

A simple and serene bedroom and bathroom lend a quiet air to the private spaces of the Thodos home.



"There are nice people here. I like the light here, it's good light, and the scale of the existing house was just fine," he says. "And I'm living in Carmel, for God's sake. Let's face it, there is not a bad place to live in Carmel."

When they first began work on the home, Thodos planned to invest about \$35,000 in the "refreshing." In the end, the refreshing became a whole house remodel and took about five years to complete.

Judy wanted to begin with the kitchen because she wanted the formerly walled-in space it to be incorporated into the flow of the home so she could interact with guests. At 5-foot-tall, she is petite ("short" is the word John uses to describe himself and his wife) and she didn't want to have to reach overhead for anything.

The kitchen counters thus are sized at 34-inches rather than the standard 36 inches. There are no overhead cabinets and everything is placed neatly in drawers. Sub Zero refrigerator

drawers stand in for the traditional upright refrigerator, while the dishwasher also is drawer-style and made by Miele, and the stove and oven are by Dacor.

"I like to cook. We eat 90 percent of our meals at home and John and I like each other's company. When we talked about the philosophy of our house, we didn't want to be walled off from each other. I don't want to be in the kitchen and not be able to interact," Judy says. "And I wanted it to look elegant, not like a traditional kitchen because it would be open to the rest of the home."

Of the five-year timeline for completion, Judy says: "If I wasn't married to John, I would be like everyone else and say, 'When is this going to be done?' and be more interested in the timeline than the results."

"After living with John for as long as I have, I have learned over time that my patience would pay off," Judy says. "When I started to get impa-