interior design

HOW TO MAKE CHALLENGING
SPACES INTO EXCITING PLACES!

BY GAIL CLARIDGE

When Bob Majorino built a new swimming pool and entertainment area on a high cliff overlooking Camarillo, he created an unexpected new space underneath the expansion.

When he had the walls of this space gunited, it looked like an upside-down swimming pool. So the question arose: What do you do with this new space? Build a wine room!

An artist was called in to transform the gunited walls into an aged plaster look – fauxed with terra cotta and moss green. A small adjoining alcove was lined with shelves for wine storage and the space was enclosed with floor to ceiling decorative iron gates. The remaining area became a comfortable retreat; a place to relax, read and smoke that forbidden cigar with no one bothering you.

The furnishings to create the proper atmosphere had to be practical as well as luxuriously comfortable. A wine-tasting area was provided with a rustic heavy wood table made from an old hand-finished door. Tooled leather and carved wood chairs with a pair of benches offered ample seating while conserving limited space. The main wall

was designed to provide more storage and a comfortable lounge area. A large Brazilian hand-painted chest contained additional wine storage and was flanked by two antique leather smoking chairs.

Complementing accessories included a pair of antique Brandy decanters made into lamps and a beautiful still-life painting of grapes and fruit.

Old wine bottles, candles and large grape strainers were added for accent and atmosphere. An element of charm was created with the addition of realistic wild ivy vines secured as if they were naturally growing on the walls.

So there it was – a magical escape entered through a wonderfully weathered wood and iron door on the side of a cliff. What had started out as a "cave" had become a perfect gentlemen's retreat.

So take a walk around your house and find a corner, an old bar, or even a closet, and make it work for you and your lifestyle. Perhaps there is a new wine room waiting to happen. Just use your imagination! **WM**