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DESIGN TODAY

ARTISTIC INHERITANCE

The owner of this Los Angeles home has filled it with design classics and a collection of art by her grandfather

WORDS JULIET BENNING PHOTOGRAPHY STEPHEN KENT JOHNSON/OTTO

FAMILY ROOM
Exposed rafters deliver lofty proportions that make room for a tree. The plant adds to the space's organic feel. Charlotte Ferrand stool and Paavo Tynell's Chinese Hat floor lamp sourced at Galerie Provenance.

INSPIRATION

SITTING ROOM
A gallery wall is reflected by the large antique overmantel mirror. The curves of the sofa reflect the shape of the coffee table. Pierre Jeanneret Easy chair; Elmwood coffee table designed by Pierre Chapo; brass lamp by Pierre Folio all sourced at Galerie Provenance.



SITTING ROOM
Compiled entirely of Benjamin Abramowitz's work, Sheila was assisted by art advisor Tiffany Lendrum when curating this wall of art

For Sheila Bouttier, inheriting a large collection of artwork was a blessing that prompted not only a new home but also her business, Galerie Provenance. As the only grandchild of the late acclaimed American artist Benjamin Abramowitz, Sheila and her husband Brett are the custodians of many of his works and decided that, as well as needing more room for their two growing children, they wanted a spacious new home to display the artwork. The collection, spanning 70 years, is managed by Sheila and her mother, Susan Rosenbaum. As the catalogue is so vast and varied it became my mission to find a way to display it, Sheila says.

Keen to keep the children in the same school, the couple didn't move far from their previous 1930s Los Angeles abode. 'It had always been Brett's dream to build his own home, so we began searching for a plot of land. We found one at the bottom of a cul-de-sac that was tucked away, had plenty of great spaces for the garden, yet was close to the things we needed,' says Sheila.

The book *California Homes* by Studio William Hefner turned out to be the key to unlocking the couple's architectural goals. 'I bought it for Brett's birthday because we loved the homes in it. When we realised they were all the work of one architect we knew he would be the ideal candidate.' With William Hefner commissioned, Brett threw himself into achieving his vision, deliberating over the finest details. 'Brett had previously considered architecture as a career choice so he pored over the plans. He had a strong vision for many of the design elements in the house, for example he knew he wanted to open the front door and see straight through to an outdoor fireplace,' Sheila explains.

Her own journey and that of the interior, was a revelation that would change the course of her life. 'I'd been working in TV for more than 20 years, but

as I became more involved in finding objects and furniture for the house, I realised it could be a new career avenue.' Inspired by Ellen DeGeneres' *Home* book, Sheila took a thoughtful, curated approach to furnishing the new property. 'I love the way Ellen's home contains mid-century French antiques and artefacts, as well as primitive pieces to create this really interesting look with a lot of texture and patina. I discovered some amazing European designers and met people who taught me about design and antiques. I founded Galerie Provenance to help source furniture and artefacts for designers and private collectors, working by appointment.' Her home has become the 'shop window' for her business. Opting for mostly crisp, white walls, her own collection of art, curios and design classic pieces punctuate the bright and spacious rooms. Towards the back of the house, in a departure from the main living spaces, the more formal office and dining room take on a darker, moody character that is offset by the huge steel-framed window.

Eager that her children were able to live carefree in the house, Sheila also planned for plenty of resilient, high-traffic spaces. 'I wanted it to be liveable, so while there are a few chairs that are design classics and beautiful to look at, there are also plenty of comfy upholstered seats, which strike a balance. I chose the 1930s pine kitchen chairs by Swedish designer Axel Einar Hjorth because I knew they'd be easy to clean when my son spills maple syrup on them,' she laughs. In a remarkable marriage between high culture and welcoming comfort, Sheila and Brett have created the perfect home for both family and art.

Architecture by Studio William Hefner, williamhefner.com. Furnishings and antiques sourced by galerieprovenance.com. Artwork by Benjamin Abramowitz, benjaminabramowitz.com

KITCHEN

Every room has a curated look. Here, elegant crockery is displayed in the glass-fronted cabinets while more practical kitchenware is hidden in drawers. Table and chairs by Axel Einar Hjorth, sourced from Galerie Provenance. Find similar marble work surfaces at Marble City. Gaehot stools, Thomas Hayes Studio. Pendants by Alison Berger at Holly Hunt



COURTYARD PATIO
A fireplace wall makes this feel like a proper room. Wall lights designed by William Hefner



HALLWAY
The sideboard was chosen for its rich patina. Source a similar sideboard at Vinterior. Sculpture by Benjamin Abramowitz



SITTING ROOM
An antique wardrobe provides a dramatic backdrop to the modernist shapes of the chair and art. Sculpture by Benjamin Abramowitz

INSIDER INSIGHT
Sheila Bouttier shares her loves and inspiration

MOST SUCCESSFUL PART OF THE PROJECT Finding a way to showcase the incredible artwork of my grandfather, Benjamin Abramowitz, in virtually every room.

GREATEST INDULGENCE The steel windows and doors were probably the biggest splurge.

WHAT'S ON YOUR COFFEE TABLE I have a mid-century Japanese Ikebana that is quite sculptural. It is a piece that people often comment on when they come into my sitting room.

WORDS TO LIVE BY Try to add pieces with age and history into your home. They are often one-of-a-kind artefacts that individually can make a striking statement.

SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT Our architect, William Hefner, added honed Indiana Buff limestone thresholds into each room, which had a major impact and was a unique touch.

ONE THING YOU WOULD NEVER FOREGO Small artefacts that tell a story and older pieces that have a lot of depth and patina and soul.



INSPIRATION

PLAYROOM
The classic scheme is one that will grow with the children. Black stools. Summer Studio Design

MASTER BEDROOM
Elegant double doors
make a focal point of the
fireplace beyond. Wood
tones offer warmth to
the serene grey scheme.
Sheepskin Philip Arctander
Clam chair, sourced at
Galerie Provenance.
Painting by Benjamin
Abramowitz. Walls in
Pavilion Gray, Farrow & Ball



MASTER EN SUITE
A huge wall mirror
gives an impression
of more space. Even in
this practical room
Sheila has introduced
artistic furnishings.
Vintage chair by Guillemme
et Chambron, sourced by
Galerie Provenance. Tap,
Waterworks. Cabinets in
Pavilion Gray, Farrow & Ball

