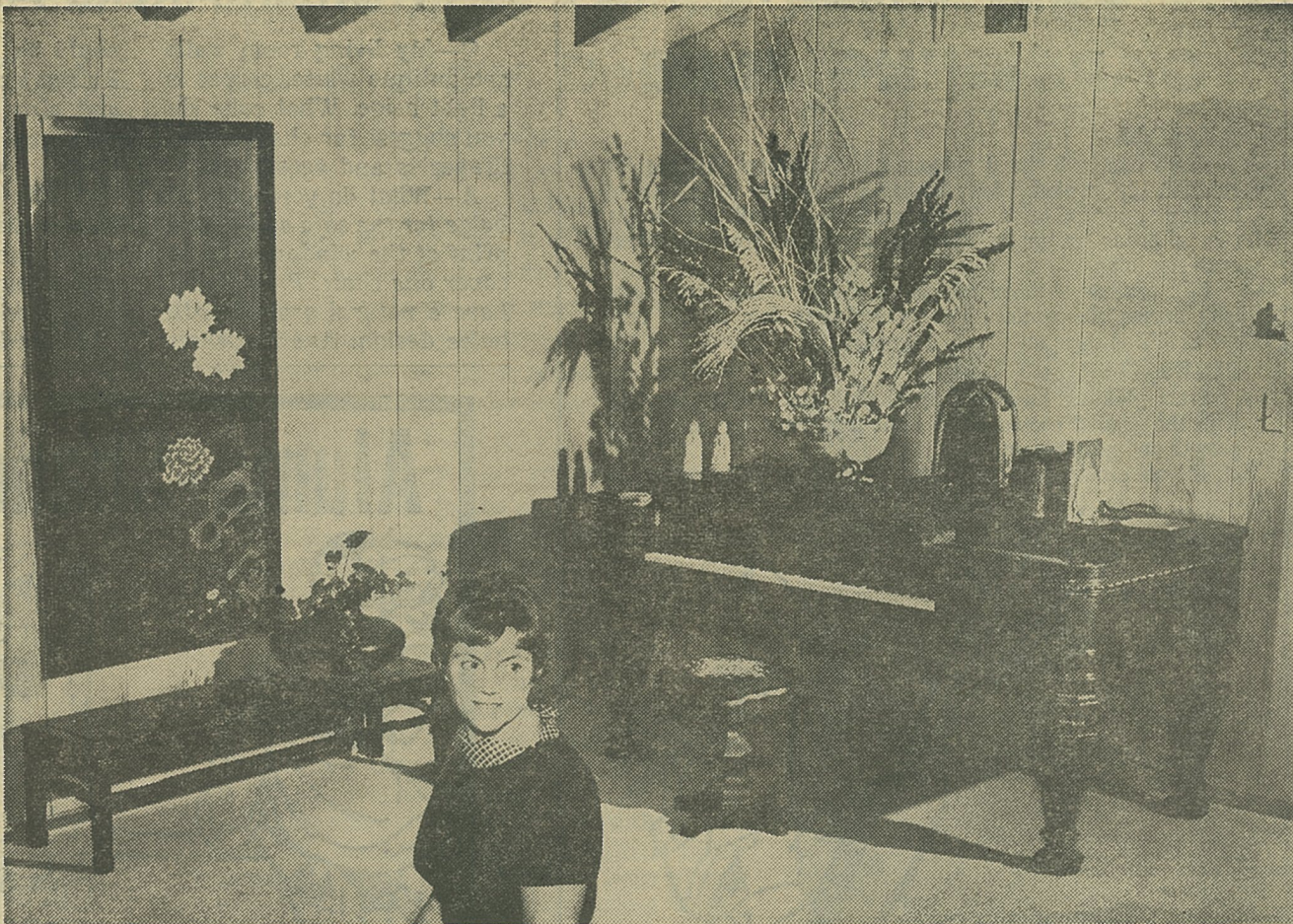


# EMINENT DOMAINS

By KAY WAHL



Rosewood piano, Japanese painted door over Chinese table, in Mrs. Jackson's living room

There are houses that become part of their owners' life together, almost a member of the family.

There is, for instance, the Harry A. Jackson home in Lafayette, which has grown with their children and changed with

their interests since they took possession of its first four rooms in 1942 — "in a sea of mud."

"We bought the lot the day before Pearl Harbor," remembers Betty Lou Jackson, "and the house was built while we were on our honeymoon that

spring. Now it means so much to us; we have created it, we've added on to it four times since."

Perhaps the most spectacular addition is the dining room—a glass enclosed stage on a cantilevered concrete tile floor. The floor extends outside the glass walls, and under its ledge on both sides are floodlights. In the ceiling are small recessed

spotlights directed on the Scandinavian teak table.

The timber bamboo outside seems to be part of the room—a Japanese rice bucket planted with the smaller variety brings the slender spiky leaves actually inside — and Mrs. Jackson says, "At night, with the lights on, you feel as if you're right outdoors, as if you're floating."

The rice bucket is only one of the uncountable pieces of Oriental art throughout the house. And these are combined in airy, uncluttered harmony with some Victorian pieces, Scandinavian modern, old Mexican, English and even American Primitive.

The primary example of the latter is the pair of family por-

traits above the extra long red upholstered couch along one living room wall. This is opposite the slightly bayed window wall which also looks at the bamboo.

The Jacksons' interests have become increasingly directed toward the Orient during the years they have expanded their house. These were also the years in which Jackson became nationally known as the young man who turned designers' imaginations toward the Pacific for home furnishing fashion, in the Jackson stores and many others.

Because two of the stores are in Japan, he makes regular trips to the Orient, and Mrs. Jackson has gone there a number of times. Most of their Oriental treasures have resulted from these visits — including the Chinese Junk which they keep afloat on Lake Tahoe, far from its Hong Kong shores.

But the row of mellowed beige ivory figurines on a living room shelf were brought back by Jackson's grandfather many years ago.

The long living room with its light walls and light high beamed ceiling is Oriental in feeling — though its new focal point is a very modern collage by Via Cruces, a Sacramento artist, a large picture in reds, browns and black next to the ceiling — high brick chimney. "It has what to me are the colors of the Orient," said Betty Lou Jackson.

In front of the long red couch is an equally long Oriental cof-

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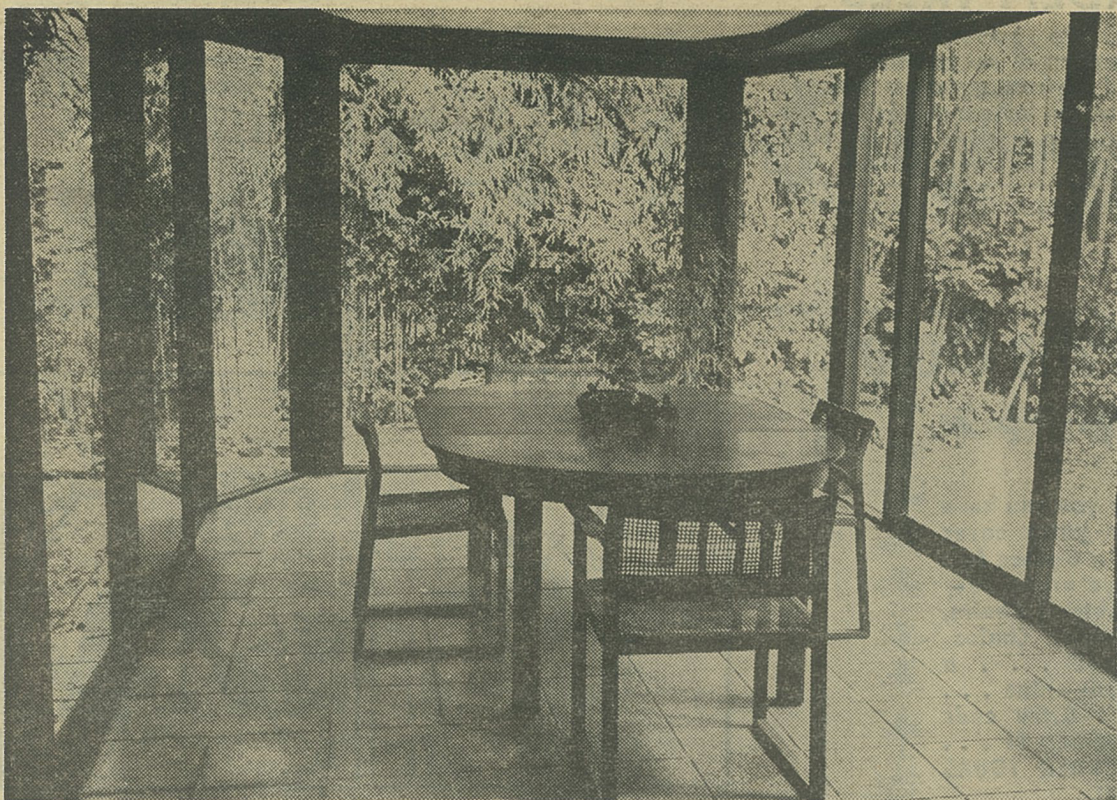
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Glass-walled dining room on cantilevered base "floats in the air"

fee table, its top made of matting under glass in a dark wood frame.

The beige carpet and large pillow back lounge chair and ottoman in front of the hearth match the walls and contrast with two dark brown loveseats which make a corner arrangement near the windows.

There's still room between the love seats and the step up into the hall and dining room for a teak card table, designed by Jackson and made in Hong Kong, around which sit some of the dining room's Scandinavian chairs with their woven rattan seats and backs.

Almost symbolic of the harmony of cultures and times in the room is the corner with the heavy rosewood piano and its petit - point covered Victorian stool. On its top is an old English bowl, a Jackson family heirloom, next to an elephant bell from Bangkok.

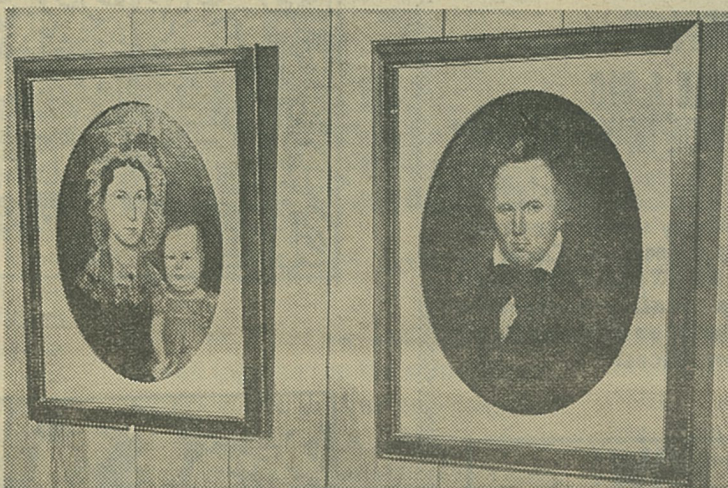
And on the wall next to it hangs what looks like a Japanese floral painting on wood, but which is actually an old sliding door from a Japanese home. Under it is a long Chinese teak table holding a fat bronze bowl, the work of sculptor Arthur Putnam.

A Tansu chest lovingly pointed out by Betty Lou Jackson has almost a Colonial look with its black iron fittings. On it is "our prize," a Japanese hand-warmer of laquered metal with slatted top through which the heat from burning charcoal used to rise in the cold island winters.

There is a long enclosed, brick - floored porch leading to the bedroom wing. Here are the television set, informal chairs and tables — and a beautiful Mexican mosaic in blues and greens.

"This used to be the porch," she said, "and the house stopped here before we started adding on to it." Just past its end, inside the master bedroom entrance, is a ceiling - high open cabinet filled with Victorian porcelains from an earlier decorative period. They stand out delicately against the bright red carpeting with bluish tinge, and mustard green - brown spreads.

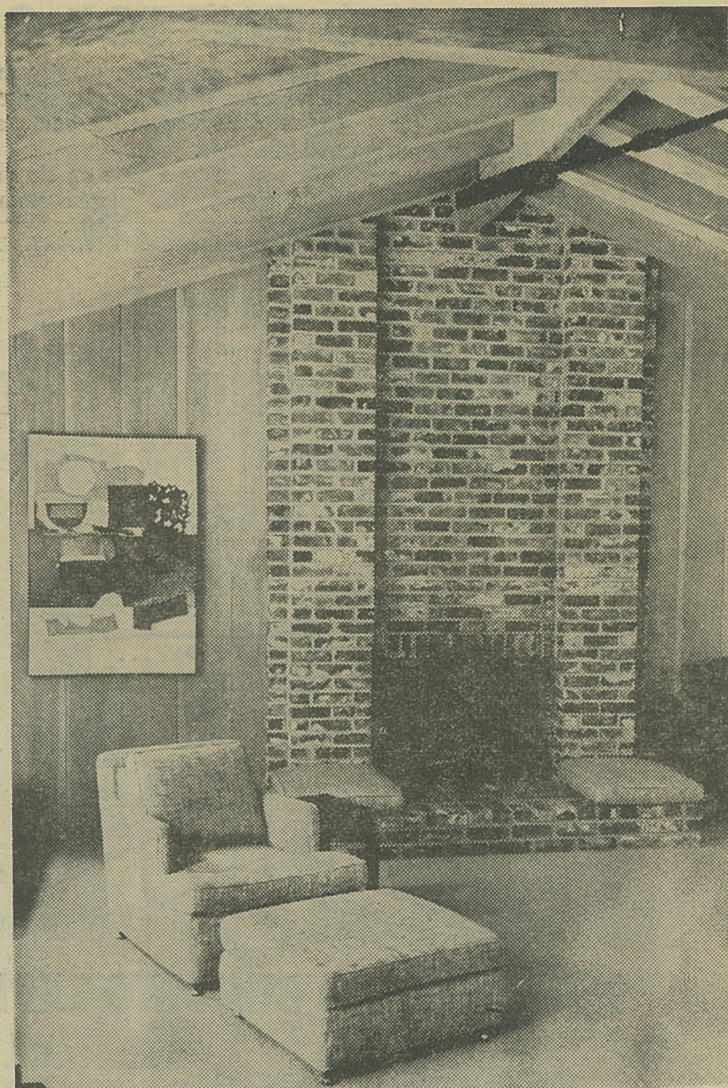
The irreplaceable Oriental collection in the home also in-



"American Primitive" art shows Jackson's ancestors

cludes a large cinnabar bowl on a nest of carved red Chinese tables next to the hearth, an old Bangkok temple bell made into a lamp for the tables between the loveseats and the Imari bowl on the glass-topped free form coffee table in front of

them. Without leaving home their children, Lindsay, 18, (she attends Heads) and Richard, 16, (at the Stevenson School) can see the art and learn the culture of both the Occident and Orient.



Collage beside fireplace has color of Orient

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