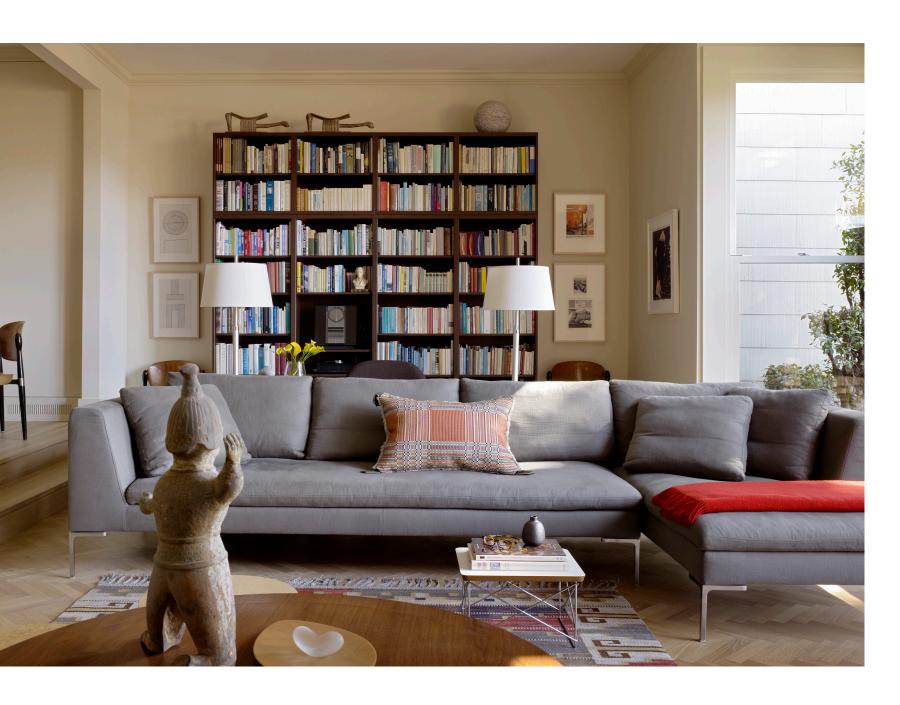


In the living room, Young grounded the space with a Swedish mid-century rug by Märta Måås-Fjetterström. He selected a vintage Dutch Gerard van den Berg sofa and a classic Ray and Charles Eames rocking chair for seating.

Balanced Life DESIGNER MARTIN YOUNG LIVES AND WORKS IN HIS RUSSIAN HILL COTTAGE

TEXT BY KENDRA BOUTELL Photography by Matthew Millman

78 | CALIFORNIA HOMES NOVEMBER/DECEMEBER 2020 | 79



San Francisco designer Martin Young did not have to adapt to WFH; his renovated 1907 Russian Hill cottage already included an office. The previous owner of the shingle-style house, historic preservationist Dorothy Orrick, suspected the property was one of the original crown molding, baseboards, doors, hardoriginal refugee shacks for survivors of the 1906 earthquake and fire. In 1972, Orrick living and dining room, he mixed classic commissioned the renowned landscape 20th-century furniture with antiques.

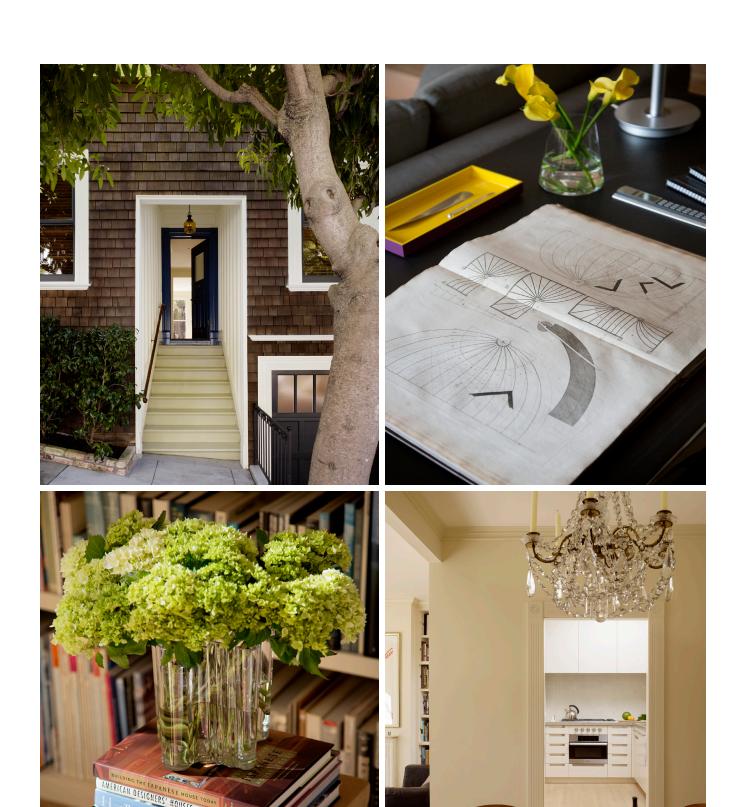
NLIKE MOST OF US, architect Thomas Church to design a rear garden around a 100-year-old redwood tree. Young's sublevel workspace looks out onto this serene setting.

> The designer, a trained architect, oversaw the building's restoration after he and his partner purchased it a decade ago. Retaining the cottage's footprint, Young selected a classic white and ivory backdrop throughout the interiors to showcase ware, and fireplace surround. In the open-plan

ABOVE A massive sectional from B&B Italia mixes with a diminutive Eames LTR table. Artwork from Jan Schoonhoven, Janis Cornelis, and Christo and Jeanne-Claude flanks the bookcase.

OPPOSITE LEFT TO RIGHT

Young engaged Dijeau Poage Construction for the renovation of the cottage. The designer found the antique architectural book with drawings of stairs in Amsterdam. A glass vessel designed by Alvar Aalto holds Limelight Hydrangeas. The minimalist white kitchen peaks through the dining area; before the renovation, it had dark cabinetry and counters.



80 | CALIFORNIA HOMES NOVEMBER/DECEMEBER 2020 | 81





Young flanked the marble fireplace with built-in floor to ceiling bookshelves and hung a whimsical painting by German artist Martin Assig over the mantel. The abstracted contemporary figure appears to interact with a classic Chinese sculpture from the Northern Wei Dynasty displayed on a mid-century teak coffee table designed by Jürg Bally.

While one of the two bedrooms functioned as the master, the other initially was the home office. An entry hall acted as a separation between work and play, "I am a big believer in transitional spaces - as a spatial tool that moves us from room to room in any home. Architecturally, this could be a vestibule, a hallway, or a stairway," Young said. The arrangement succeeded for a while until the designer noticed he worked 24/7 and needed to find another solution. "I realized that the transitional space which separated the two

are as needed to be more transformational than a single hallway," the designer observed.

Going outside, Young felt his garden offered possibilities. Underneath the house next to the garage was a former potting room. The designer converted the space into a multi-tasking office, laundry, and party prep area behind the expanse of windows and French doors. Removing a wall between the room and garage, Young delineated the two areas with a tall double-sided bookcase. He lined the walls with utilitarian cabinetry and floated an island that doubles for work or entertainment. The garden office provides the perfect work-life balance, "I find that the movement from indoor to outdoor, to indoor is a delightful welcome and departure of every day," Young concluded. CM

82 | CALIFORNIA HOMES | NOVEMBER/DECEMEBER 2020 | 83