

# SPEAKING VOLUMES

ONE-OF-A-KIND  
FURNISHINGS FILL A  
PACIFIC PALISADES  
HOME THAT STRIKES  
AN ELEGANT  
BALANCE OF BOTH  
TRADITIONAL AND  
MODERN ELEMENTS.

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INTERIOR DESIGN / ANNETTE ENGLISH, ANNETTE ENGLISH AND ASSOCIATES  
ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE / WILLIAM HOPNER, STUDIO WILLIAM HOPNER  
HOME BUILDER / RON UDALL AND TYLER UDALL, TYLER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

There's no shortage of widely—and wildly—divergent architectural styles on Los Angeles' Westside. But look closely in a quiet Pacific Palisades neighborhood, and you'll see a new house that nimbly straddles traditional and modern. Set amid midcentury ranches, Mediterranean manses and New England-inspired farmhouses, the structure boasts standing-seam-metal pitched roofs, split-face limestone on the ground floor and wood siding above, and generously proportioned steel- and wood-framed windows. That such disparate elements come together so harmoniously is testament to the talents of architect William Hefner and designer Annette English, who succeeded in fulfilling the vision of their contemporary art collector clients.

When they were discussing the form their new home would take, the couple was split right down the middle. "We liked the clean lines of modern and the warmth of traditional," says the husband. Adds the wife, "People assumed one of us liked modern, and the other liked traditional, but we both liked both. We just didn't know how to bring them together. We were impressed with William's work after seeing the first home he showed us and we knew he was the architect for what we wanted to create."

Hefner, whose work comfortably spans styles and periods, welcomed the project. "The owners wanted familiar materials and details done in a traditional way on the exterior, but inside they wanted something simple and clean," he says. "We worked hard to make those things coexist." English, who also consulted on the architecture, agrees, adding, "From an architectural standpoint, they wanted all the elements to be very precise, very methodical, yet fun and relaxed."

Also high on the clients' list of requirements was an abundance of natural light. Hefner's solution was to break up the building—about 7,700 square feet in all—into smaller elements, so that each room has multiple exposures to the grounds that he also designed. A pivotal feature in his concept is a central courtyard, which brings

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in light and ventilation and can be accessed from the living, dining and family rooms.

Maximizing the house's glazing required builders Ron Udall and Tyler Udall to do some creative problem-solving. "Manufacturing for wood windows is different than for steel," Tyler Udall explains. "Making sure the glazing matched and that it also met all the requirements was definitely a challenge." The entry stair posed another hurdle. "The placement was tricky, because it's pressed right up against the window beside the front door," he adds. "It was a matter of inches."

The modern elements hinted at on the exterior find full voice in the gallery-like entrance hall. But instead of artwork, the space offers a freestanding stair and a gray-painted glass wall inspired by artist Gerhard Richter. "We said, 'Let's make this glass wall the art,'" explains English. "The staircase and the wall are that 'wow' moment when you walk in."

Another striking moment comes in the luminous living room, where a fireplace of split-face limestone and two walls of steel-framed windows bring the exterior's material palette indoors. "At first I wondered, 'Is this space not as interesting because it's all white?'" English recalls. "Yet it's the most spectacular room in the house." A cocktail table by Israeli industrial designer Ron Arad, from the couple's collection, sits like a piece of sculpture before a simple white sofa, while two green ceramic lamps add vintage whimsy. "They're oversized and a little outrageous," says English. "If there's a cohesiveness from one room to the next, it's that every room can withstand a bold, interesting, fun piece of lighting."

The Australian-born designer's love of one-of-a-kind and unusual light fixtures is part of her overall design philosophy, one she encouraged her clients to embrace. Recalls the wife, "Every time we went to her office, Annette pushed us to try things we'd never have thought of." Such choices include Ray Power's curvy suspension lamp made of wood veneer Möbius strips in the breakfast area, a live-edge acacia dining table and a floor-to-ceiling upholstered headboard in a guest bedroom.

Hefner, likewise, urged the couple to consider alternatives, such as the organic, split-face limestone rather than the polished stone they had originally selected. "We tried to make choices that were timeless and classic," he notes. "It was important to use materials that were enduring and that the owners could live with and not get tired of."

Just as interior detailing was kept to a minimum—primarily clean-lined rift-cut oak paneling and cabinetry and floors of oak or limestone—the palette is equally restrained, the perfect foil for the couple's postwar art collection. "The clients wanted a serene, subtle sanctuary, not a lot of bold colors," says English. "There's a less-is-more experience here. When you walk through, you've got this volume that encapsulates you and allows the light to flood in."

The couple is grateful to have a house that expresses who they are, and as Hefner puts it, "has their fingerprints on it." Says the husband, "Our personality really comes through. It's just a great house to live in." ■

The living room of a newly built house by architect William Hefner and designer Annette English emphasizes a sense of openness and volume. Michael Berman Limited's Lancaster chairs join a coffee table by Ron Arad. The custom ironies Jaeger chandelier is from Knoodler Fauchère.





**Above:** A freestanding oak stair introduces a dramatic element in the foyer, which the clients wanted to feel like a gallery. The Vladimir Kagan Sculpted table is from Haulo Living in Chicago. Wearing a Nobilis fabric, a Magni Home Collection Paris bench from Thomas Lovin adds color.

**Left:** Illuminated by a ceiling light from Ralph Pucci, the comfortable yet functional office contains a custom Vocol sectional and an Eames lounge chair from Jules Seltzer Associates. A custom hide rug from Decorative Carpets grounds the space.



The clients entertain frequently, and the family room is a comfortable spot to play games or watch TV. The Solito wood-and-brass coffee table, a custom split designed by English, and the sectional sofa, covered in Cowtan & Tout fabric, are from Misaki. Guisasa & Co.'s Fabric chandelier is from Thomas Lavin. Draperies in a Bergamo textile frame the windows.

Clean-lined paneling gives the dining room a classic, contemporary feel. English customized the live-edge acacia table from DAO (Design Around Objects) and covered the Noji dining chairs from Michael Berman Limited with Cowtan & Tout's Dunelm, a solid fabric, and Pollock's Go Go, a pattern. Russ Lighting's London chandelier is from Thomas Loeb.



Photos pendants from Niche Modern shine down on the kitchen's generous island, a favorite gathering place, where Mark Albrecht Studio stools from Jasper are grouped. LZF Lamps' Link light from YLighting hangs above the breakfast area. The range is Viking.



STYLING: PHOTO: LINDSEY PIPPIN

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In designing the gardens as well as the architecture, Holzer's aim was to make a new house feel as if it had been there for years. He planted 35-year-old olive trees in the front garden, complimented by gravel paths, low hedges and bright clusters of hydrangea. Clark and White Landscape installed the gardens.



PHOTO: MORGAN PHOTON

The covered porch off the family room is one of the house's most used spaces and the site of dinners and parties year-round. Varzechi's Tibidabo chairs surround a teak Parsons dining table from Restoration Hardware. Above is Marsol's Soho outdoor pendant from YLighting.



MARCO POLO BY SACCO BIANCHI PIRELLA



**Above:** English and Helter envisioned the master bathroom as a serene retreat. The freestanding sculptural Americh tub and a water-jet-cut limestone floor create a tranquil experience for the clients. A Jonathan lounge by City poles with a 1950s Dora Loucheon light from Collage 20th Century Classics in Dallas.

**Left:** A paneled and lowered wall controls light and ventilation in the master bedroom, which opens to a porch overlooking the rear garden. Fusa Lighting's Manhattan pendants flank the Holly Hunt Studio bed. Hitchcock swivel chairs by Edward Ferrell + Lewis Mittman make for a cozy conversation spot. Lasso drapery sheers are from Cowtan & Tout.