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the harmony of joy

Designer Thomas Allardyce
And Architect Thomas Jakway
Create A Dramatic Second Home In
Indian Wells For A Young Family

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The light in Indian Wells is crystal clear by day with Technicolor sunrises and sunsets and indigo nights sprinkled with stars. Thomas Allardyce of Hendrix Allardyce Design took the play of light and the dramatically contrasting landscape of the desert into account in every aspect of this second home he designed for a young couple with growing children.

Allardyce, whose studio is in West Hollywood, also owns a house in the desert and is intimately acquainted with its unique character. The couple hired his firm along with architect Thomas Jakway and contractor Gary Langlois of G.O. Langlois Construction to bring their desert dream into reality. "Their first priority was to create a family home," says Allardyce, "but they also wanted a certain level of sophistication without a lot of formality. The ideal was a French Mediterranean style house in harmony with its surroundings."

An admirer of classical style architecture in all its forms, the designer found able collaborators in architect Jakway and builder Langlois. The design by Thomas Jakway, with its rich layers of architectural detail—porticoes, pillars, coved ceilings, moldings, inset display niches—was flawlessly executed by the meticulous contractor. The architect's hometown is Palm Springs and his firm has done a half dozen projects with Hendrix Allardyce. This project began in 2006 and was completed three years later.





The gallery behind the living room includes the intimate "junior dining room." The floors are walnut parquet. The antique bronze vessel features unicorn-shaped handles. The painting of a dromedary camel by Gustave Nillot, circa 1903 is a playful reference to the home's desert surroundings. It is from John Nelson Antiques in West Hollywood. Over the fireplace hangs a 1949 Chagall, entitled, "Red Poppies" from the client's private collection.



Hand-forged, wrought iron pendant lights line the entry hall. Two niches flank the door to the wine cellar, and in those two niches, in which Thomas Allardyce has placed a pair of rare 18th century Italian consoles, and a pair of gilt and polychrome Italian rococo angels from Richard Shapiro Fine Art and Antiques, West Hollywood.

The home is introduced by an arrival gate of hand troweled, color-integrated smooth stucco in a pale shade of ochre. “You see that color all over the South of France,” says Allardyce. It leads into an extravagant courtyard, creating an insulated sense of privacy and peace. Cut limestone pavers surround the swimming pool along with formal flower boxes filled with tumbling rose vines or bright red geraniums. The plantings were chosen for the desert landscape. Roses thrive in the heat. There are also boxwood hedges, olive trees, lavender and bougainvillea, all plants that are plentiful in the Mediterranean.

The house also is covered in the same stucco in a pale shade of honey. “The trowel marks are visible, and the natural variations in the color add a lot of warmth to the exterior,” says Allardyce. Double doors open to a foyer that is a study in elegance and restraint. There are arched doorways and vaulted ceilings with egg and dart moldings. The floor is honey colored limestone; the base moldings and interior casings are the same limestone that was used on the exterior. Thomas Jakway’s floor plan is very transparent; each area is separate and distinct, but they can all be viewed and enjoyed from one another.

Round-top windows in the living room look out onto the courtyard. Inside, Allardyce and his team began with a custom made carpet from Stark in shades of dusky olive, khaki and “heirloom tomato red.” It became a foil for the monotone furniture. “I used mostly caramel shades, highlighted by a French blue that has a greenish cast, which gave it a dark aqua coloration.” He placed a luxurious assortment of pillows on the pillow back sofa. “They are covered in chevron patterned silk velvet,” says the designer. “I love the shimmer of that fabric. I love the



The sofas are covered in a hand-blocked printed velvet with mullion fringe trim from Sabrina Braxton. The walls are upholstered in blue and white striped cotton from Janet Younati. The black Art Deco sideboard is French from the 1940s. The ivory and ebony inlaid box is Italian. The leather armchairs are from Jean de Merry, customized for this project. A pair of early 20th century beaded Venetian sconces illuminate Matisse's "Marie-Jose en Robe Jaune" circa 1950.



In the living room, the vases are from the 1920s by Nancy Daum. The chandelier is French, early 19th century from Paul Ferrante. The two Italian baroque mirrors are from Maison Felice, Phyllis Washington Antiques, Palm Desert. The wall sconces are French, 1930s from Jean de Merry. The marble-topped consoles are from the Hendrix Allardye Collection, as is the dining room table. The window treatments are hand-embroidered silk, from Pindler & Pindler in the PDC. OPPOSITE The arrival gates, leading into the main courtyard are framed by a wealth of desert-friendly Mediterranean plants, including evergreen topiaries, geraniums and abundant roses.





All of the *colors* the designer chose were meant to *evoke the muted sunshine* of a late afternoon on the *Mediterranean*.



way it ages, the patina it develops. I use it like jewelry in a room.” Two seventeenth century Italian cricket sticks were made into lamps. The Louis XV style fauteuils came from the Hendrix Allardyce Collection.

The dining room was inspired by the idea of a French house circa 1930. All of its architectural details are over-washed with a mellow amber glow. The table from the Hendrix Allardyce Collection is aged walnut.” The designer also used Fortuny upholstered panels in a pale shade of coral, printed in ivory on the dining room walls. The room has an early nineteenth century French gilded bronze crystal chandelier from Paul Ferrante, and two Italian baroque mirrors from Maison Felice, Phyllis Washington Antiques in Palm Desert. “It’s an intimate space,” says Allardyce. “They didn’t want a huge dining room. They only entertain eight or ten guests at a time.”



In the master bedroom, the walls are upholstered in a Fortuny fabric. The draperies are apricot and celery striped silk from Cowan & Trout. The carpet is Starke. The bedside tables, "Eglomise" are reverse painted glass from the Hendrix Allardyce Collection. The bed is from Therien Studios, West Hollywood. The chairs are upholstered in lime green, leopard-print silk velvet from Sabrina Braxton. The settee in the foreground is covered in silk, embroidered with peonies. OPPOSITE Cut limestone pavers surround the pool. The outdoor furniture was covered in a sturdy indoor/outdoor fabric in cream and red stripes, chosen to match the geraniums in this huge terracotta pots



The walls of the master bedroom are covered in a Fortuny fabric. He selected a capacious bed from the Therien Collection, and dressed it in custom embroidered Ebron linens. The window treatments echo that soft shade of green, paired with a pale apricot stripe on silk panels by Cowan & Trout. All of the colors the designer chose were meant to evoke the muted sunshine of a late afternoon on the Mediterranean.

Objects and paintings from the client's existing art collection were placed throughout the house. One of these paintings, a bucolic nineteenth century portrait of a young man, hangs on a wall in the master bedroom. "It's important to bring together a lot of different styles and periods," says Allardyce. "I like to mix elements from different cultures and different eras in my work. Being able to adapt existing art, antiques and heirlooms into a new design is part of that."

Most clients of his firm want certain classicism in their homes, but none want to live in a museum vignette. "People who come to us go to Europe a lot, and they want a timeless look to their homes. We like to expose our clients to new things. Things they have never seen before. We take them on a treasure hunt. We love to bring people along on an exciting journey."

This journey ended in a glamorous family retreat in the shadow of the San Jacinto Mountains, bathed in the golden amber light of the desert sun. "It's very user friendly but opulent," says Allardyce. "The harmony in every room is what makes one feel relaxed." 