SPLENDID MAKEOVERS: ENTICING BEFORES AND AF SIMPLE ELEGANCE
THE BEST IN WEST COAST DECORATING RETURN TO CELEBRI SHOWHOUSE







AMID THE GLITTER and grandiosity so prevalent in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Bel Air, the city's leading designers chose simplicity and unpretentious elegance for *House Beautiful*'s 2003 Celebrity Showhouse.

This was the second annual such project for the magazine. It opened to the public last fall, with ticket proceeds going to the Children's Action Network, a non-profit group that helps underprivileged youth in Southern California.

"We asked the designers to create a refined, elegant, yet subtly diverse design scheme, and I believe they succeeded brilliantly," says *House Beautiful* editor Mark Mayfield.

The designers' accomplishments should come as no surprise, considering their reputations. All are well known in the more glamorous realms of Los Angeles life, and their client lists include major stars. In fact, a number of well-known Hollywood celebrities lent their names and their inspiration to individual decorators.

Each designer showed a distinctive finesse in mixing periods and styles, particularly in marrying modernist and traditional elements. For example, Joe Nye had the task of creating an entryway that would please on its own terms, both

Above: In the entryway and upstairs hall, Jae Nye's fresh choice of coral as an accent color for the Thomasville bench and the curtains lightens the space above the polished coffeebean wood floors. Right: Landscape designer Stephen Block brought clean, simple lines to the lawn, walkway, and pool. Opposite: Waldo Fernandez pointed walls and moldings a rich blue for an energetic statement in the small dining room. The round Regency-style table is set with Hermés glass and silver.









to second floor makes for an effortless transition to two quite different guest rooms upstairs. Both Peter Dunham's deceptively simple use of Indianinspired prints in one, and Elizabeth Dinkel's almost haute-couture approach to chinoiserie in the other provide the comfort-conscious environments that homeowners want for their guests.

In the Asian-inspired master bed-



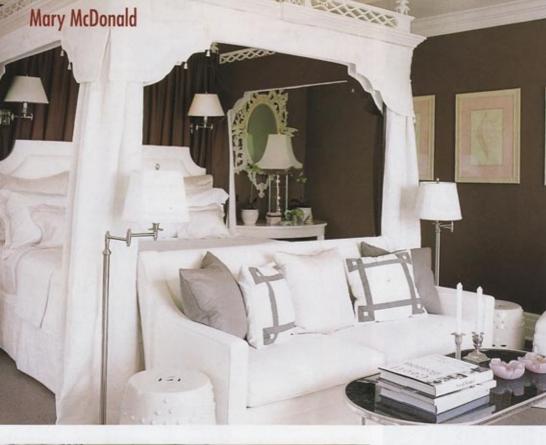
room, Mary McDonald played white against chocolate walls in a nod to both the age of great movie stars (you can imagine Lauren Bacall sleeping in the custom-designed pagoda-style bed) and the current fondness for eclectic Hollywood Regency.

To complement the bedroom, Michael Berman designed spacious his-and-her master bathrooms with dressing areas and furniture for reading or napping. Every element in the airy woman's bath reflects traditional shapes but carries a modern, streamlined edge. The man's bath is a library-like environment with neoclassical accents, including a bas-relief of Socrates that perhaps only a

21st-century designer would think to put in the shower.

Downstairs, the contemporary coziness of Kathryn Ireland's library-clean Mission-style furniture against pale walls banishes all hints of the dark, heavy atmosphere traditional studies can have. Nearby, Suzanne Rheinstein designed the living room with an ethereal restraint that transforms a long room with six doorways into an

Opposite: Peter Dunham's guest room and both, with fabrics designed by Dunham for Thomas Lavin in Los Angeles. Above: Kathryn Ireland's library features a Mission-style desk from Thomasville with a Kichler lamp. A modern arrangement of moody early-20th-century landscapes stands out against a pole hue on the paneling.





adult sanctuary. One of the many pairs of pieces that hold the room quietly together, two French chairs announce awareness of the present with a delicious modern green.

In the renovated and enlarged family room beyond a double doorway off the living room, designer Kim Alexandriuk mixed old-world colors and textures with modern shapes and set delicate 17th- and 18th-century antiques of with oversize 20th-century streamlined armchairs.

In the dining room, vibrant blue walls, sculptural moose antlers above a stark fireplace, and a monumental abstract painting make the formality of the round Regency mahogany table and





Jackie Terrell's dairy-fresh kitchen includes RoomScape's cabinets for Wood-Mode.

chairs elegantly welcoming, thanks to the stylish skills of Waldo Fernandez.

Adjacent to the dining room is the large, modern-family-oriented kitchen/ breakfast room, decorated by Jackie Terrell in dairy-pale whites and dark wood. The room is awash in fresh traditionalism countered by modernistic overscaling in cleanly designed furniture and by cutting-edge appliances supplied in pairs.

In the guesthouse, Tim Clarke put a large, shocking-coral seashell mirror on the wall of the cabana and then, in contemporary L.A. fashion, brought interior glamour outside with a huge





Terrell's kitchen also includes a deep stainless-steel Kohler sink, twin Sub-Zero refrigerators, and twin Wolf ranges.



Schuyler Samperton & Anna Hackathorn's powder room.



Elizabeth Dinkel's guest bathroom, left, includes a Kallista sink and a brown wicker chair by McGuire. Bedroom is at right.





Tim Clarke's autdoor living room, with all-weather Sutherland furniture, also includes a KitchenAid refrigerator and grill, left.



David Desmond's loundry room.



Kim Alexandriuk's Old Italian/1930s Parisian family room.

