



FAMILY TIES

POOL MOSAIC TRIBUTE TO MATRIARCH'S FORWARD-THINKING DESIGN OF CARDIFF HOME

SOPHY CHAFFEE
SPECIAL TO THE U-T

Fittingly, the best view of the just-completed pool mosaic created by contemporary Zen painter Rosemary KimBal and artist Brennan Hubbell is from the second-story sun deck of the mid-century modern home in Cardiff designed in part by KimBal's mother, matriarch Dorothea Patricia Smith.

The first thing Smith – who KimBal hailed as an “iconoclastic woman” in the coffee table biography that she and the family published to honor Smith's 90th birthday – did each morning was to take in the day on that private deck off her bedroom.

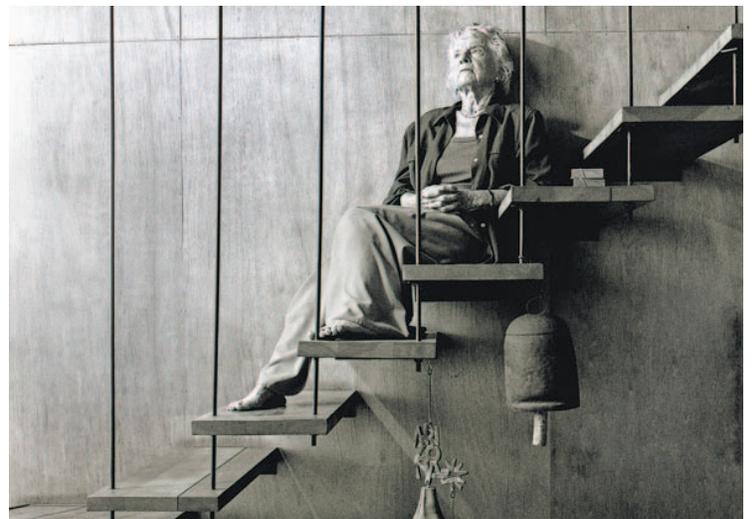
The house was considered al-

most scandalous when it was built in the early 1950s because it had so many windows without curtains. Banks refused to loan money for the “unconventional” design in 1949, so Smith and her husband, Milton, had to finance it themselves. The husband-and-wife team built local landmarks such as Cardiff Elementary School through their construction company. Dorothea Patricia Smith died at 94 last August.

The mosaic view from the sun deck made residential designer Richard Haeger pause for a longer look when he saw the project for the first time with water in the pool.

“To see it with water, it gives it a

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A model swims by the pool mosaic (top) created by Rosemary KimBal and Brennan Hubbell. Dorothea Patricia Smith (above, in a 2005 photo) sits on the home's floating staircase. RAYMOND ELSTAD