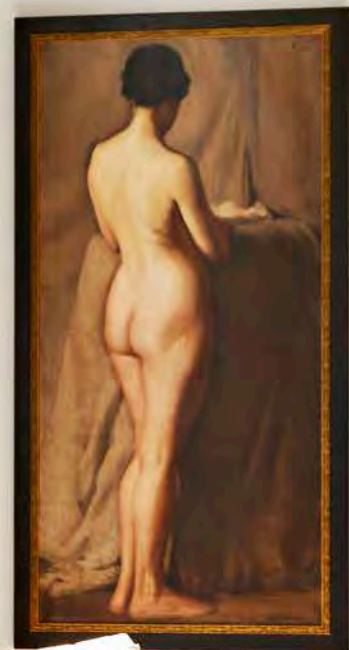


INNER GLOW



Thoughtfully curated with contemporary and vintage pieces, this abode eschews LA's megawatt glamour for time-honoured design.

Words LINDYL CRABB Photography ESZTER+DAVID



This page Designer Jase Sullivan and his client chose Portola Paints 'Angel's Landing' for the panelled dining room walls, which creates a sensual backdrop for the B&B Italia 'Tobi-Ishi' table from Diva, the Pierre Jeanneret chairs and Natalie Page ceramic pendant lights. A brass pot from The Window nurtures a towering triangle ficus plant. **Opposite page** The undulating lines of a Noguchi lamp from Rewire, a Bruno Mathsson chair from Sumner Furniture and Holland & Sherry sheer linen curtain fabric create a moment of repose downstairs. The artwork is from Pat McGann Gallery and the rug is from Jamal's in LA. Both pieces are vintage.



Perched above Sunset Boulevard in the cloistered Bird Streets, this property was a perfect fit for Australian interior designer Jase Sullivan's clients. The family were looking for a house in Los Angeles and, having worked with Jase before, engaged his expertise on their future home. Somewhat of a local, he went one better and helped them find it.

The close rapport between Jase and the home's new owners, a couple with two young children, evolved into a collaborative alchemy which underpinned the brief. "The trick to designing this house," Jase says, "was to find really cool, rare vintage pieces that were in keeping with the mother's style – she's quite fashionable – but still keep it young, fresh and not too serious for the kids."

Fortuitously, many of the key ingredients were already there, not least Jase's discerning eye for collectable vintage furnishings. Set over three storeys with a cinema and cellar on the basement floor, the house was near new. The property's exclusive location met the couple's desire for privacy and the family-friendly layout embraced their alfresco lifestyle – a climatic drawcard in sunny California. Take, for example, "the way the pocket doors in the living room slide back completely, allowing the indoors to flow onto the private front yard and back pool area", he says. "It's perfect. The parents can watch the kids play outside from the living room." And yet, the immaculate, modern interiors lacked nuance and felt incongruous with the traditional East Coast-style architecture. "I wasn't a fan of the slick kitchen, lighting and fireplace," says Jase, who suggests the original marble fireplace might have felt more at home in a mausoleum.

A year-long redesign ensued with work scheduled while the family was away. To remedy those audacious elements and restore harmony, the interiors underwent a textural overhaul befitting the exterior's traditional DNA. Now, a two-storey white shiplap wall in the living area echoes the oak floorboards, panelled dining room and external cladding while Jase, who will "jump at any chance to introduce texture", replaced the glossy stone surfaces with hand-painted brick walls. He also designed the hand-finished Shaker-style kitchen joinery that can be repainted with ease should the owners have the inclination to change up the colour scheme, and that fireplace now boasts a wide, light brick facade anchored by custom timber shelves.

"Rather than work from an office, I try to work from the house as much as I can to really get a feel for it," says Jase of his design process. In this case he stayed at the property for several weeks, observing the home throughout the day and making acquaintance with its quirks, such as the sun bouncing off the white exterior wall cladding and amplifying the light inside. To counteract this, he "introduced olive trees outside the living space to minimise the reflection and sheer linen curtains to diffuse the light and soften the rooms".

The same assiduous approach applied to sourcing the mouth-watering mix of contemporary and antique furniture from across North America and Europe. Jase also frequented his favourite LA vintage stores, including Lief gallery, ma+39 and Galerie Half where he tracked down a Peter Bonde artwork, the original Pierre Jeanneret dining chairs, the Fritz Hansen sheepskin armchair and the 1940s Formica breakfast table. Covetable as they are, these mid-century pieces form a concordant dialogue with the tactile architecture. "New houses lack history and sometimes energy," he says. "So introducing vintage pieces I truly believe gives a home soul." »



This page The horizontal shiplap walls and hand-painted brick fireplace were designed to create a warm, informal mood in the open living area. A de Sede sofa and Formica worktop table with swing chairs facilitate casual seating arrangements, while the Peter Bonde artwork cleverly conceals a television behind it. Siglo Moderno 'Growlights' form a leafy canopy above. Opposite page, from top An original Juergen Teller photograph of Kate Moss takes pride of place in the upstairs landing. Sourced from ma+39, a pair of 'Camaleonda' chairs by Mario Bellini for B&B Italia make the most of this space. The floor lamp is a 1960s Swedish design by Uno and Östen Kristiansson. Vintage side table and rug. Kitchen cabinets custom designed by Jase. He selected unlacquered brass accessories, including Waterworks tapware and Renaissance Design Studio handles. Above the Fisher & Paykel oven is a 'Luread F' wall sconce from Lumfardo.



SPEED READ

» Interior designer Jase Sullivan collaborated with his clients, a family of four, on this year-long project. » Located in the Bird Streets of Los Angeles, the three-level home had recently been rebuilt but the sleek, modern interiors were at odds with the traditional East Coast-style architecture. » While the existing layout remains, most light fixtures and living room surfaces were replaced and a new Shaker-style kitchen was built. » Jase designed several elements including the kitchen and master bedroom furniture. » He also sourced the iconic mid-century and contemporary furnishings from stores across LA and European vintage retailers. » French oak floorboards laid the foundation for the neutral scheme punctuated by key pieces of bright furniture and art.

« And soul it has in spades. Snaking around the living area, a de Sede 'DS-600' sofa found on 1stdibs and imported from Munich can be manoeuvred to accommodate intimate pastimes such as TV-watching as well as evenings spent entertaining. Vintage Persian rugs invite shades of aged gold, blue and ruby into the principally neutral palette and link the separate spaces. According to Jase, one rug in particular adorned the floor of a Lake Como waterfront villa for more than 100 years. "If it could talk, imagine the stories it would tell." The couple's own memories are woven throughout their home, too. An original Kate Moss print by Juergen Teller is of particular sentimental significance. "My client is a huge fan of the supermodel and her husband was the highest bidder for it at a charity auction."

The use of colour in the dining space tells another story. "When I designed my client's previous home, she and I painted a built-in cabinet together. We decided we'd do a room together in this house and chose a beautiful nude colour for the dining room," Jase says. "The two kids wanted to join in so they received their very first painting lesson." A black B&B Italia 'Tobi-Ishi' dining table punctuates this sophisticated blush scheme. It's one of a few black-toned contemporary

pieces including the Bronson credenza in the living room and a large pendant in the master bedroom – the only light fixture to have survived the redesign – which were incorporated to subtly create visual continuity between the upper and lower levels.

Craftsmanship is celebrated in its myriad forms alongside patinated materials such as leather that can withstand "two very active children who believe this house to be a Formula One racetrack". Handmade ceramic pendant lights by Natalie Page were chosen for the dining room and the living room's wooden shelves are curated with ornaments and accessories from The Window antiques store in LA and the Rose Bowl Flea Market in Pasadena.

On a larger scale, Jase's custom-designed furniture yields beautifully to the master bedroom's vast dimensions. When the hunt for vintage burl bedside tables in just the right size proved futile, he sourced the highly figured wood and had them made. Not only is the balance between enduring design, material integrity and utilitarian function a testament to family life, but assurance that should the owners move, every piece will continue to feel right at home. ▣

jasesullivan.com.au



This page Verdant lawns and a swimming pool in the backyard add to the property's family-friendly appeal. The vintage iron table and chairs are from JF Chen and the teak dining table is from Leif. Atop it are cane wine bottles from Rose Bowl Flea Market. Opposite page Jase custom designed the master bed and base as well as the burl bedside tables. Mid-century designs make an appearance here, too. He sourced the 1960s green velvet armchairs from Hollywood at Home and the Hans-Agne Jakobsson table lamps from Rewire. Ochre-hued Matteo bed linens and a vintage rug from Jamal's resonate with the home's warm neutral scheme.