

Out of the past

Whether a palatial Beverly Hills residence or a grand Nevada home, an exquisite remodel will celebrate the past, but also consider the present.



Interior designer: Monique Lafia, DCIDQ, NCIDQ, Lafia Arvin Design Corporation (Santa Monica, California)

Original architect: Gene Verge

Construction: Houck Construction

Wall finishes: French plaster in ivory

Flooring: Ebony hardwood, original black-and-white marble

Entry furniture: Venetian console; Chippendale entry bench

Entry lighting: Antique chandelier, medallion sconce, petite French crystal chandelier, French bronze Torchere

Living room furniture: Regency mahogany wine coolers; Chinoiserie settee by Cache, LA custom-designed lounge chair by Lafia Arvin; Scalamanre chair by Paris; Minton Brighton chairs; iron console; Rococo carved stools; George III tea coffee table; Lennox sofa; cloverleaf pedestal table and Lily table in mahogany from Melrose House

Living room lighting: Murano glass torcheres; 19th-century chandelier; Venetian glass lamp; Italian 18th-century candlesticks

Living room flooring: Antique Agra carpet from J. Djoulan Rugs

Dining room furniture: Volute dining table by Therien; Feather dining chairs by Melrose House

Dining room lighting: Danish Giltwood chandelier, French silvered bronze candelabra

Dining room flooring:

Antique rug from Mansour

Vestibule furniture: Dolphin armchairs; William IV rosewood-mahogany centre table; black lacquer side table from Anne Hauck

Loggia furniture: Bacchus console; deep lounge chair, ottoman, end table and round coffee table from Pascal, by Murray's

Story by Charles Moxham

Photography by Mary Nichols



These pages: This loggia is visible from the home's entry. Careful choices in fabric and furniture ensure that the indoor-outdoor flow does not compromise the overall formal feeling of the home. Advances in indoor-outdoor fabrics mean the outside furniture can have a lavish feel. External drapes, manufactured from a sunshade material, protect this area from both the sun and the rain. A selection of lighting fixtures allows the area to be used by day and by night.

Columns in the house were given a separate treatment. A specialist painter introduced a crackled glaze. This requires an experienced hand to allow the distinctive crackling to form.

The painter who worked on the columns also restored and accentuated the original ornate dining room ceiling.

Rooms were added beyond the house proper, and a billiard room was added and connected

to the existing screening room. However, much of the house remains in its original form.

"Creating a comfortable home by today's standards meant addressing the interior decoration and making the house electronically savvy," Lafia says. "We took great pains to ensure all things electronic didn't detract from the lavish settings. For example, we drilled holes in table legs to

carry wiring to table lamps."

The entire residence was rewired, and remote control systems introduced for everything from the security to the swimming pool system.

The interior decoration was master-planned from the outset. Furniture layouts were an early consideration, because, says Lafia, lighting placement and other details flow from these positionings.