

Sonoma Home

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The living room in the home of Susan Muscatell and Mike Deverell, designed by Albert Farr and built in 1900. Farr was one of the most prominent architects of his time, designing many notable residences in the Bay Area, but he is perhaps best known for designing author Jack London's Wolf House in Glen Ellen, destroyed by fire in 1913.

ARCHITECTURE » Petaluma home tour features mansion designed by Albert Farr

Timeless Elegance

By **MEG MCCONAHEY**
The PRESS DEMOCRAT

When Jack and Charmian London sought an architect to design their Dream House on Sonoma Mountain, they turned to Albert Farr, a San Francisco architect whose small firm designed grand residences in elite enclaves like Piedmont and Tiburon. He was the chief architect of Belvedere.

Farr did high end work in a wide variety of styles, from brown-shingled Arts and Crafts houses and English cottages to Tudor mansions and Norman farmhouses, according to Dave Weinstein, author of "The Signature

Architects of the San Francisco Bay Area" (Gibbs Smith, 2006).

"He was one of the most prominent architects of his time," Weinstein said. "It's not surprising Jack London would have heard of him."

But while Farr's reputation was fated to be most closely associated with a house that was in ruins before it ever was occupied, many of his other homes are still standing a century later, commanding high prices for their timeless elegance.

Among them is a neo-Colonial at the corner Sixth and C streets in Petaluma that Farr designed in 1901 for William



Top: The Petaluma home of Susan Muscatell and Mike Deverell, built in Petaluma in 1900 and designed by noted Bay Area architect Albert Farr. Above, a built-in seat next to one of five fireplaces in the mansion.

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