

SAN.
francisco

FEBRUARY 2004

the
BAY
AREA

SINGLE WARS

**LOOKING FOR LOVE
IN THE NATION'S TOUGHEST
DATING SCENE**

SPECIAL ISSUE:

The post-dating vanguard

How we met: 20 love stories

Glamour girls: Why so sad?

Cruising for sex online

PLUS: Tips for getting unstuck

also:

MAMET MAGICALLY APPEARS

GONZALEZ V. NEWSOM, ROUND II

THE TOP STEAK FRITES IN TOWN

www.sanfran.com \$3.95



**A PICKY GUIDE
TO L.A.**

THE BEST NEW HOTELS, STORES,
GALLERIES, AND RESTAURANTS





LEFT: In the art-filled living area created for Minuth and Scully by Applegate Tran Interiors, a custom-designed coffee table encourages kicking back. The backless couch allows for unobstructed views out the picture window (not shown, to right), while an open fireplace evokes a beach bonfire. **BELOW:** Minuth and Scully's daughters, Seana and Erin, prove that kids love style, too.



GOING FOR IT

With a modest house in a low-key neighborhood, what's worth doing?

BY MARTIN HOLDEN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID DUNCAN LIVINGSTON



hen Reed Minuth and Megin Scully moved into their home in Forest Knolls, a '60s-era development high on the slopes of Mount Sutro, they knew what they were getting into. Every inch of the outdated interior, from the fusty wood paneling to the stuffy little kitchen, would have to be rethought and redone. A real estate-minded observer (and who isn't these days?) might have wondered if lavishing so much attention on a rather modest home was wise. But Minuth, a financial adviser, knew that some things are more important than the simple calculus of square footage. "When you get right down to the nitty-gritty," he says, "we were really doing





FACING PAGE: "It's more like a living room than a kitchen," says Reed Minuth, the family chef. Creative wall-hung storage freed up space for an installation of canvases by onetime San Francisco artist Meg Lucas. TOP LEFT: A cozy nook provides a place to relax and enjoy the view or the Sunday paper. The striking striped wood is rare Madagascar ebony. TOP RIGHT: The dining area, a nexus between the kitchen and the living room, features a table built of Hawaiian koa wood by Richmond craftsman Allen Miesner. ABOVE: A colored concrete casing turns a structurally necessary column into a focal point. Countertops are Absolute black granite.

HOME → it for ourselves." Their family, they decided, was where they wanted to be, so they would try to make the home special.

Minuth and Scully, a dermatologist, met in Hawaii, where they were both born and raised. They fell in love with Forest Knolls because its views across Golden Gate Park—with the Presidio, Marin Headlands, and Mount Tam marching northward—softened the transition to mainland life. "Coming from Hawaii," says Minuth, "it would have been hard not to have a view of the ocean." They also thought the quietly "uncitylike" setting, while not quite Hawaii, was the place to raise their daughters. In fact, they were already living in a Forest Knolls home they'd just finished remodeling when this one opened up two doors down. It had a better view, so they bought it.

The complication was that the floor plan wasn't well thought out, plus they wanted everything done with their prized art in mind. Layoutwise, the small kitchen was completely walled off from the view. And access to it from the entry was blocked by a wall that ignored how the kitchen is usually the first stop when you arrive home.

Their contractor, Chris Grey, suggested they contact Vernon Applegate and Gioi Tran, masters of creating spaces that blur the distinction between art and interior design. They opened up the floor plan as best they could, working around structural steel columns that pin the home to its hillside perch. Then they put in an angled floor pattern of stone and doussie wood to create a visual path into the kitchen. It culminates, in the couple's prized multicanvas installation by Meg Lucas. Not all