

MALAYSIA MAY-JUNE 2013

metropolitan

THE BEST OF CITY LIVING

HOME

Ideas & Tips
On **WALLCOVERING**

FEATURING

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46 - PAGE GUIDE
ON LIVING LIFE LARGE

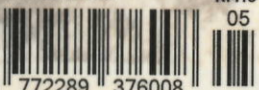
DESIGNER'S EDITION

Get interior inspirations
from David and Victoria Beckham's
interior designer:

KELLY HOPPEN

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IN PLAIN SIGHT

Built with copious amount of glass, this modern house has nothing to hide but everything to allure one's senses.

TEXT VANITHA PAVAPATHI IMAGES COURTESY OF MICHAEL WESCHLER PHOTOGRAPHY

It is rare to discover a confined, flat plane on a hillside slope; even rarer to find a levelled L-shaped open plan residence erected on the hills embracing city skylines. Such were the building blocks of this Hollywood home extending the precedent mid-century modernism established by the architectural style of Schindler, Neutra and Maston in the area.

Designed by award-winning architect David Thompson for actor Brad Blumenthal who appeared in the movies *Pulp Fiction*, *Chaplin* and *Honeymoon in Vegas*; the Sunset Plaza residence is located above the Sunset Strip in the famous Hollywood Hills. Its L-shaped plan gives way to practical spatial layout with heavy usage of movable transparent glass walls throughout the house that encourage ventilation and ample natural light to illuminate the house whilst creating a sense of shielding

for the pool area. Even so, privacy is not disregarded by using translucent glass walls for the façade. The geometric structure may look simple but the uncommon architect presents 180-degree panoramic views of downtown L.A. Angeles that would take one's breath away.

Sited in a forested environment, this cutting-edge modern house strives to capture the lush foliage as much as possible. So, to break up the austerity that traditional homes often get classified as, the founder of the architectural firm, Assembledge+ who has over 20 years of experience injected visual warmth by incorporating Mangaris wood inside and out. The exterior walls and decks as well as the ceilings and bathtubs are smartly vested in the sustainable harvested Brazilian wood that is durable against harsh weather conditions.







THE INTERIOR MAINTAINS A CONTEMPORARY DÉCOR WITH INTERESTING ARTWORKS HUNG ON THE WALLS TO ADD CHARACTER.

The upper level of this expansive dwelling accommodates spaces that are more private to the residents like bedrooms and bathrooms. The bedrooms are organised in simple, clutter-free fashion to keep in line with its modern design and to not obstruct the stunning view from a high vantage point. The master bath is clad in limestone flooring and walls, glass enclosed double showers and a bathtub furnished with sustainable wood overlooking the verdant trees.

Meanwhile, the ground floor is quintessentially a social level that houses several common spaces like living, dining, kitchen and entertainment areas. Upon entry, stairs lead to the upper floor. Typically, the space beneath the stairs is not cleverly used. Thus, David drew inspiration from the Japanese tansu cabinet and turned this empty pocket of space into organised cabinetry to provide additional storage that looks as if it is part of the wall.

*THE USE OF QUIRKY
FURNITURE BY CLASSIC
DANISH DESIGNERS
ADDS PIZZAZZ TO THIS
CONTEMPORARY HOUSE.*





WITH TWO SHOWER HEADS AFFIXED, THE OWNER IS CERTAINLY NOT SHY TO ENJOY SOME SEXY TIME WITH HIS SIGNIFICANT OTHER IN A PRIVATE ENCLOSURE.



American Walnut cabinetry and Ceasarstone countertops adorn the kitchen while terrazzo interior flooring continues outside before turning into a pool of water. With an infinity pool smacked in the middle of the property, its mirage-like appearance simply lures its residents to an oasis of relaxation. A jaunt down the beach is not necessary as the residents can do so in the comfort of their private resort-like sanctuary. The convenience of merely sliding aside the floor-to-ceiling glass walls instantly opens up the interior to the outdoors; blurring the lines between two spaces, hence uniting them as one. The open floor plan ingeniously made the house appear larger than life.

Having won the 2010 Golden Nugget Award and 2009 Builder's Choice Award for this residence, David successfully turned a simple design into an elegant, unpretentious house that captured his client's vision of a spectacular and liveable home on point. ❖

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