



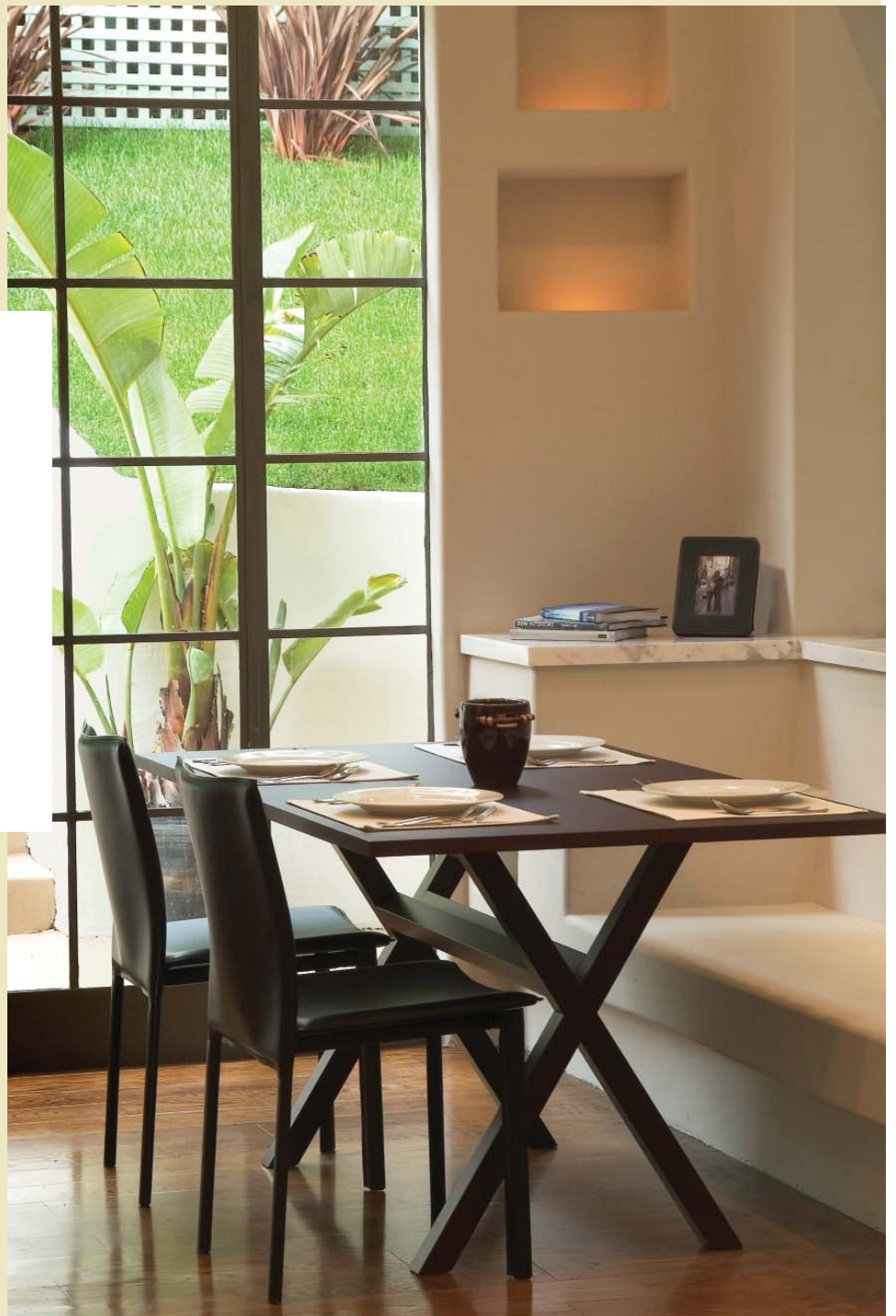
CelebrityStyle

Designer Steve Hermann hits the Hollywood Hills

BY LYDIA DUMYN

When Los Angeles-native Steve Hermann started renovating and redesigning homes 15 years ago, he had high goals – high in the Hollywood Hills – where today the magnificent views are rivaled only by his awe-inspiring designs. Hermann Design & Development has caught the attention of numerous Hollywood A-listers, including Christina Aguilera, Courtney Cox and David Arquette, and Frankie Muniz. Hermann offers a tour of this spectacular house designed for the Pointer Sisters, which surely has them singing his praises.

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This Spanish-style house had been left to its own devices before Hermann got his hands on it.

“The house had great ‘bones’ with very original period elements to it,” Hermann describes. “What I wanted to do was retain the original elements that gave it its charm, while updating and giving it a fresh appearance.”



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As a designer, Hermann tends toward the modern. He typically works on mid-century modern homes with lots of glass, or he just builds his own. The design dynamo came across this particular house while working on another project next door. “When I saw this house, I thought it would be fun to incorporate some modern elements into an otherwise more traditional home.”

The home, nestled in the Hollywood Hills, was designed for a celebrity. Going into the project he knew that the expectations would be high.

“High-profile clientele who are active in the entertainment industry expect a style and finish of the utmost quality,” says Hermann. “This home, in particular, was designed to be a warm, bright and open space, thus the darker woods, white walls and furniture, and the expansive windows create a warm environment that satiates the senses.”

“My favourite part of being a designer is the ability to create,” says Hermann. “Often times it is like a puzzle with some element missing that is stopping the experience from being completely moving. I keep working on it until I discover that essential element.”



The home's easy-going style didn't come without effort. Hermann had to rethink his perspectives in transitioning from ultra-modern homes to a Spanish design with a modern flair.

“I wanted it to be clean but also warm at the same time,” says Hermann. The contemporary furniture and hanging lights add a modernity to the space while maintaining the timelessness of a typical Spanish design.

Hermann's favourite features in the home are the curved doorways and windows in the living and dining spaces, as well as all the nooks in the kitchen area, “giving a sense of limitless space and possibility.”

“How can I move and inspire the people who encounter it?” That's how Hermann approaches each project. “Life is full of mundane chores and necessities. Your living environment shouldn't be part of that. It should be a respite – a place where you are inspired and renewed. Whether you are a guest or the resident, the space should be one that makes you feel better about yourself and your life upon entering it. When that happens and I feel that I got it absolutely right, I feel peace in that moment.”

For more information on Hermann Design & Development and to check out Hermann's work, visit online at www.stevehermannsdesign.com