



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011

VERANDA

*INVITING
SPACES
Where Comfort
Meets Style*



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PHOTOGRAPHY
BY PIETER ESTERSON



FRESH VISION

A CLOSELY EDITED REDESIGN
ENDOWS A HOUSE IN BEVERLY HILLS
WITH REFINED GLAMOUR.

RENOVATION AND INTERIOR DESIGN BY CHAD EISNER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MELANIE ACEVEDO WRITTEN BY DEGEN PENER





Ornate details stand out amid clean lines in the living room. **OPENING PAGES:** Custom banister and parquet floor. Stair runner, Patterson, Flynn & Martin. Chair, in Jerry Pair Leather, and table, both French antiques. Antique floor lamp and iron urn. Concrete vessel. All flowers by Julep Custom Floral. **THESE PAGES:** Ceiling fixture, Fuse Lighting. Gilt-wood console, pair of bronze consoles, and side table, all antiques. Stools, Gregori Warchavchic for Espasso. Custom rug, Mansour Modern. Curtains in Rogers & Goffigon linen-silk.

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HEN GUESTS ARRIVE AT THIS HOUSE IN BEVERLY HILLS, THEY ARE GREETED IN THE DOUBLE-HEIGHT ENTRY BY A HANDSOMELY CARVED ROSEWOOD AND CYPRESS TABLE, A PAIR OF SLIM-LINED brass floor lamps, and two curvy antique French chairs in soft leather. The mood is sculptural, the look pared down. Each piece has presence—more would be a crowd.

“Los Angeles is about feeling comfortable, and feeling comfortable is not just about furniture to sit on. It’s about a space not being overwhelming,” says designer Chad Eisner. “I think there’s a peacefulness in not having too many things.”

The Venice Beach-based Eisner struck a well-edited balance that speaks of California. The interiors are inviting but not too casual, refined but not stuffy. He wanted “substantial” furnishings, such as the living room’s alabaster and bronze ceiling fixture and the formal dining room’s fourteen-foot table. “The upholstered pieces, many in silk-velvet fabrics, add soothing detail,” Eisner says. “I chose soft pieces for the



Warm and cool tones balance each other in the breakfast room. THIS PAGE: Antique French table. Vintage leather chairs by Jacques Adnet, Sotheby's. Custom light fixture. Curtains in Robert Kime stripe. Art, TR Colletta. OPPOSITE: Custom sofa in Manuel Canovas velvet. Custom chairs in Scalamandré jacquard with Villa Savoia trim. Tufted chair, Scalamandré, in Fortuny cotton. Coffee table, Jamb. Antler candleholders, J.F. Chen. Art, Guy Paul Chauder.

“FEELING COMFORTABLE IS NOT JUST ABOUT FURNITURE TO SIT ON. IT'S ABOUT A SPACE NOT BEING OVERWHELMING.”

The champagne-colored eglomise panels look ethereal above simple mirrored wainscoting. Vintage Italian crystal chandelier. Custom table with burl and walnut top. Vintage Jacques Adnet chairs, found in Paris, in Zoffany fabric. Candlesticks, Christofle. Custom wall panels. Antique Italian cabinet. French Deco tin vase.

Objects appear sculptural in a room of palest neutrals. **THIS PAGE:** Bed, Therien & Co. Linens, Pratesi. Custom sofa in Cowtan & Tout fabric. Antique Jansen chairs and pillows in Fortuny fabrics. Antique table, mirror, and French mantel. Biedermeier chest. Custom ceiling fixture. Curtains in Castel fabric. Custom rug, Michaelian & Kohlberg. Painting, Sylvie Selig. Sculpture, Robert Graham. **OPPOSITE, NEAR RIGHT:** Tub, Waterworks. Antique ceiling fixture and bench. Art, Constantin Kluge. **FAR RIGHT:** Bench, Therien & Co.



living room. They may have a slight curvature to the shape, a little extra padding on the arms, but they still have a clean line.”

For the formal dining room, Eisner commissioned sparkling eglomise wall panels with special meaning for his clients, who have two daughters together and three from prior marriages. The design depicts two trees arching up to intertwine and lists the daughters’ birth dates. “It started with my fascination for reverse-painted glass and the idea of a family putting down roots. It conveys a real warmth,” he says. “But if you don’t know the personal story, it’s still an enchanting backdrop.”

The owners, who had considered selling the house, appreciate such special touches. “We were married here, and so was one of my husband’s daughters,” says the wife. “We didn’t want to give up a place that holds years of cherished family memories. Still, our lives were changing, and we wanted the house to feel more like us.”

With that in mind, Eisner redefined rooms so that extra-large spaces would not feel like a hotel lobby: “I replanned both stories, moving many of the walls. I divided the living room into two seat-

ing arrangements with columns in between, and I separated the kitchen and breakfast room with pocket French doors.” He replaced dark green marble floors with bleached walnut in “just the right honey color” and changed faux marble moldings to crisp millwork. “The house doesn’t feel so heavy now,” says the wife. “It feels younger.”

Eisner and the owners traveled to Europe and purchased a number of French Deco pieces. Their proudest find in Paris was a set of Jacques Adnet dining chairs. In Marseille, the clients fell in love with an antique limestone mantel too wide to fit between the windows flanking their living room fireplace. To accommodate it, Eisner reconfigured the room by extending the length of the wall and replacing the windows with French doors.

He and the wife redesigned the garden, creating outdoor rooms with walls of tall hedges. Mirrors mimic the shape of the French doors and are set into the greenery. “The mirrors are almost ten feet tall,” Eisner says. “They face the living room, and when the doors are open, the mirrors reflect the interior, creating a sense of mystery about where the house stops and the outside starts.” □

A mirror in the garden adds dimension and intrigue to outdoor rooms of sculpted hedges. Antique French statue. Ficus and boxwood greenery. Custom antiqued mirror. Custom reflecting pool in honed black granite. Limestone pavers, Exquisite Surfaces.



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