

Mark Henderson/Mercedes McNab Residence

In 2007, real estate developer and Crescent Hotel co-founder Mark Henderson and actress Mercedes McNab moved into the Pacific Heights masterpiece built by Henderson's uncle Sandy Walker, and were immediately faced with a challenge: How to make a museum a home.

"I didn't want to lose that clean open sense of space that came with the white 'museum-like' interiors, but there needed to be a homey comfort as well," Henderson says. "The challenge was to resist putting too much in the space and to let the small amounts of items have plenty of space to breathe to preserve that open airy feel. I had to be ruthlessly choosy about what made the cut, as the temptation to just fill up the interiors was very strong."

And the final result of all this careful editing? The formerly cold, empty shell is now summed up by Henderson as "a decommissioned museum from the '80s taken over by rockstars." To this, we ask, "When can we move in?"



Photography by Loren Earle-Cruickshanks

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Clockwise from top: (1) "The piano is very loud as the house has an open "echo-chamber" acoustical quality. That makes it real fun and festive when people are over, but pretty eerie when played during a midnight rainstorm."
 (2) No humans have been harmed falling down the multi-story staircase. "Only my dog fell down the stairs thus far. He slid down arms first really, kind of like superman sliding down the stairs. He was OK, but embarrassed."
 (3) The wall of glass brick is Henderson's favorite feature. "It is such a defining characteristic of the era the home was built (1984) ... It's like a time stamp on the house."