



→ Before planning their dream home, Tip-Top, John Caner and George Beier took their time getting to know the gentle contours of their Napa County property. Their initial concept combined a Tuscan villa with the rammed-earth construction techniques pioneered by Napa builder David Easton. After talking to a dozen architects, they "clicked" with Arkin Tilt, known for its environmentally sensitive resorts. "We responded to their synthesis of the Old World with the 'native vernacular,'" says Caner. Tip-Top has a more open floor plan and much cleaner lines than anything typical in Tuscany. "It's crisper," says Caner. "We're not in Italy, and we don't want to be."

PROJECT □ tuscan with a twist

ARCHITECT □ Anni Tilt and David Arkin, Arkin Tilt Architects

CLIENT □ John Caner and George Beier, high-tech entrepreneurs

MODERNIST HIGHLIGHT □ Elemental materials rendered into sharp, modern forms



To lessen the afternoon sun, a tower casts a shadow on the pool terrace, and deep loggias shade south- and west-facing rooms (TOP LEFT). Eighteen-inch-thick "sprayed-earth" walls lend a warm glow to the kitchen (TOP RIGHT). Mediterranean-style gardens (CENTER RIGHT) complement the architectural references.

