

## Pacific Sun



THIS SECTION INCLUDES SUN CLASSIFIEDS P.HW-7

## Trends underfoot

These designer ideas add ecological and aesthetic appeal to your floors

BY TANYA HENRY

There was a time when deciding what kind of floor you wanted in your home was an easy decision—hardwood, linoleum or carpet. Those days are over. With virtually countless options available, and a seemingly endless supply of materials to choose from, selecting a floor can be both challenging, and thanks to these new trends, an artistically satisfying endeavor as well. Get inspired by these new flooring materials and explore some possibilities that bring an aesthetic and even an ecological sensibility to your home.

### Bamboo Flooring

With over a thousand different uses for bamboo, you can now throw flooring into the mix. Close to 10

years ago, green builders and folks who were concerned about sustaining our limited resources started looking at bamboo flooring as an alternative to other less sustainable wood options. It has become a popular choice in the Bay Area due to its low ecological impact and aesthetic quality. Bamboo has a minimal environmental effect since it can be harvested after three years of growth. It isn't harmed by harvesting and can regrow into mature fiber within seven years, as opposed to oak, which takes approximately 120 years to grow to maturity. Most bamboo is imported to the U.S. and then milled by manufacturers. Typically, several prefinished color options, such as

natural, amber and cherry, are available. Bamboo also accepts different stains, which makes it a versatile choice for home design. It is generally installed much like any other hardwood flooring by nailing it or gluing it down and, according to Mari Strain of Bamboo Hardwoods, "It is important to maintain bamboo floors. Every three to five years they should be lightly sanded and have a professional topcoat reapplied." To learn more about bamboo flooring, visit the following Web sites and/or stores:

- Bamboo Hardwoods: Seattle, Washington, 800/783-0557; San Francisco representative—Mari Strain 510/550-4449, [www.bamboohardwoods.com](http://www.bamboohardwoods.com)

- Bamboo Mountain: 877/700-1772; [www.bamboomountain.com](http://www.bamboomountain.com)

- EcoTimber: 1611 Fourth Street, San Rafael; 415/258-8454, [www.ecotimber.com](http://www.ecotimber.com)

- Green Fusion Design Center: 14 Greenfield Ave., San Anselmo; 415/454-0174, [www.greenfusiondesigncenter.com](http://www.greenfusiondesigncenter.com)

- Mill Valley Bamboo: 14 East Sir Francis

> 4

## INSIDE:

■ Building Tools HW-3

■ Home Sales HW-4

■ Homefront HW-6

■ Sun Classifieds HW-7

■ Horoscope HW-9

■ Personals HW-10



**STATED INCOME • FIRST MORTGAGES • SECOND HOMES**  
**100% FINANCING UP TO \$1,000,000**

Contact **PETER FIELDER, LOAN OFFICER**

DRE #01242451 • peterfielder@sbcglobal.net

**415-548-3558**

*Pre-Approval Letter Within One Business Day*  
*Customized Payment Scenarios Upon Request*



**HOME • THRIFT**  
**M O R T G A G E**

Better - than - market rates for better than market clients

**H O M E W E E K L Y - M a r i n R e a l E s t a t e**

**H O M E - S A L E S**

Recent sales in Marin County include:

Address	Br/Ba	Asking \$	Selling \$	DOM*	List/Sell%
<b>NOVATO</b>					
2417 VINEYARD	5/5	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000	24	100.00%
106 KRISTIN MARIE	4/6	\$1,995,000	\$1,900,000	4	95.20%
120 GARNER	4/4	\$1,950,000	\$1,825,000	160	93.60%
157 WINDWALKER WAY	4/5	\$1,695,000	\$1,725,000	23	101.80%
25 BROOKSIDE	5/8	\$1,695,000	\$1,600,000	72	94.40%
2 BEAR CREEK	4/3	\$1,329,000	\$1,360,000	40	102.30%
224 ESCALLONIA	3/3	\$554,900	\$555,000	40	100.00%
6 ARIES	2/2	\$510,000	\$515,000	36	101.00%
111 OLIVA	3/2	\$499,000	\$507,000	32	101.60%
15 SOMERSET	2/1	\$485,000	\$505,000	69	104.10%
<b>SAN ANSELMO</b>					
166 CRESCENT	5/4	\$3,298,000	\$3,165,000	33	96.00%
48 RAYMOND	4/2	\$1,700,000	\$1,625,000	46	95.60%
241 FAWN	5/3	\$1,525,000	\$1,504,000	17	98.60%
5 BERKELEY	2/1	\$749,000	\$744,500	37	99.40%
47 EL CERRITO	3/1	\$744,000	\$737,000	4	99.10%
20 SAN FRANCISCO	2/1	\$659,000	\$715,000	37	108.50%
151 ALDER	3/1	\$679,999	\$700,000	49	102.90%
9 PASTORI	2/1	\$639,950	\$655,000	19	102.40%
10 IVY	2/1	\$595,000	\$587,000	34	98.70%
84 MADRONE	2/1	\$525,000	\$527,000	19	100.40%
<b>SAN RAFAEL</b>					
7 PHEASANT	4/5	\$2,795,000	\$2,843,000	17	101.70%
178 MAIN	5/4	\$2,495,000	\$2,440,000	23	97.80%
12 CHAPEL COVE	3/4	\$1,825,000	\$1,915,477	16	105.00%
26 BAYWOOD	4/3	\$1,395,000	\$1,385,000	126	99.30%
131 GREENWOOD	3/2	\$1,297,000	\$1,375,000	25	106.00%
55 LOCKSLY	4/3	\$899,000	\$904,000	28	100.60%
8 HUBBELL	3/2	\$880,000	\$900,000	19	102.30%
113 GREENWOOD	3/2	\$869,000	\$880,000	28	101.30%
26 EL CERRITO	3/2	\$875,000	\$870,000	27	99.40%
411 FORBES	2/1	\$799,000	\$850,000	21	106.40%
499 MILLER CREEK	3/2	\$849,000	\$850,000	18	100.10%
<b>SAUSALITO</b>					
33 SUNSHINE	5/4	\$3,150,000	\$2,986,000	19	94.80%
100 SOUTH	3/2	\$1,180,000	\$1,185,000	33	100.40%
<b>TIBURON</b>					
208 TAYLOR	5/5	\$3,595,000	\$3,475,000	210	96.70%
42 MEADOW HILL	4/3	\$2,495,000	\$2,500,000	25	100.20%
1865 MOUNTAIN VIEW	4/2	\$2,850,000	\$2,425,000	158	85.10%
41 GELDERT	4/3	\$1,799,000	\$1,755,000	35	97.60%
735 HAWTHORNE	2/2	\$1,275,000	\$1,275,000	97	100.00%
256 KAREN	4/2	\$1,195,000	\$1,250,000	102	104.60%
32 LYFORD	2/2	\$1,125,000	\$1,060,000	91	94.20%

Source: West Bay Real Estate; www.westbayre.com

\*DOM - Days on Market

**H O M E W E E K L Y - M a r i n R e a l E s t a t e**

**< 1 Trends underfoot**

Drake Blvd., Larkspur; 415/925-1188,  
**www.mvbamboo.com**

• Rafael Floors: 822 Francisco Blvd. West, San Rafael; 415/456-3656,  
**www.rafaelfloors.com**

• Smith & Fong Co.: 375 Oyster Point Blvd. #3S, South San Francisco; 650/872-1184, 866/835-9859,  
**www.plyboo.com**

**Cork Floors**

For a cushion-y, sleek look and feel, cork is the flooring of choice. Cork has a honeycomb cellular structure and its tissue is comprised mostly of an air-like gas that makes the material very lightweight and low density. The air contained in the millions of cork cells provides a cushioned feel underfoot. Cork also provides noise insulation.

The small cellular compartments seal air in each compartment, insulating each from the other with a moisture resistant, waxy-like substance. This makes cork a good material for places where sound needs to be reduced. Cork also reduces heat loss in rooms and even body heat loss through the feet. It naturally maintains a comfortable median temperature, getting neither very hot nor very cool. Cork flooring is available as prefinished tiles and it also comes in free-floating floor styles. To learn more about this cushiony flooring choice, visit:

• Floorcraft: 470 Bayshore Blvd., San Francisco; 415/824-4056

• EcoTimber: 1611 Fourth Street, San Rafael; 415/258-8454,  
**www.ecotimber.com**

• Green Fusion Design Center: 14 Greenfield Ave., San Anselmo; 415/454-0174,  
**www.greenfusiondesigncenter.com**

• Hendricksen Natürlich: 7120 Keating Ave., Sebastopol; 707/829-3959,  
**www.floorguy411.com**

• Rafael Floors: 822 Francisco Blvd. West, San Rafael; 415/456-3656,  
**www.rafaelfloors.com**

• **www.amcork.com/**  
**www.duro-design.com/**  
**www.floorfactory.us/cork-floors.html**

**Concrete Stenciling**

Many of us are drawn to the sparse functionality of concrete. Its durability and minimalist attributes make it especially popular among modernists. The latest trend with these industrial-strength floors is staining, coloring or painting them. No longer are people choosing to cover concrete with carpet or vinyl; instead, they are opting for a wide range of treatments including everything from acid-stains to overlays and personalized designs. Concrete stenciling is a process in which stencils are placed on top of freshly finished concrete and top treatments that produce color, texture and other special effects are applied. The concrete is then sealed with special hardeners that give the cement long-lasting durability. Concrete has a long life expectancy and most of the decorative finishes can last the lifetime of the concrete. This is an extremely versatile route to go and more

and more people are discovering the endless possibilities concrete can offer. To learn more about concrete stenciling, visit: • Green Fusion Design Center: 14 Greenfield Ave., San Anselmo; 415/454-0174, **www.greenfusiondesigncenter.com**

• **www.concretenetwork.com/concrete/acid\_etch\_staining/index.html**

Or find a local concrete contractor through this Web site:

• **www.buildingtradesdir.com/guilds/california/California/3/california\_concrete\_work\_mendo.html**

**Floorcloths**

Here is an idea that probably isn't on your radar—floorcloths. Although popular on the East Coast, few of us West Coasters know about this option. These decorative floor coverings are hand-made, painted canvas rugs that provide an alternative to area rugs. Gwen Jones, owner of Gracewood Design in San Francisco, says people get really excited about the many designs available and "it is especially rewarding for people who want custom cloths—they get to participate in the process and they love that." At Gracewood Design, the floorcloths are made of heavy canvas that is primed, painted, stenciled and then sealed with multiple layers of protective, water-based polyurethane and a coat of paste wax. They are then double-backed with carpet padding covered by a tough water-resistant fabric, which is adhered to the canvas, to prevent sliding and add cushion and durability. The cloths can be placed directly on hardwood and concrete surfaces. Dining areas, in front of the sink and even hallways are all fair game for displaying these decorative floor coverings. For more information about cost and designs available, visit **www.gracewooddesign.com/** or **www.rabterry.com/default.php**. \*

**H O M E W E E K L Y**

Is published weekly on Fridays and is mailed free to residents in the communities of Mill Valley, Corte Madera, Larkspur, Greenbrae, Kentfield, Ross and San Anselmo, and distributed free at more than 300 locations throughout Marin County, including local real estate offices. **To advertise** call Wally Buck, 415/485-6700.

**Editor:** Tanya Henry  
**e-mail:** thenry@pacificsun.com  
**Design:** Ken Piekny  
**Proofreader:** Brenda Redfern

**Cover photo:** Gwenith Jones and Kenneth Forcier of Gracewood Design in San Francisco have a collection of over 450 authentic wall and floor stencils from the Early American period, circa 1740-1840. They will also create custom stencils for clients. To learn more, visit **www.gracewooddesign.com**.

