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MID CENTURY MARVELS

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THE SWANKY MID CENTURY BAR IS ORIGINAL TO THE HOME (CAN'T YOU JUST HEAR THE MARTINIS BEING SHAKEN?). THE CURVY SOFFIT IS ALSO ORIGINAL, AS ARE THE DECORATIVE METAL SCREENS, WHICH WERE RESTORED DURING THE UPDATE. WHITE TERRAZZO WAS ADDED, AND THE EXISTING BLACK TERRAZZO WAS KEPT AS AN ACCENT.

WITH STUNNING VIEWS INSIDE AND OUT, THIS LIGHT-FILLED MID CENTURY GEM EMBODIES CALIFORNIA MODERNISM.

By KATHRYN DRURY WAGNER
Photography by MICHAEL WESCHLER

Decorative metal screens define the space within an open floor plan.

"THE ORIGINAL WINDOW SYSTEMS HAD REACHED THE END OF THEIR LIFE IN TERMS OF FUNCTION AND FROM AN ENERGY-EFFICIENCY PERSPECTIVE," SAYS DESIGNER DAVID THOMPSON. THROUGHOUT THE HOME, ALL FRAMED WINDOWS AND SLIDING DOORS WERE REPLACED WITH DOUBLE-PANED VERSIONS.

Located in Trousdale Estates,

a famous Mid Century Modern enclave in Beverly Hills, this chic home was in need of an era-appropriate refresh. The restoration and renovation took place in 2007, but it's so timeless and inspirational that we simply had to share it with you.

The first home in Trousdale Estates was constructed in 1954, and over the next few decades the neighborhood was built as the dream of real estate visionary Paul Trousdale. It originally had 532 lots, with sprawling, single-story homes and strict view-protection codes. The residences were designed by some of the era's top architects, including A. Quincy Jones, Lloyd Wright, Cliff May and Paul R. Williams.

The neighborhood's architectural diversity and stunning views attracted homeowners like Elvis Presley and Groucho Marx. And as time has gone on, the sweeping, unobstructed views of Los Angeles and the very private, terraced lots have continued to attract celebrity homeowners throughout the years such as Cindy Crawford and her husband, Randy Gerber, and actors including Jennifer Aniston and David Spade.

"A GLASS FRONT DOOR WAS ADDED DURING THE REMODEL FOR A SENSE OF OPENNESS AND LITERAL TRANSPARENCY," SAYS DAVID.





(LEFT) BEHIND THE ORANGE SOFA, THE SIX EXISTING COLUMNS WERE RECLAD IN ALUMINUM TO MATCH THE WINDOW SYSTEM, THIN THE PROFILE OF THE COLUMNS AND CONNECT SHARED SPACES. "THE GOAL WAS TO INTEGRATE THE WINDOW SYSTEM AND PROVIDE A COHESIVE LOOK THAT UNITED THE FAMILY ROOM AND LIVING ROOM AREAS," SAYS DAVID.

(BELOW) ALL-NEW VIKING APPLIANCES SHINE AGAINST WALNUT CABINETS. "WE OPENED [THE KITCHEN] UP, SO [IT WAS] PART OF THE LIVING SPACE," SAYS DAVID. "WE ADDED AN ISLAND. IT'S ALMOST THREE ISLANDS, ACTUALLY." ONE PART IS IN THE MIDDLE, ONE IS IN THE LIVING ROOM AND ONE IS IN THE FAMILY ROOM.

RE-ENVISIONING

The home's refresh was helmed by David Thompson, the founder and principal designer of LA-based architecture and development firm Assembled+. David grew up in Los Angeles and is the son of an architect, so the city's design aesthetic and rich history is something he's been steeped in his whole life. With this project, he says, "The idea was to keep the home's beauty, authenticity and Mid Century Modern sensibilities intact, but to carry that through into 21st-century living." He had plenty of good material to work with, though. "The home was tired and needed a refresh, but it was in pretty good shape overall," he says.

A new wing seamlessly blended with the original roofline, pulling the roof around and adding guest

bedrooms and a double garage while preserving the home's aesthetic. Inside, decorative metal screens that divided the living room and family room were restored to their original glory. "They help define the space within an open floor plan," says David.

DEEP ROOTS

To enhance the home's mid century Southern California indoor/outdoor feeling, terrazzo floors flow throughout, connecting all the spaces. The white portions are new, while the existing black terrazzo was maintained to use as an accent. Enormous windows open to the grassy backyard and pool, and glass doors keep the emphasis on the space, not the material.

"The idea was to keep the home's beauty, authenticity and Mid Century Modern sensibilities intact, but to carry that through into 21st-century living."





AN AUTO COURT AND FOUNTAIN WELCOME VISITORS TO THE CHIC HOME. THE ORIGINAL ROOF EXTENDS STRAIGHT BACK; THE ADDITION IS THE WING ON THE RIGHT, SEAMLESSLY BLENDING IN WITH BOTH THE HOME AND HILLSIDE ENVIRONMENT. THE STONE PILLAR IS ORIGINAL TO THE HOME—AND SURPRISE!—THERE'S A LITTLE CLOSET INSIDE THE PILLAR.



Overall, the project took about a year in construction. "It was really fun to be part of this mid century renovation," says David. A large challenge was that "the big roof was a lot to deal with," he says. However, the project also felt natural for David and his team. "We were working with sensibilities that are deep within the work we do. Our work is rooted in Southern California modernism, indoor/outdoor living, lots of glass, and those things are inherent in this project. So we just extended those principles."

The results? A clear view of the area's architectural past, with a vision ahead to the future. ☼

The neighborhood's architectural diversity and stunning views attracted homeowners like Elvis Presley and Groucho Marx.

(OPPOSITE, BOTTOM) THE POOL WAS NEW AS PART OF THE REMODELING PROJECT; IT WAS LOCATED FAR ENOUGH AWAY FROM THE HOUSE TO ALLOW FOR A LAWN. THE BACKYARD LANDSCAPING WAS UPDATED AS WELL, DONE BY SEAN FEMRITE, PRINCIPAL DESIGNER OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN STUDIO (EDS), AND DAVID WORKED WITH EDS ON THE SEATING PLAN.

