

## ON THE BLOCK

# Tiny Nob Hill 'jewel box' featured in Elle Decor asks \$1.2 million

By Emily Landes on September 3, 2016 at 4:03 AM



Photo: Open Homes Photography /



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The current owners kept the red exterior on the 1926 facade.

In an alleyway just a few blocks from the Cable Car Museum on Nob Hill, 12 Auburn fits a whole lot of design punch into just over 700 square feet. But the small size of the single-family home was actually a benefit, according to interior designer Noz Nozawa of Noz Design.

Describing the project on her website, Nozawa said, "Given the kitchen's small footprint, we were able to select luxurious finishes like the marble herringbone backsplash and Calacatta marble countertops, and we could go bold with graphic black & white stripes, making for a space that's light, dramatic, and a reflection of its dwellers' point of view."

The design was bold enough to catch the attention of Elle Decor, which used the dining area to **illustrate a story from this past April** on experimenting with matte and glossy paints.

The kitchen and dining area weren't the only updates Nozawa made for the owners, who she describes as "impossibly chic" with a "Dorothy-Draper-meets-Tom-Ford style." There were other small but impactful changes throughout the house, according to the sellers' agent Faye Dibachi, who also represented the owners when they bought the home back in October 2012 for \$732,000. The home will officially come to market on September 8 with an asking price of \$1,200,000.

Among the other designer touches are new light fixtures throughout the home, including wall sconces in the smaller top-floor bedroom, which has been painted in Sherwin Williams Inkwell (on the walls) and Tricolor Black (for the trim). The larger upstairs bedroom also has a navy accent wall that the owners painted shortly after buying the home.

The couple did leave some details from the previous owners, like the bright red facade and the neutral, renovated bathroom. Plus there are charming details like the hardwood floors and wainscoting that are original to the 1926 property.

The home is not officially listed on the market yet, but it has a **marketing site** and Dibachi held an open house last weekend that she described as "super busy."

As an added incentive, the owners would "happily sell the home furnished." So if you've ever wanted to live in a home that looks like the inside of a decor magazine, this just might be your chance.