

OLD WORLD TRADITIONAL

LANDRY DESIGN GROUP AND LAFIA/ARVIN
COMBINE CLASSICAL FRENCH ARCHITECTURE
WITH A CALIFORNIA LIFESTYLE

TEXT BY VANESSA KOGEVINAS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERHARD PFEIFFER





M

ajestically set on an unmatched one acre property overlooking the Beverly Hills Country Club stands an ode to classic French architecture, in the form of an updated chateau-inspired estate. Created by architecture firm Landry Design Group and interior design firm Lafia/Arvin, the 17,000 square foot, eight bedroom masterpiece embodies everything the clients were looking for. "I have traveled to France and Italy extensively over the last twenty years," says the resident, "and I have always admired their sense of scale. We wanted to combine French architecture with a California lifestyle."

Richard Landry and associate Brian Pinkett placed primary emphasis on materials that would achieve the desired French architecture. "We selected stone for the entire façade and incorporated cobblestone for the driveway and motor court reminiscent of the old streets of Europe," says Landry. Other key elements such a slate roof and the great level of detail in the abundant ironwork found throughout the property also lend itself to this goal.



■ PAGE 72 A dramatic circular staircase with custom handcrafted wrought iron railings, dual arches with carved corbels and keystone, J. P. Weaver crowns, limestone flooring, and a chandelier from Foundry pack an impressive punch in the foyer.

■ PAGE 73 A pair of antique French chairs covered in Corragio fabric flank an antique French console with marble top creating a sophisticated vignette in front of a silk draped window in the opulent living room.

■ LEFT A Lafia/Arvin walnut pedestal table is surrounded by Lafia/Arvin wood carved chairs covered in Rogers & Goffigon fabric in the breakfast room where a French antique chandelier yields a European touch while Conrad shades reference a more casual California window treatment.

■ RIGHT The custom wood cabinetry painted in a glazed finish paired with a light beige granite counter at the bar create a warm country feel and the island's dark stained wood and red granite anchor the space. The darker tones are picked up in the McGuire Prescott barstools and in the Lafia/Arvin pendant by Reborn Antiques.





Upon entering the residence the grand two story, limestone floored, Venetian plastered wall foyer with a sweeping circular staircase sets the tone. The interior design is equally reflective of the style. “The sensibility is Old World traditional with a California look,” says Monique Lafia of Lafia/Arvin.

Blues and golds—a typically French palette—grace the more formal spaces such as the living room. Rich velvets and silks coupled with fine dark wood trimmed furniture pieces—both antique and custom strike the perfect balance against the ornate moldings and fireplace that anchor the room. “It takes artisans to achieve an authentic backdrop that looks refined enough to stand up to luxurious materials.”



■ OPPOSITE The dramatic walnut paneled library boasts a double-height ceiling with an inset skylight at its peak. A Lafia/Arvin and K. Spiegelman Interiors custom hand-blown lantern based on an original French fixture is dramatically suspended on four antique bronze chains. An English style walnut pedestal desk is coupled with a Baker Bradford channel leather chair and two A. Rudin Lafia/Arvin designed mohair velvet lounge chairs. Above the marble fireplace the designers gave a nod to English history by installing a family coat of arms.

■ LEFT A Therein vanity with a Bill Benjamin Murano mirror above it and Corragio fabric upholstered walls produce a classic look in the powder room. Blue marble dotted flooring and ornate moldings complete the aesthetic.

■ ABOVE A Lafia/Arvin walnut curved wood headboard by K. Spiegelman Interiors anchors the master bedroom, which blends California comfort with traditional European elements. A seating area comprised of a Regency Bergere sofa and a Cache Bergere armchair covered in Rogers & Goffigon fabric offers a cozy spot to relax. An Aga John chandelier and Aga John Tabriz rug provide a more formal element.



“It takes artisans to achieve an authentic backdrop that looks refined enough to stand up to luxurious materials.”

■ LOGGIA A Michael Taylor table and custom bronze finished chairs by Architectural Detail Group offer a casual yet sophisticated place to dine in the poolside loggia.

■ EXTERIOR AND POOL The exteriors were painstakingly designed to emulate a French chateau using precast concrete with classically proportioned trim and details—all textured and colored to emulate antique limestone. A slate mansard roof and custom wrought iron lamp posts and light fixtures compliment the desired style. The loggia is set on direct access with the pool creating a beautiful space for outdoor dining and relaxing.



The opulence is continued in the dining room and library. “The rich dark walnut carved custom table with whimsical Rocco inspired dining chairs are one of my favorite groupings in the house,” says the client, who loves to entertain. Two chandeliers are coupled with spot lighting to maximize both ambiance and functionality of the space. In the walnut library, vaulted ceilings with a skylight at its peak packs an impressive architectural punch and a herringbone pattern for the flooring provides a classic counterpart.

Both the living and dining rooms open to a loggia that gives directly onto the pool and extensive gardens beyond. “To me, the flow of the house and how it is set on a symmetrical axis with the pool is the beauty of the project,” says Landry. “It is perfect for entertaining and dining al fresco.” A large, inviting table is sheltered by the loggia, which has curtains that can be drawn for further protection and privacy. The kitchen offers another attractive place to convene with its granite countertops set against custom glazed finished cabinetry anchored by limestone flooring.

Each bedroom boasts an ensuite bath and the master includes two bathrooms—his and hers. Onyx prevails in the groin vaulted ceiling space. The bedroom’s walnut flooring and decorative plaster crown and moldings embody the elegance of French chateaux’s while the comfortable, oversize furnishings bring in the California way of life.

Despite the grandeur of the architecture and richness of the interiors a comfortable simplicity is quietly apparent. “Enjoy your house,” says Lafia. “Throw dinner parties, enjoy all the spaces. And remember, the luxury is in the now.” ☐

