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**"Pamela's brief was simple: She wanted to be able to roll out of bed and into the pool,"** says David Thompson, principal of the firm Assembledge, who transformed this small, Spanish-style house in the Melrose district.

The homeowners—Pamela Barsky, who designs gift products sold at places like the MoMA store and Fred Segal, and her husband, Steve Haase, that quintessential Los Angeles actor/waiter hybrid—had longed for a mid-century-modern house. "But we could never quite afford one. So, we decided to make our own bold architectural statement," says Barsky of the process that began when they tore out the original pink wallpaper and carpet, "on a budget even tinier than the house." The property was overendowed in one department: a massive detached garage bloated in the '50s with an illegal rental unit. To make room for the pool, Thompson reduced the garage's girth and flattened out the pitched roof. Then he took down the back of the house, turning one bedroom into a

den and adding a hallway, closet, master bath, and—one step down—the new bedroom, by request just big enough to contain the couple's prized Duxiana bed, a chair, and two nightstands. While attached to the house, the room flirts with the yard—its polished-concrete floors continue into the decking and the transparent wall of sliding glass offers an unobstructed view. And because Thompson pulled back the foundation, the chocolate-brown box appears almost to float.

Barsky was inspired to move her office back home and now takes calls poolside, like any self-respecting L.A. player. And there have been unexpected rewards. "Our house used to be so inward-looking," she recalls. "But now it's in constant dialogue with the outdoors. The other night we were in bed, and the moon was framed in the vertical window with light streaming in. And when it rains, it's almost like camping. Then you open up the doors and it's like, Hello, world!" ►



## Water Shed

**Architect:** Assembledge

**Location:** Los Angeles, California

Pamela Barsky and Steve Haase sleep a mere eight feet from the solar-heated pool that beckons them much of the year. "I wanted the pool room to feel offset from the house," says designer David Thompson.