

Nicoletti..

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garden shelter with aluminum patio roof, carrying out the same gentle arch. A patio table and metal lounge chairs invited even dripping swimmers to get out of the water long enough for a snack.

I sat there for awhile admiring the grill-block pattern of the concrete wall - screen, which the architect, William Cody, designed and had made for his exclusive use.

Beyond, where it could greet visitors just entering the courtyard, an adorable poodle-statue was tucked into a garden corner. I was already convinced that Mrs. Nicoletti was as poodle-happy as a few of my friends, because Gay and Gigi, two delightful little charmers with jeweled collars, had already been introduced to me. The large painting commanding the end of the living room showed Mrs. Nicoletti with still another poodle, while in her bedroom hung a gilded shadow-boxed study of more poodles.

In a conversation with her later, referring to the carved stone poodle, she declared: "It was a gift to me from a friend returning from Italy. And it was the nicest thing I ever got out of Europe!"

AT THE OPPOSITE end of the pool the deck swept down broad steps to a patio flooring of terrazzo, polished for dancing and entertaining. Twenty feet of sliding glass doors led from there into the living room. The most fanciful and decorative feature of the whole entertaining setup was the indoor-outdoor bar, 12 feet long, faced with the same chocolate-bronze tile of the entrance wall.

The bar could be divided in half by one of the 10 by 11-foot glass partitions, and was fitted out with fluorescent lighting over the work area and a stainless steel sink. The bar top was wood-grained Formica.

On the inside wall hung a large and fanciful light fixture of antique copper set with what looked like stones of polished jasper.

The 40 BY 20-FOOT living room was almost all view. A glass front along one length looked out over the front deck area to the desert and hazy mountains beyond. The opposite side was glass, too, with a view of pool and courtyard.

The long sofa at one end was in a champagne damask that blended with the warm, neutral shade of the custom-made, Portuguese carpet. Black walnut side tables supported huge and decorative custom-made lamps. An elongated walnut coffee table with



WEEDER—An ancient and gnarled grape stump graces base of large boulder at front entrance, where window is protected from sun by arched aluminum shelter. Here John Garzoglia, gardener, weeds new lawn.

marble insets fronted the sofa.

Along the patio length stood another long sofa, which Poodle Gay considered her personal lounge. In front of this sofa ranged a beautiful glass-topped coffee table.

THE WINDOWS, with the same distinctive arch at the top, went up to the ceiling. To preserve the spacious openness of the room, there were no ordinary drapes. Instead the windows were hung with what I can only describe as an intriguing system of horizontal scallops of metallic cords (it had been imported from Italy) which could be drawn up to disclose the whole breath-taking vista.

In a corner near bar and kitchen entrance was grouped a low, broad octagonal table of walnut, with comfortable chairs in muted aqua, for either card playing or dining.

Over the table hung a painting of a beautiful girl in ski clothes, her skis over her shoulder and poles stuck in the snow.

"That's my daughter Dorothy," said Mrs. Nicoletti later. Dorothy is now Mrs. Federico de Silva of San Marino. (A painting of another pretty woman in an evening gown hung in the master bedroom. I couldn't decide whether it was of Dorothy or her

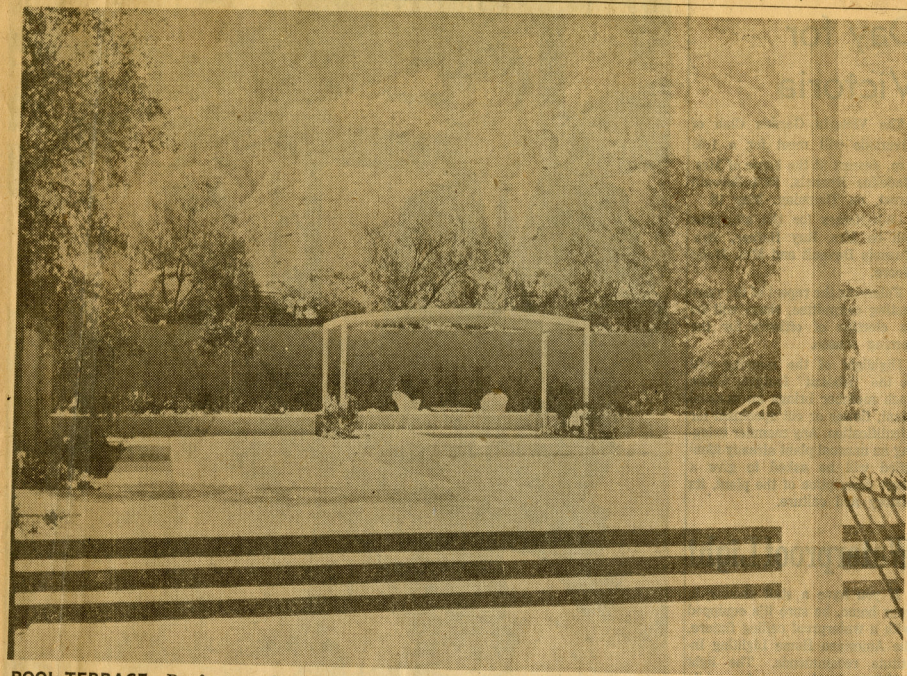
mother, painted when she was Dorothy's age.)

THE DECORATING of the entire house was smoothly unified, distinctive, restful — just right. Exotic and ornate touches highlighted the prevailing simplicity of design, and the color coordination was outstanding. The decorator, who I learned from Mrs. Nicoletti was Maxine Overbeck of West Los Angeles, had shown admirable taste and talent in weaving the owner's furnishings from her former home in Flint, Michigan, into the more casual mood of the Palm Springs desert setting.

The study beyond the living room, for instance, was also a study in color, employing both royal blue and a shade of wildly bright blue accented with brilliant green. Here walnut cupboards housed the hi-fi system and books. An Oriental ivory carved chest was topped with a carved ivory elephant. The card table was white, with comfortable chairs upholstered in green.

BEYOND THE STUDY was the master bedroom — large, restful, luxurious, with several closets off a dressing room which opened through glass doors to a private sunning patio, landscaped (Turn to NICOLETTI HOME, Page B-12)

Press-Enterprise Sunday, May 14, 1961 B-11



POOL TERRACE—Roof curve of garden shelter carries out same gentle arc featured in pool shape and in design throughout house. Broad steps lead from pool terrace to outdoor entertainment patio, where

floor is of polished terrazzo for dancing. With a scenic hill for a background, Nicoletti home so far is highest house in Thunderbird Heights.

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'Whatzis' Day for Victoria

The Victoria Garden Club of Riverside will meet for a 1:30 p.m. dessert at the home of Mrs. Madeline Runnels, 2374 Seventh street, on Thursday, May 18.

Co-hostesses for the afternoon will be Mrs. Ray Hafner, Mrs. Eugenia Davault and Mrs. Matie Moore.

Following the report of the nominating committee, there will be an election of officers for the coming season.

Highlight of the meeting will be the "Whatzit" feature, where each member brings an unusual plant, flower or cut specimen for identification. Any member bringing an unusual plant already identified will be asked to give a short description of the plant, its history and culture.

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CELEBRATING—Charles Sunak (right), 3581 Chestnut, Riverside, celebrates the dedication of the new patio at Dales Community Center in White Park in Riverside by relaxing in the luxurious outdoor recreation area for a game of cards, while Don Derr, Riverside Park and Recreation director, checks Charlie's hand. Mr. Sunak, assisted by his wife, had just cut the ribbon at the formal ceremony of the project for which he had worked so long, and which he donated to the city of Riverside.

(Photo by Lorraine Small)

Sunak--'One-Man Program'

When Clair Kuss was appointed Riverside Recreation superintendent, he started on the job on Sept. 15, 1956. Kuss was greeted the next day by Charles Sunak, who volunteered his assistance on any programs to benefit senior citizens of the City of Riverside.

Charles Sunak, who retired eleven years ago and moved to Riverside with his wife Hazel, has perhaps been the most tireless worker in the City for the recreational needs of senior residents, and has been most instrumental in pointing up their needs. He was one of the steady

group leaders in presenting to the Park and Recreation Commission and the City Council the need for a local center for Senior Citizens.

His assistance in this project was largely instrumental in the building of the Dales Community Center in White Park.

Charles Sunak also served on the steering committee which helped establish the original Senior Citizen program, involving activities for senior adults, such as cards, tours etc.

SUNAK HAS MADE many generous gifts and additions to the City recreation program, said Clair Kuss, — to buildings and activities, whenever they were needed.

Here is a list of some of the things he has done:

— He constructed eight yard table tops for the Fairmount Park Adult Center.

— He made signs for Community Centers.

Nicoletti Home . . .

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with Callistemon, Orange Jessamine and Evergreen Pear. A patio floor of warm brown aggregate was centered by a criss-cross design in tile.

Retracing our steps through the living room — and what a perfect place it was for entertaining, we remarked after a second inspection — we entered the roomy, convenient kitchen presided over by smiling Jane Harrell.

The kitchen was fitted with the most modern features, from electronic oven to metal cupboards fronted with walnut panels — there was even a mop-sink by the basement stairs — all in oatmeal, with warm browns and an charcoal from vinyl floor to tiled counters.

THE MOST UN-CALIFORNIA aspect of this desert home was the big basement, covering 1,000 square feet. Here was a built-in central vacuum system, air-conditioning unit, mammoth water heater, laundry facilities, counters galore — all slick and neat and presenting an almost too-perfect, inhuman orderliness.

But the door leading from the laundry area opened into a plain, comfortable storage room—what many families term their junk-room, where trunks and boxes hold the treasures of former years. The excess furniture, pictures and knick - knacks may

eventually be put to use, but if they never are, they still cannot be thrown away.

"The basement is my pride and joy," laughed Louise Nicoletti.

"I asked the architect to put this room first on his plans, because many of my things to be stored had been exposed to the Palm Springs elements for almost three years. Now that I have a place for my things, I am going to make this house my permanent residence.

"For the summer months, of course, I will leave for a cooler area, perhaps near Santa Fe Springs. 'Close enough,' she chuckled, "to visit with my daughter's family in their summer home, but too far away to be an instant, on-call baby-sitter."

Wise lady, that Mrs. Nicoletti, as all grandmothers — however proud and loving they may be — will agree.

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B-12 Sunday, May 14, 1961 Press-Enterprise

Check List for Garden Jobs

1. Divide tall Bearded Iris after it goes out of bloom — but only if clumps are crowded. Every third year is about average for dividing them.
2. Set lawn mower blades to cut grass longer than during the cooler months. About 1½ to 2 inches is right for the hot summer months.
3. Plant Dahlias again this month for a late show of this favorite flower.
4. Anticipate summer bare spots in the garden by filling them with annuals now.
5. Hanging baskets should be brought down occasionally for a good soaking. Immerse the whole container in water and let it drink deeply.

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