



CALIFORNIA



CLASSICISM

MODERN REINTERPRETATION

INTERIOR DESIGN BY RICHARD HALLBERG & BARBARA WISELEY ARCHITECTURE BY WILLIAM HABLINSKI LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE BY NORD ERIKSSON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY VICTORIA PEARSON PRODUCED BY MIGUEL FLORES-VIANNA TEXT BY ALEXANDRIA ABRAMIAN-MOTT

DENNIS & LEEN ITALIAN SETTEE DL-CH45
DENNIS & LEEN 2ND CENTURY CAPITAL TABLE DL-OC23



DENNIS & LEEN VERSAILLES LANTERN DL-LN13
DENNIS & LEEN TREVI URN DL-PL01
FORMATIONS MODERN PEDESTAL F-PD04
DENNIS & LEEN LOUIS XV TABOURET DL-OT12

DENNIS & LEEN LOUIS XVI SIDE CHAIR DL-CH36

WHEN AN EAST COAST COUPLE DECIDED TO BUILD A HOME IN BEVERLY HILLS, THEY WANTED TO ENJOY THE BEST OF TWO WORLDS—ELEGANT DESIGN INSPIRED BY THE TRADITIONS OF SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY FRANCE AND A STRONG SENSE OF MODERNITY,

represented by everything from an eclectic art collection to the requisite conveniences of a comfortable life in America. To achieve this meld of classic and contemporary, the wife, after years of research defining the house the couple wanted to build, turned to outstanding talent well known in Los Angeles: the architectural firm of Hablinksi + Manion and interior designers Richard Hallberg and Barbara Wiseley. They, along with the landscape architect Nord Eriksson, devoted four years to creating the 22,000-square-foot house on seven acres, an enduring expression of poetic beauty and gracious living.

"This house is a reinterpretation of a classic Paris-region country house in modern-lifestyle terms," explains lead architect William Hablinksi. "You really don't want a seventeenth-century house—they didn't have bathrooms and closets back then. The floor plan of this house reflects the needs of contemporary life without any loss of the charm and character of the old world. The details, especially on the exterior of the house—such as the tall, slim chimneys and the rusticated stonework in the outdoor loggia—harken back to the period they represent. Inside the house, the colors, textures, furnishings and art objects are not only compatible with that period but are reflections of the personal taste and interests of the homeowners. The house itself becomes a stage set, or backdrop, for their furniture and art."

From the outside, the three-story house looks imposing. Inside, the scale becomes human, beginning with an

elegant entry hall that looks up and down an interior gallery spanning the width of the house. Hallberg and Wiseley, two of the owners and creative forces behind Dennis & Leen and Formations, are adept at working on a grand scale but also known for their attention to detail. Working with the architectural firm, the designers dealt with everything from imported antique paneling to mantelpieces. "We wanted the house to feel authentic, but we were not trying to duplicate history," Hallberg says. "You can imply things by simple brushstrokes. These are opulent interiors, but we exert restraint in creating something. We also used unusual combinations such as silk velvet with sisal rugs. It's a fresher, cleaner thought process."

The designers mixed furniture, art and fabrics from around the world. Italian and French furniture keeps company with Asian art and contemporary sculpture. Egyptian artifacts and Paris flea-market finds are juxtaposed with a tenth-century Japanese screen and Provençal antiques.

"We didn't follow the rules," says Hallberg, who counted on juxtapositions of past and present, everyday and exquisite, to provide a layered, personal look. "We love putting a tiger velvet pillow made by nuns in France on a linen sofa. You wouldn't think they'd go together, but they are so happy to see each other."

Actually, Wiseley says, they do have one rule: "Whether it's a contemporary house or a traditional house, we always come back to classic proportions, scale and style." □



OPENING PAGES: Great lawn looks onto back of three-story Beverly Hills home and pool. In oval stair hall, Italian settee manufactured by Dennis & Leen in Jim Thompson silk. Pillow wears 17th-c. tapestry. Roman 2nd-c. capital as table. Abstract oil, c.1930s. PRECEDING PAGES: In entry hall, Louis XV-inspired chair and lantern, both from Dennis & Leen, with 16th-c. French stone torso. In two-story foyer, Old World Weavers silk damask on table. Sculpture by Joyce Arad. Antique ebonized calamander wood chest with ivory inlay. ABOVE: In foyer, 18th-c. botanical etching overlooks Louis XVI-style side chair from Dennis & Leen. OPPOSITE: Library has 18th-c. fauteuil with caning. Chinese 18th-c. table with Dennis & Leen chandelier and wing chair in antique leather. Marble 19th-c. urns flank Dennis & Leen fireplace.



DENNIS & LEEN QUELEZE CHANDELIER DL-CD07
DENNIS & LEEN REGENCE FIREPLACE DL-FP05
DENNIS & LEEN GUINEVERE CHAIR WITH BOLSTER DL-CH48
DENNIS & LEEN PORTUGUESE ARMCHAIR DL-CH02

DENNIS & LEEN BOTANICAL PRINTS WITH GILT FRAMES DL-ART 31-42
DENNIS & LEEN LOUIS XVI SIDE CHAIR DL-CH36



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: In dining room, rock crystal chandelier hangs above walnut dining table and leather chairs, all from Dennis & Leen. Modern painting by Vincent Fabergé. Walls finished with custom-patinated boiserie. Spanish 18th-c. leather table with an Egyptian mask and Dennis & Leen tole lamp. In family room, chair, coffee table, lamp, Italian sconces and quatrefoil mirror all made by Formations. Dutch still-life paintings, 17th c. OPPOSITE: In breakfast room, chairs in leather and iron chandelier all from Formations. An 18th-c. Italian chest. Inlaid marble table on stone urn with 18th-c. tureen and plates from the South of France.



Top Left:
DENNIS & LEEN QUELEZE CHANDELIER DL-CD07
DENNIS & LEEN CHATEAU WALL SCONCE DL-SC01
DENNIS & LEEN ROMAN HEAD WITH IRON BASE DL-AC64
DENNIS & LEEN KENT SIDE CHAIR DL-CH59

Top Right:
DENNIS & LEEN TOLE LAMP DL-LP06
Lower Left:
FORMATIONS QUATREFOIL MIRROR F-MR17
FORMATIONS ITALIAN WALL SCONCE F-SC02
FORMATIONS MARSEILLES TABLE LAMP F-LP15
FORMATIONS CORTINA END TABLE F-OC07
FORMATIONS TAVOLINO WOOD & IRON COFFEE TABLE F-TB04
FORMATIONS ITALIAN RATCHET CHAIR F-CH16

FORMATIONS LARGE FONTAINBLEAU CHANDELIER F-CD05L
FORMATIONS TORINO SIDE CHAIR F-CH15
FORMATIONS HEROIC URN DINING BASE F-DT07



Clockwise from Fireplace:

FORMATIONS LUBERON FIREPLACE F-FP05

FORMATIONS AUBERGE LOUNGE CHAIR FCH09

DENNIS & LEEN LOUIS XIII BENCH DL-OT31 (CUSTOM)

FORMATIONS TAVOLINO WOOD & IRON COFFEE TABLE F-TB04

FORMATIONS MOELLON CONSOLE F-CN20

FORMATIONS SMALL FRENCH IRON CANDLESTICK F-AC69S

FORMATIONS MEDIUM FRENCH IRON CANDLESTICK F-AC69M



PRECEDING PAGES: Hallberg-Wiseley custom sofa in Henry Calvin linen and custom ottoman in Keith McCoy woven leather. Copper coffee table designed by Robert Kuo. Formations lounge chair in Summer Hill quilted cotton. Sculptures by Joyce Arad. Antique screen above Luberon fireplace by Formations. Holly Hunt woven silk-linen drapery. Large 17th-c. stone table. ABOVE: In master bedroom, Louis XVI-style gilt bed from Dennis & Leen in Rogers & Goffigon linen. Antique French gueridon table with Italian polychrome finial lamp. Drapery in Brunschwig & Fils silk. OPPOSITE: In the wife's French-inspired powder room, octagonal design, patterned stone floor and gilt-edged panelling, including mirrored faux window, enhance formal symmetry. Garden fresco in niche backdrops Dennis & Leen iron sink in the form of a seashell.

