









# *Hollywood* REVIVAL

**“THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING ICONIC BEVERLY HILLS ESTATES,”** says Chris Arvin of Santa Monica design firm Lafia/Arvin, describing this north-of-Sunset-Boulevard Spanish-style palazzo built in 1926 by a silent film legend, and subsequently home to the likes of Woolworth heiress Barbara Hutton and Cary Grant, James and Pamela Mason, and, sharing the guest quarters for a time, Richard Burton *(continued on page 67)*

**A BEVERLY HILLS ICON IS READY FOR ITS CLOSEUP**

By Andrew Myers + Photography by Mary E. Nichols

"BOTH THE OWNERS AND WE REALIZED THE HOUSE ITSELF WAS A WORK OF ART." — MONIQUE LAFIA



A cocoon of mahogany, leather, rich colors and plush textiles, the media room is outfitted with the latest, state-of-the-art equipment as well as antiques. Sofa and chair from A. Rudin upholstered in chenille fabric from Micana. Leather chairs from Baker, Knapp & Tubbs.

Right: The courtyard off the kitchen includes a new fireplace and hardscape. The carved dining table weighs thousands of pounds and required a crane for installation. Twig collection chairs from Melrose House. Sofas from Giasi.

Below: The pool was moved to the side of the house facing the dining room. Landscaping by Jonathan Sidy acts as a verdant screen, providing natural shade for the home.

Bottom: The lady of the house hired a specialist to create a rose garden with antique roses; she uses the colors as inspiration in her cosmetics business. The octagonal fountain with Spanish tiles was found near Santa Barbara.



"One of the reasons we usually do multiple homes for our clientele is that we take ultimate responsibility for the project," says Lafia. "Basically we feel that, in terms of execution, the buck stops with us." In this house, that buck extended far beyond the custom furniture, antiques and decorative arts to include fine art. Joining a creative assortment that includes a signed, limited edition Steinway, a mosaic chandelier previously owned by Ozzy Osbourne, 18th-century

Neoclassical chandeliers and Louis XV chairs and ottomans is a jaw-dropping collection of work by Picasso, Picabia, Dufy, Magritte, van Dongen and Dali. Intimately involved with the composition of all the collections, Lafia went so far as to have actual-size prints of the paintings blown up from auction catalogues to try them on walls throughout the house. Not to be outdone, the floors received a collection of important antique carpets, Aghras and Tabriz in par-

ticular. Lafia was careful to study pedigree and provenance as well as color and composition, and how each prospective piece looked in particular rooms.

Given the scope of work, nearly three years suddenly doesn't seem so long. Certainly not to an 81-year-old grande dame who is standing taller than ever, and has a long full life yet to live.