



Desert Decadence

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WITH A ROCK AND ROLL EDGE, DESIGNER MARTYN LAWRENCE BULLARD REIMAGINES A PALM SPRINGS MIDCENTURY GEM

ABOVE The dramatic entrance features a front-loaded pool and towering marble-wrapped fireplace and chimney both indoors and out. Brown Jordan outdoor furniture with RH bean bag chairs make for comfortable sitting areas and poolside dining.



“

EVERYONE IN HOLLYWOOD has gravitated back to Palm Springs very much the way the stars did in the 40s and 50s,” says interior design super star Martyn Lawrence Bullard, “so this house was designed for that style of weekend entertaining.”

On a Coachella weekend with friends and clients Miriam and Stanley Rothbart, Martyn Lawrence Bullard was asked to take a look at a classic Alexander house Miriam had spotted for sale in the historic Vista Las Palmas neighborhood. Two days later, the Rothbarts were in escrow and the reimagining began.

Built in 1952, the 3400 square foot home is a coveted example of the now iconic desert

architecture built by the visionary construction company during the 50s and 60s. “This house is interesting – like a lot of Alexander houses the pool is in the front as part of the main landscaping. So we really made that feel very powerful by leveling the terrain and maximizing the view.”

The challenge was to open up the original floor plan and ratchet up the glam factor. Materials like bookmatched marble wrapping the fireplace inside and out, Turkish marble bathrooms, terrazzo floors, and mirrored walls combine to evoke a modernist Bacchanal heaven. The central kitchen was opened to integrate the living experience then wrapped around into the screening room, so now does double duty as the indoor bar. “The real bar is in the pool, so I really upped the ante for that Sinatra-era look. You swim up to the seating, plunk yourself down and have a cocktail,” the LA-based Brit says.

The home’s 1970s rock vibe though, was driven by the wife’s passion

OPPOSITE A de Sede 70s sectional sofa invites at the far end of the living room. Black and white photography of 70s and 80s rock bands decorate the walls in a salon style gallery. Vladimir Kagan slipper chairs are grouped around the marble clad fireplace for more intimate gatherings.

BELOW LEFT Paul Evans “Cityscape” chair is covered in a Moore and Giles emerald green leather and sits next to a Charles Hollis Jones lucite console in the screening room.

BELOW RIGHT A 1970s Mangiarotti lamp sits on top of the patchwork leather upholstered side table of the vintage de Sede sofa. A 60s Cassina marble table from the Palm Springs vintage store Christopher Anthony holds coffee table books and a 60s Pierre Cardin glass vase from the Martyn Lawrence Bullard Atelier.



“It’s all about capturing the Palm Springs spirit – but it’s also about capturing today’s experience,” notes Martyn Lawrence Bullard. Mission accomplished.



ABOVE Black Caesar stone sits on top of white lacquer cabinets in the kitchen. Viking appliances add a modern touch while the mirrored back splash is a nod to the homes mid century roots.

LEFT In the dining room , the ceiling is covered in ‘ Mirror, Mirror ‘ Silver Mica paper from Martyn Lawrence Bullard Atelier and creates the illusion of a very tall ceiling. Paul Evans “Cityscape” chairs cluster around a vintage Pace chrome table found at Modern Way on Palm Canyon and 1960’s oil paintings with a bold yellow theme complete the scene.



ABOVE The master bedroom's 70s' Stallone bed ' by Charles Hollis Jones with Karl Springer nightstands. A Milton Avery image of Marilyn Monroe is a nod to Palm Springs connection with Hollywood while the Herb Ritts photos give a fashion edge to the collection

RIGHT The powder room is wrapped in a Turkish striped marble from Ann Sacks and painted in Benjamin Moore's Deep Space gray.



for the period and is a nod to her past life in the music management business. A collection of black and white photographs from the era was curated by Lawrence Bullard including images of David Bowie, Lynyrd Skynyrd and the New York Dolls, and reflect the homeowners' love of the genre. Keeping the black and white palette throughout makes the exuberant use of wall to wall mirrors - even as a back-splash in the kitchen - seem like a 21st century innovation. In fact, the abundant reflective surfaces are the striking hallmark of the home's edgy yet playful energy.

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BELOW The stepdown-swimup bar and BBQ area is located on the far side of the pool, creating yet another destination point to enjoy the views of the San Jacinto mountain scape. The white powder coated bar stools are by Brown Jordan.

