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# ON THE AVENUE

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IT STARTED WITH A CONVERSATION. Brainstorming about ways to promote West Hollywood's Avenues of Art & Design district—an expansive stretch of shops, showrooms and galleries frequented by interior designers, art collectors and Southern California style mavens—luxury real estate developer Billy Rose tossed ideas back and forth with Sheri Hirschfeld, visual display manager for Ann Sacks, who, at the time, was a member of the Avenues board. At the bottom of both their lists: a showhouse.

INTERIOR DESIGN Billy Rose, Billy Rose Design & Development		
ARCHITECTURE David Thompson, Assembledge+		
HOME BUILDER Eric Dobkin, Dobkin Construction, Inc.		
LANDSCAPE DESIGN Sean Femrite, Environmental Design Studio		
BEDROOMS 6	BATHROOMS 9	SQUARE FEET 11,781





#### EBB AND FLOW

The Fibreglas wavy wall in the entry gallery, a conceptual collaboration between project designer Billy Rose and architect David Thompson, is the home's focal point. Fabricated by JMK Sculpture in Burbank, it serves as a backdrop for the main stairway, which comprises thick slabs of white oak timber and patinated and distressed bronze pickets from Sun Valley Bronze. Metalwork throughout the home is by Decou-Tarkela in Los Angeles and E Fabrication in Santa Monica.

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"I had been involved with showcase homes in the past," says Rose, a modern-day Renaissance man who's also enjoyed successful stints as a disc jockey, club promoter, entertainment lawyer and talent agent, "but I feel that they often aren't geared to the right audience. I think it sometimes becomes more about going to the opening night party than about appreciating and acknowledging the actual design and architecture that went into the project." Still, the thought lingered, and Rose ultimately came to believe that a showhouse that took shape through the products and services available on the Avenues, with a single design team rather than a large group of individual designers charting its course, would be the most synergistic way to champion the district. He had the perfect place in mind: a concrete-and-brick house in Stoneridge Estates, a small, architecturally diverse and guard-gated community along Mulholland Drive.



#### SPECIAL SECTION

The Molteni & C Turner modular sofa, dark brown leather Hi-Cove chair, chrome-and-smoke-glass Quake table and leather Buddy occasional table in the living room were found at In-Ex in Beverly Hills. The raw-silk-and-cotton accent pillows are from the Pat McGann Gallery in LA; the custom Ikat rug is from Amadi Carpets in West Hollywood. An untitled triptych by artist Matthew Heller, found at D2 Art in Culver City, hangs above the sectional. The home's millwork is by Pacific Woodworks in Moorpark.





**WORK BREAK**  
A couch from the Matteograssi collection at In-Ex promotes midday snoozes in the master suite sitting/office area. *Isn't It All About Me*, an acrylic-on-canvas by Sara Abbott, hangs above. The white oak flooring seen here and in much of the house is by Carlisle Wide Plank Floors in Stoddard, New Hampshire, installed by Century Custom Hardwood Floor in North Hollywood. Cabinetry and wall panels throughout are by Golden Touch Construction in San Fernando.





#### STYLE SELECTION

David Weeks' sculptural fixture, available through Ralph Pucci International, was inspired by the forms of Eduardo Torroja's Zarzuela Hippodrome. Torroja Cross No. 425, price available upon request; davidweeksstudio.com

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Joined by LA builder Eric Dobkin, owner of Dobkin Construction, the trio set forth to reinterpret the house as Rose imagined. "We gutted the existing structure; removed all of the electrical, plumbing and mechanicals; and added a redesigned second floor," says Dobkin. Utilizing the home's original construction materials, the team in turn incorporated wide expanses of glass to offset the weightiness of the brick and fill the rooms with light. That move proved particularly germane with regard to the reconcepted footprint of the second floor. "On the north side of the house, we used brick as the façade for that level, and plaster and glass below," says Thompson. "Toward the rear of the addition, which overlooks the back yard, we flipped that to counterbalance the heaviness of the concrete trellis."

Inside, a canvas of pure white walls and light oak flooring was filled with primarily clean-lined furnishing and accessories. "I wanted to embrace the essence of modernism—the open, airy spaces, the merging of rooms, the big glass walls and lots of light—but, at the same time, I wanted to give the house a more down-home, family-friendly personality that I felt could be accomplished through using more imperfect finishes, things with knots and distinctive grains and color variation," says Rose. "So, for example, the Carlisle wide-plank floors have a hand-scraped edge, and the hand-carved Robert Kuo marble tile in the master bath also has a sort of handmade quality that encourages a tactile experience."



#### WOOD CUT

A solid, spalted-wood dining table with metal bases from DAO in LA anchors the dining room; the petrified wood and tree trunk stools that surround it were also found there. Rust-colored cowhide chairs from LA's Eccola complete the eclectic seating arrangement. The white lacquer stool and bench and black lacquer console are from Robert Kuo in West Hollywood. The David Weeks chandelier was found at Ralph Pucci International, also in West Hollywood; the Ron Dier sconces are from William Switzer & Associates in LA. The faucet in the bar, seen in the background, is from Carter Hardware; they also supplied the home's door hardware. *Semi-Automatic*, a mixed media piece by Ellwood Risk, is above the console; a wood-and-slate work by Minoru Ohira, entitled *My Town*, hangs in the bar area.





#### SQUARE DANCE

In the open kitchen that faces the family room, stainless steel Miele appliances meet dark-hued cabinets, countertops and a stainless steel hood, all from Poliform in West Hollywood, installed by Kent Sachs Installation in Saugus. A Kallista faucet found at Carter Hardware in Beverly Hills gracefully rises from the sink; the hive-like chandelier is from Twentieth in LA. In the family room, furniture from Poliform rests upon a rug from Amadi Carpets.



#### FIRE IN THE HOLE

A sculptural white Chaos chair—designed by Konstantin Grcic for Classicon and found at In-Ex—sits before the EcoSmart fireplace in the living room. *Grey Beach*, an oil-on-polyester piece by Venice-based artist MB Boissonnault, is seen beyond. Many of the works in the home were found through curator Pattee Staybrook, of Beach Girl Design in Manhattan Beach. The home's Vantage automation system was installed by New Horizons Lighting and Controls in Torrance.

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The massive house was constructed in the early 1980s by a noted commercial developer for use as his personal residence, and “was built like Fort Knox,” says Rose, with CMU masonry block, a heavy brick exterior and a large, poured-in-place concrete portico at its rear. “It all gave me a sense of time and permanence,” he says of the home’s size and materials. Yet, as determined as Rose was to honor its scale and weathered brick façade, “I knew the house had to be reconfigured into something more accessible for today.” He turned to architect David Thompson, principal and founder of Assembled+ in LA, to realize the vision. The two, who had collaborated in the past, enjoy an almost symbiotic working relationship. “He’s very good at channeling my thoughts and ideas,” says Rose.





#### **WATER CURE**

The tranquil pool, installed by Atlas Pools in LA and clad in glass tile from Ann Sacks, also in LA, is ringed by several entertaining areas, including a dramatic concrete-and-corten-steel waterfall feature inspired by the work of Ricardo Legorreta and Luis Barragán and designed by Rose and Thompson. The Axial teak chairs and cocktail table; Thomas Pheasant mesh resin outdoor lounge chairs, settees and glass side tables; throw pillows and cushions; teak-and-canvas umbrellas; and James Garcia outdoor Chi Chi dining tables on the home's various patios are all from McGuire. Additional fabric found at Janus et Cie in the Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood. Landscape lighting is by SPJ Lighting in South El Monte. Project masonry is by Tomlinson Masonry Company in LA.





**PERMANENT VACATION**

In a guest bedroom, the sleek Kenzo Maison City bed and chair, Vivienne consoles and sofa, and black wool rug—all found at Luxury Living in West Hollywood—encourage an extended stay. A photomosaic resin block work by Jennifer Hellman, entitled *Sand Painting*, is above the sofa. *Rapture 4*, an acrylic-on-acrylic by Christopher Martin of the Martin & Lozano Gallery in West Hollywood, is seen above a small table in the corner. Fleetwood windows throughout the home by Malibu Glass & Mirror in Malibu.



**CLEARLY VISIBLE**

A custom tub, countertops and a floor of Ann Sacks share space with Poliform cab and a Laura Kirar for Kallista bath filler handles in the master bathroom. The custom screen was fabricated by Paul Jacobs Decou-Tarkela. The shower enclosure installed by Malibu Glass & Mirror.

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The organically serene tableau Rose composed was carried out to the grounds, where LA-based landscape designer Sean Femrite, principal of Environmental Design Studio, continued the theme. “Everything we did stemmed from the beautiful concrete forms and rectilinear planes of the architecture,” says Femrite. “The idea was to create a calm garden comprising large broad strokes, so there’s a lot of repetition and unifying material from front to back. It’s an extremely relaxed and soothing environment.”

Indeed, walking through the structure and around the outdoor spaces “evokes feelings of optimism, clarity and comfort,” says Rose. “What I wanted to do with this house was create a cohesive, seamless space that highlights the best of what the Avenues of Art & Design has to offer.” Thinking back to its evolution, “I look at it as a gorgeous piece of art, one made up of numerous smaller pieces that form one spectacular work.” **L**