Home for the Holidays
BEl-ALl RAlwHeAD ORANGe LAlKe TAHOOE

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The grand staircase lends a classic note to the entry where a custom banquette and a Robert Kuo hat box are nestled below a Tord Boontje "leaf and branch" LED fixture. "Art and lighting played a large role," says interior designer Joan Behnke.

OPPOSITE In the dining room a Jacob Hashimoto piece is flanked by Minotti sconces that all "drip" with iridescent, which play off of the Larsen silk upholstery wallcovering. A white lacquer Eric Brand custom dining table from Thomas Lavin is surrounded by Great Plains fabric covered Helene Aumont dining chairs.

Contemporary goes Hollywood

Architect Richard Landry And Interior Designer Joan Behnke Produce A Seamless Work Of Art In Bel-Air

TEXT BY VANESSA KODEVINAS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERHARD PFIEFFER AND KARYN R. MILLET
Contemporary and warm are not often used together to describe a residence; yet in the case of a Bel-Air project, both were achieved thanks to a well-balanced and finely tuned collaboration. Fred and Nadine Rosner called on architect Richard Landry and interior designer Jean Schuller to convert a dark, low-ceilinged, chaotic floorplan into a bright and airy house that would showcase a stunning art collection and simultaneously provide a cozy, welcoming and comfortable gathering space for themselves and their guests.

"I look at things as opportunities," says Landry, whose award-winning Los Angeles-based architecture firm, Landry Design Group, has tackled over three hundred projects worldwide since 1987. "so we opened up the spaces as much as possible using windows whenever we could to let in the bright California sunshine." The entry, which serves as an axis to key rooms on the ground floor, boasts floor-to-ceiling windows lending a transparency to the space that allows light to flood in. A brightly colored floating geometric David Salle painting provides a dramatic accent to the clean, stark walls. Grey linen-tile squares in the flooring appear as "stepping stones" that lead past the gracious grand staircase through to the living room where an entire wall of pocket doors give way to the loggia, complete with an outdoor...
fireplace. “When you walk in the front door, you can see all the way down through the living room to the outside,” says Nadine, a writer, producer and former newscaster, who with her husband Fred, an attorney and creator of Ticketmaster, collected much of the art displayed throughout the residence. “The candles are lit, the lighting is soft, the orchids are fresh and I look down the hall and I think, ‘I cannot believe I live in this house.’”

It was Jean Behnke of Jean Behnke Associates—a Los Angeles based design firm that has tackled projects all over the world for the last two decades—who was able to gracefully nurture and guide all of the clients’ passions, art, sculpture, light, entertaining and comfort, to produce warm, cohesive and coherent interiors for the modern spaces.

“We wanted a Hollywood glamour experience, using a neutral palette full of texture,” says Behnke. In the living room she created two sitting areas—a Holly Hunt Christian Liaigre coffee table flanked by three Charles Jacobson sofas and directly across from it, four dark wood framed custom club chairs surrounding a Holly Hunt Studio H1 table—all anchored by a modern fireplace. The entire room is illuminated by a stunning Saito custom Japanese Washi paper and bamboo lantern ceiling fixture embedded in a recessed cavity, designed specifically for the piece.

“The Rosenes were very open to unique and surprising lighting elements,” says Behnke, who installed a Minotti crystal pendant chandelier over a custom Thomas Lavin white lacquer dining table. The table’s Lazy Susan brings an element of familiarity into an elegant silk-velvet-covered space whose white limestone bordered flooring gives the effect of a white squared carpet. An orhred Jacob Hashimoto suspended over a console adds movement and a hint of whimsy to the room.

—OPPOSITE The living room’s far wall “disappears” to reveal a leggia, which serves as an extension of the entire space. Behnke, created two sitting areas in the living room all unified by a Japanese Washi paper and bamboo Saito lighting fixture suspended in a recessed cavity. A Donald Sultan artwork sits above the fireplace, which is flanked by two Pierre Quartz custom armchairs. TOP Custom “Marrone Orange” satin chairs accented with bright yellow pillows are arranged around a Bernini Roselli coffee table in the media room. ABOVE Architect Richard Landry created a dramatic two story glass paneled entry carefully complemented by lush landscaping. “The house is transparent here,” he says. Halogen glass frames unify and soften the abundance of glass and stone.
"The clients wanted an open, European contemporary style kitchen," says Behles. "Connecting the outdoors was as important as in the living room. A family room, which opens onto the same loggia as the living room, serves as an extension of the kitchen area designed so that the clients can cook while their guests relax near them. A window-walled alcove with a rich red fabric leather-covered semi-circular banquette dressed with a Starkios table and chairs offers a bright, modern and cozy element to the entire kitchen space.

For the master bedroom a cool, silvery blue and neutral palette embraces the contemporary architecture. Custom furniture with clean lines and light woods provides a softening tone. The master bath is clearly individualistic—his a take on a gentleman's club look with paneled walls and bars, a clean, pale-toned soothing aesthetic with a Japanese soaking tub that is potted like a tree house overlooking the landscape. A sitting area with two Charles Jacobson chairs set in front of a custom fireplace completes the master suite.

The master bedroom’s silvery blues are echoed in the greenhouse, which doubles as Nadiné’s office. "For the interiors of both structures we used a smooth finished hand-trowelled stucco with a subtle color coat in it," says Landry, "which goes a very soft, smooth, uniform contemporary texture." Mahogany-framed windows soften the abundance of stucco inside and out. The Rosen’s residence embodies both a contemporary and warm aesthetic: the perfect marriage of a stunning modern structure—created in part to function as an art gallery—with warm and understated Hollywood glamour interiors."

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—Nadiné Rosen