



# LA CONFIDENTIAL

Filmmaker *Tom Kuntz* talks us through the redesign of his idyllic hillside family home in Hollywood

Photography **GIORGIO POSSENTI** Production **GLORIA MATTIONI**

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**Exterior** The homeowners have made the most of their outside space by dividing it into a number of living areas. Simple seating by Pier 1 gives the courtyard a rustic look, while the space leading off the lounge has a more comfortable, room-like feel thanks to rocking chairs from Blackman Cruz, built-in shelving with wood storage

and a fireplace set in a painted wall. The external walls of the house are finished in clay; the windows were salvaged from an old school **Hallway** The old metal ladder, now used to display indoor greenery, leads to the rooftop. The woven cushion is a souvenir from a trip to Iran ► **Stockist details on p180**

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**'M**y wife and I had been looking to move for about a year when we came across this house. It needed a lot of work, but we fell for it anyway – mostly because the structure is so interesting and the atmosphere is really calm. It was built around an old Chinese elm tree, on a plot that's predominantly flat, so it's pretty unique for a Los Angeles hillside home. We're also lucky enough to have a decent amount of outdoor space, and we transformed an untamed piece of land into a garden for our kids to play in.

The house was built in 1931 but had been altered and added to in the 1970s, so the flow between the rooms just didn't feel right. We decided to do some restructuring to open the spaces up, and enlisted the help of Pamela Shamshiri of Commune Design. We really wanted to do something different from the typical mid-century modern look that's so common here in LA, and Pam's aesthetic is really unique, so we asked her to work with us on the remodelling project. The main priority was to embrace the building's inherent design strengths, reinterpreting it in a way that was clean, eco-friendly and warm, and we were keen to incorporate as many natural materials and handmade items as possible. We also wanted to make the most of our outdoor space and the warm LA climate, so we created a seamless transition between indoors and out by ensuring that the Mexican cement tiles inside the house are on the same level as the ipe wood deck outside. We added large glass sliding doors in the main hallway and living room, too; we open them up in the morning and only close them when we go to bed. Now, from just about anywhere in the house, you can see some sort of lush, overgrown greenery.

My favourite space is the central courtyard. I love to spend lazy weekend afternoons out there; we throw a load of pillows down on the deck and just lounge around all day with the kids. The energy here has always been amazing, but the work we've done on the house has definitely enhanced the peaceful atmosphere. You step through the door and it's like you've been transported to somewhere else... the mountains or a jungle, perhaps, which is quite amazing since we're just up the hill from Sunset Boulevard. [communedesign.com](http://communedesign.com)



**Living room** Wooden wall panelling, cement floor tiles and large sliding doors give this space a strong sense of connection to the outdoors, while glass panels just below the ceiling let in extra light. The homeowners like to keep the doors open all day long. A 1940s Moroccan rug from Amadi Carpets and

a suspended fireplace from a flea market add warmth. Furniture includes a salvaged wooden stool by Alma Allen and a custom-designed cotton sofa strewn with cushions from Iran. The pendant light is by Robert Lewis for Commune Design; the floor light is a flea-market find. **Stockist details on p180**





**'WE ADDED SLIDING GLASS DOORS TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE OUTDOOR SPACE. WE OPEN THEM UP IN THE MORNING AND ONLY CLOSE THEM WHEN WE GO TO BED'**

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**Dining room** The wooden table is a piece by sculptor Alma Allen that has been enlarged by a carpenter to suit the homeowners' needs. The rug is made of multiple kilims from Lawrence of La Brea that have been stitched together. The 'Wishbone' chairs are by Hans Wegner for Carl Hansen & Søn (try Aram Store)

**Kitchen** The units are custom-made from walnut with granite countertops. Open wooden shelving is positioned to create a sense of separation from the dining area, while allowing light and fresh air to flow through from the sliding glass doors. Simple wood and metal stools make a sociable place for a coffee ➤ **Stockist details on p180**

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'YOU CAN SEE LUSH, OVERGROWN GREENERY FROM JUST ABOUT ANYWHERE IN THE HOUSE. IT DEFINITELY ENHANCES THE CALM, PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE'

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**Bedroom** Greenery directly outside the window brings the outdoors in. A vintage rocking chair by Hans Wegner sits well within the dark wood scheme. The Indian bedspread was bought at the Pat

McGinn gallery in LA; the sideboard is from BDDW in New York. Teak wall panels lead the eye through to the bathroom, which is furnished in the same wood **123**  
**Stockist details on p180**

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