

## ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN



## ROBERT BAUMANN + ASSOCIATES

We design custom residential and small commercial projects for clients in northern California—each project a unique response to site and purpose. We strive for thoughtful detailing while paying close attention to budget and schedule.

*Group photo:  
Robert Baumann is the fifth from the left.*

#### What's the most important goal of the design process?

The goal of every project is successful pursuit of a "shared vision." Every client has at least an idea of what he or she wants: At Robert Baumann + Associates we're good at combining that with our understanding of specific styles. This process results in a built environment entirely reflective of the client's character and personality.

#### How do you start designing for a new client?

Zoning constraints are fairly objective, but design requires personalized collaboration. It's extremely important to listen to the client's dreams, needs, and expectations for his or her home. "I start with a questionnaire; we share design images and talk about lifestyle; then I begin sketching," says

Baumann. "Everything in a home should make a client feel comfortable, from the flow, to the materials, lighting, or a garden breeze through an open window. Sometimes this feeling of comfort is not conscious, it just feels right."

#### Codes and regulations are increasingly limiting; how do you maintain a feeling for the individuality of your clients?

"I like to use traditional forms in contemporary, energy-conscious ways, incorporating the latest technologies and products. By 2020, Net Zero energy will be required for all new homes built in California," Baumann adds. "Besides the new codes and technologies, the firm remains dedicated to embracing the human aspects of architecture; beauty, scale, function, and comfort, creating meaningful spaces for people."

