

A Trio of Spanish Revival Jewels

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Dorothy Lamb, founder of the Orinda Garden Club in 1937, also once owned the home; she lived there until 1997. Some of the unique features she added in the spirit of the Spanish style are still present – such as a back patio with a fountain set into the hilly greenery.

The cozy rooms and long, clear walkway overlooking the front patio create an unconventional and charming ensemble seldom found today.

A Home for Her Tiles

A much more recent Lafayette home has captured some of this same charm, thanks to its new owners Thomas and Linda Delaplane, who added to the home's unique qualities. "When we bought the house the kitchen had shiny black granite counters and center isle," remembers Delaplane, "the olive trees in front had been removed and replaced with a lawn." They built a gate, creating a front patio and courtyard with a fountain. With a natural feel for Southwestern American style, the Delaplans re-

stored the house to its original character. They added mature olive trees in front, changed the metal garage doors to wood, and created an open kitchen with natural-colored tile.

The home includes a covered walkway overlooking the front patio that leads to the bedroom wing; a perfect location to display Linda's extensive collection of tiles. "I had collected hundreds of decorative tiles, from all over the country, and have been able to use many of them in this home." In keeping with the original Spanish revival style, the couple embedded some of the tiles in the stucco walls of their home, to decorate the front and back fountains, the side of the pool and many more inside and outside walls. Some are ancient, some are from contemporary craftsmen, and they seem to have found a permanent home in Lafayette.

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The Delaplans' front courtyard



The courtyards in the Delaplane home are enhanced by beautiful tiles.



Photos Doug Kohen