

Home Spun

Spinning creator Johnny G and wife, Jodi, create a soulful tribal retreat

BY LAURIAN LEGGETT PHOTOGRAPHS BY LISA ROMEREIN



THIS PAGE: Johnny, Jodi and Jordan in their hot tub, lit by tiki torches, with a wooden African bench and stone trough from Bali. OPPOSITE: Jordan in the "meditation surf shack," constructed with Malibu sand, Florida thatching and Balinese pillars.





THIS PAGE: Johnny and Jason enjoying the front patio. **OPPOSITE:** The Gs often gather on the patio for meals, to lounge under the carved panels from China and Thailand and listen to the Buddha fountain.



Banana palms shimmer. A mango tree bends with the breeze. At Johnny and Jodi Gs' warm and exotic Montecito home, it's easy to lose your bearings. As you gaze on a carved Thai princess statue and tiered fountain amid blooming hibiscus and sunny, undulating gardens, the property feels like an Asian escape.

The exterior walls of the couple's recently remodeled home are washed a wild, ochre shade, the visible brush strokes adding a joyful touch. Carved Asian art adorns them. Several sitting and dining areas dot the grounds, including the "meditation surf shack" where surfboards form a wall under a thatched roof (daughter Jordan is a surfing fiend). The garden enters most rooms through large windows, and its colors blend with those inside. The inside flows out and the outside flows in, swelling this dwelling far beyond its actual size.

Inside, the décor is Pan-Asian, but there's a surprising Western coziness throughout. "I made this house for Johnny and the kids," Jodi says. "I wanted it to hug you. Johnny travels constantly, sometimes two continents a week. I wanted to create a place that felt like an endless vacation."

Johnny G (né Goldberg) is the creator of the revolutionary Spinning fitness program, which has reached 80 countries with more than 75,000 instructors. Jodi is a world-class stylist who now designs homes, and her artistry touches everything she does. "Jodi paints with her wonderful nature," says Johnny. "She can go into someone's life, feel their soul, their essence, and bring it out."

It is intensely clear that the Gs' vivid essence permeates all aspects of their home. When they bought it, it was a generic, tract-y, ranch-style home on a great piece of property. "People said, 'Tear it down,'" Jodi laughs, "but instead I gave it love." She

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALBERTA WILLIAMS, BOTH OF THE KEVIN CHARLES SALON



THIS PAGE: The living room features a Thai money box, Chinese drum and pottery collected from around the world, which blend seamlessly with the Hawaiian couches. OPPOSITE: Memoirs of everyday life merge with treasures from afar, like this Chinese vase and antique Hawaiian chalk lamp.



The Gs share a love of music (son, Jason, is a songwriter). The fire pit, which served as their kitchen for four months, is now a frequent gathering place for family jam sessions.



reconstructed its maze of boxy rooms into a fluid billow of space that feels like a beach house. Oddly, the structure's conventional bones work well with the unorthodox treatment they've been given.

You enter through French doors into the...dining room!...unconventional but delightful, bypassing formality and allowing visitors to dive right into the heart of the Gs' family life. The room has a welcoming glow from the orange-y, pigmented plaster walls. Woven Thai chairs surround a Balinese teak table. The lighting above is a "pagoda" made from antique kimonos. "Jodi finds things

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that are the slickest, the hippest, the coolest," says Johnny, matter-of-factly. "She's avant-garde. She sees trends before they happen. She makes trends."

The open kitchen beside the dining room is part of the living area "flow" and was given the same Asian design treatment. The artful, bamboo cabinets transcend "kitchen." Like all of the furniture, found or made, the center island is beautifully crafted.

"I work on a space until it's 'done,' down to the smallest details," Jodi says, and it's obvious throughout. Wherever you turn, treasures from the Gs' world travels fill the eye.

A golden, sea grass wallcovering unites the rest of the social spaces: living room, Johnny's office, master bedroom. A master bedroom is not often considered a social space, but Jodi planned this home to celebrate how she and Johnny like to live. Their bedroom is next to the dining room, on the beaten path. The bed is a tribal refuge with vibrant pillows and a duvet from a home bedding line Jodi has launched with Teena Leandri, a Calabasas-based artist. "With the bedroom doors open, you can see through the house," Jodi says, adding with a shrug, "I like to see my family."

The Gs, passionate and charismatic, are fiercely committed to their marriage, children, romance and quest to help others find the good life. The haven they have created—soulful, welcoming, singular—reflects a magical symbiosis of its owners. ❖
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THIS PAGE: The Gs constructed a fountain around this Buddha adding stones and special elements of their lives. OPPOSITE: The master bedroom is the hub of family life, with art by Teena Leandri and Jodi's own line of bedding. The Gs collect Buddhas from around the world—these are from Brazil. Jackie's bedroom is fit for an Indian princess. The altar table is a place for "little blessings that remind of us life and things we're grateful for."

