



What fun is winning if you can't lean out across the length of the table and cuddle the chips in a gentle, warm embrace?

< 80 Plenty O'Toole beetles. It is too hard, too dense and only becomes tasteful upon your floor to the eyes and praise of your visitors.

Mill Valley Bamboo Flooring
14 E. Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Larkspur, 925.1188
2ND Rafael Floors, San Rafael
3RD EcoTimber, San Rafael

Readers' Poll
BEST HOME FURNISHINGS

If hubby's a couch potato and you need more than a La-Z-Boy to match his mood, Sunrise Home can deliver the goods for the den you're wishing for. With their designer lines and European models, they offer furniture from footstools to futons. Settle in to a comfy recliner, kick up the leg-rest and let Sunrise bring your home a whole new look.
SUN: What will be 2007's hot item in home furnishings?
SUNRISE: This year will bring us a resurgence of stronger colors—blues, reds and

even yellows.
Q: We knew our yellow electric bull would come back in style.
A: Yellow is very hot in apparel now and furnishings usually follow very closely on fashion's heels so I expect to see yellow a lot!
Q: I'm always tripping over my ottoman when I greet my family after work. Should I get rid of that thing?
A: Ottomans are still extremely important—storage ottomans, ottomans on casters, "pull up" ottomans and benches, foot stools, cubes, etc., as well.
Q: Why don't people buy thrones anymore?
A: Our society has progressively gotten more democratic so thrones don't parallel that trend very well. We even see less use of serious host and hostess chairs at dining tables and round dining tables are huge with the "everyone is the same" concept in identical chairs—so no one is singled out as special.
Q: If someone asked if you stocked a chest "large enough to store a body," what would you say?

A: Sunrise prides itself on our custom capabilities and we could certainly accommodate anyone's special-design needs no matter how macabre or odd they might seem. No questions asked!

Sunrise Home
831 B St., San Rafael, 456.3939
2ND Feathered Nest, Novato
3RD Hegel's Home Furnishings, San Rafael

Readers' Poll
THE FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE AWARD FOR BEST IMPORT FURNISHINGS

For more than 20 years, **Flying Elephants** has provided Marinites with unusual and distinctive indoor and outdoor furniture, home décor, accessories and garden-related items from all over Southeast Asia. Brothers Sukhdev and Surinder Oberoi deal directly with designers and craftsmen, ensuring high-quality products. But what keeps customers coming back is the bright and colorful store filled with an ever-changing array of pieces large and small, old and new—many made from recycled teak—intriguing accent pieces and great prices. Sukhdev is pleased that *Sun* readers have bestowed this honor on Flying Elephants.
SUN: What is it about southern Asian furnishings that so fascinates Western furniture shoppers?
ELEPHANTS: Traditional Asian furnishings are handcrafted pieces of art. They are unique and influenced by the culture as well as the individual craftsmen involved. Some of our customers enjoy this, as it reminds them of their trip to Southeast Asia. There also are furnishings made specifically for the Western market.
Q: By that you mean bad taste?
A: These items may not be as exotic as the traditional furnishings, but the quality and pricing is appealing.
Q: Is there a particular nation that's

newly emerging on the Asian import furnishings scene?
A: Often this is determined by the duties and relations between the governments of the countries involved. For example, with the easing of regulations on Vietnam, we see a lot of new products from that country. On the other hand, Indonesia will continue to be a part of the furnishing scene due to the tremendous amount of resources, designers and creativity.
Q: Why don't people buy thrones anymore?
A: As it was one of our top-selling items in the '90s, we assume that they didn't wear out quickly enough in order to be replaced...

Flying Elephants
2000 Northgate Mall, San Rafael, 499.7785
2ND Feathered Nest, Novato
3RD Via Diva Home Furnishings, San Rafael

Readers' Poll
THE NIGEL SMALL-FAWCETT AWARD FOR BEST KITCHEN/BATH REMODELER

Kitchens & More has been voted Best of three times—because Rosemarie and Krikor Halajian "get it." They know there's far more to a remodel than the craftsmanship of the final product. Clients truly appreciate that Kitchens & More is right there through the entire project, from design to the very last detail.
SUN: What's the most important thing someone should consider before remodeling their kitchen or bathroom?
KITCHENS: What do you value? What do you really care about?
Q: I value and care about kitchens and toilets.
A: Prioritize these things before designing a space and selecting materials. Some things you may consider: aesthetics, entertaining, appliances and the way you cook/live, budget and resale value,

Thank You, Pacific Sun Readers, For This Great Honor!

1st Place Best Movers

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Thank You, Once Again,

“My house finally feels right—thanks to the design team at Sunrise Home.”



Pacific Sun Voters.



“My creative muse? Meandering through the inspirational displays at Sunrise Home.”




SUNRISE HOME

831 B Street, San Rafael, CA 94901
415.456.3939
www.sunrisehome.com



< 82 **Plenty O'Toole**
energy efficiency, air quality and overall how "green" you want your project to be. Make sure your design/build team genuinely gets behind you and makes your priorities matter.

Q: Will your kitchens make me a better cook?

A: I'm thinking of those great words—"under-promise, over-deliver."

Q: President Bush said that, right?

A: Oh well, I'll say—our kitchens will do several things. Some of our clients tell us they are happy in their kitchen. Some tell us they get along better as a couple. Some say they get ready for parties in half the time it used to take. For me,

personally, my kitchen made me a better dancer. (The wood floors remind me of ballet school and suddenly I'm doing pirouettes again.)

Q: Is it true your business offers everything but the kitchen sink?

A: In fact, we offer every kind of kitchen sink. Our personal favorite is a locally made, single-basin stainless steel sink. You can fit (almost) everything in it. Babies and little children look especially cute in them.

Kitchens & More

4178 Redwood Highway, San Rafael, 479.1000

2ND Marin Kitchen Works, Novato

3RD Lamperfi, San Rafael

Readers' Poll

BEST LANDSCAPE DESIGNER

When **Cynthia Egger** talks about landscape design, her passion for it is apparent. "Whether I'm helping someone add a few plants to their yard or doing a total overhaul, I want that person to be satisfied and happy," she says. "I always tell them, 'This is just like adding a room to your house or remodeling; you want it done right.'" Egger, a third-generation horticulturist, grew up around plants. She's been in business 25 years, and over that time has met and teamed with the best building and landscaping professionals the area has to offer, meaning

she can help oversee your entire project, from the conceptual phase to the work itself to the satisfying finished product. "I care about my clients," says Egger. "That's why they keep coming back."

Cynthia Egger Landscape Design

1928 Fifth Ave., San Rafael, 460.0858

2ND Earthwomen Plus One, Fairfax

3RD Bertotti Landscaping, Novato

Readers' Poll

THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS AWARD FOR BEST LIGHTING

Light Express is known for—you guessed it—great lighting. They specialize in both design and fixtures, from over 100 different manufactures, featuring traditional to contemporary lighting. What makes them special? "Our well-educated staff," says Justyna, an in-store expert. They stay abreast of the new trends; for example, "Lime green is cool right now...and angled black crystal." The store's mantra: "Lighting can make or break a space." "With a perfect lighting palette," Justyna adds, "you can look beautiful and feel great." They invite you to see their lighting in effect at Comforts, in San Anselmo. Their most magnificent piece for sale is 6 feet of crystal bubbles, suspended on a cable. "It looks just like they're floating in water," she says.

SUN: What's the difference between a good lighting store and a great lighting store?

LIGHT EXPRESS: Knowledge, listening to customers' needs and desires, a unique product offering and the ability to combine all three to achieve great lighting.

Q: Actually that's four things. How do you stay plugged in to the community's lighting needs?

A: Staying current with the newest developments in the field—from energy conservation and new light sources to design trends.

Q: We're going to put you on the spot with this one—how do light bulbs work?

A: There are many types of lamps: incandescent, fluorescent, LED, HID and RF. Each type is used in specific applications, and sometimes mixed to create a certain psycho-visual ambiance.

Q: You don't know, do you?

A: How they work? That's a large question, depending on the bulb! How they are put to work is the question. We are here to help you select the best product for your application. As we all know—lighting can make or break the space!

Q: Shamelessly plug your business in exactly 36 words.

A: Light Express is a great resource for the Marin design community and builders. We also work with homeowners on additions and remodels, and have a great selection of decorative lighting, from traditional to transitional to contemporary.

Light Express

838 West Francisco Blvd., San Rafael, 459.1261

2ND North Bay Lighting and Electrical Supply, San Rafael

3RD Marin Lighting & Electric, San Rafael




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