

california

HOME+DESIGN

THE GREAT OUTDOORS



DESIGNER
IDEAS BRING
THE OUTSIDE IN

2006 AIA
SAN FRANCISCO
DESIGN AWARDS

SUMMER
FABRICS AND
FURNISHINGS



Home Essentials

Orinda Interior Designer Catherine Macfee has been creating residential interiors and custom furniture for both new and older homes since 1989. Her interiors have been described as sophisticated, classic and whimsical, and she delights in mixing old with new. CH&D caught up with the busy designer at her newly opened Orinda shop, Catherine Macfee Home. —TEXT BY ALICE KAUFMAN



More and more interior designers are opening shops. Why did you open Catherine Macfee Home? I've always had a passion for retail. It was the direction I thought I'd go. But I switched to fashion design and then interior design. For the past 13 years, my interior design firm was housed in an office space. During that time, I tried to buy gift shops, to form partnerships, but nothing worked. When this opportunity opened up in Orinda, I took it, and moved my design business to the space as well.

Why Orinda? I would like to bring a little diversity to the East Bay, offer more of a San Francisco feeling and sophistication. East Bay interiors have more of a comfortable, country-like feel, as compared to San Francisco's classic, eclectic interior designs. Also, I live there.

What kinds of things do you carry? Great accessories and linens and the little things. I want Catherine Macfee Home to be full service, to offer everything down to the sheets and towels and dishes and plates. I'm also trying to develop my own custom line of upholstery.

Tell me about the linens you carry. Are they available anywhere else in the Bay Area? I first found Anichini linens at the Four Seasons Hotel in Milan. Catherine Macfee Home is the exclusive retail outlet for Anichini in the East Bay; Sue Fisher King sells them in San Francisco. They are heirloom quality sheets, and with that comes the price tag.

When you find a special piece, how do you decide if it goes in the shop or a client's home? Or my home! That's the hard part. ➤