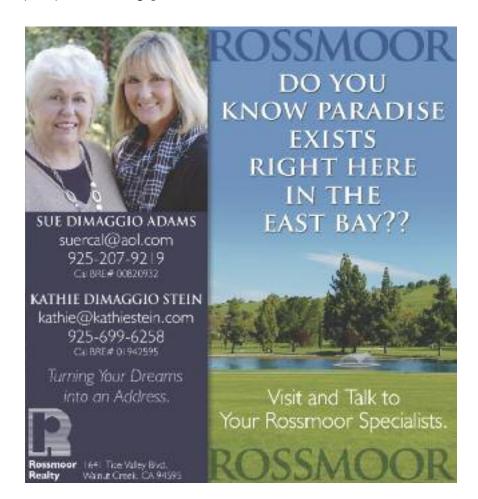
Stylish Solutions

The Intrinsic Nature of Deep Cleaning and Design

... continued from page D4

It might be time to donate or toss that afghan with snags from your pet and one too many coffee stains (am I speaking to myself? perhaps), and purchase a new one that won't snag and will bleach in the wash.

It's funny, we do this with our wardrobes consistently, but we fail to remember it is just as critical with our homes, perhaps more so as our spaces nurture and create just by virtue of being space.





Do your countertops need refinishing? I have brass straps on butcher block and call in marine-grade finishers to keep them in ship shape. Photo Peter Medilek

Third: Take Photos, Look Objectively, Document Progress for Encouragement. We tell our clients to take photos of each room in their home this time of year. Why? Because you'll see the space more clearly once you take a solid photo of a space, let it alone for a few days, clear your head, and by extension, your visual palate and come back to the photos a day or two later.

Set aside some time to address each photo and room. What are your goals for those spaces this year? Will 2015 be a year of guests? Then let's budget and plan for a refresh in that guest room. Will 2015 see an elderly parent or post-college child move home? Then let's budget and plan for that. What about the possible remodel or addition? Photos help tremendously. They simply don't lie.

When we sit down and work through what is really going on in a space, we can identify what needs to change.

Here's to a happy, healthy and tidy 2015 where our homes have space for blessings to reside. If you are interested in joining one of our upcoming design workshops, please email ann@couturechateau.com or call (925) 386-0720.



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. For a complete blog post including other design ideas, visit www.couturechateau. com/blog



