

MODERN LUXURY

Interiors

CALIFORNIA

ELEVATED STYLE

THOMAS SCHOOS UPS THE GLAM
AT A WESTLAKE VILLAGE ESTATE

A BAY AREA RETREAT GETS
A BOLD MAKEOVER

AN ENCINITAS HOME WITH
EUROPEAN FLAIR

RICHARD LANDRY AND SFA
DESIGN CREATE A DANA
POINT OASIS

PLUS

THOMAS LAVIN SETS UP SHOP IN O.C.

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CALIFORNIA WINE ESTATES

EXCITING NEW DESIGN HOTELS
AND OPENINGS ACROSS THE STATE

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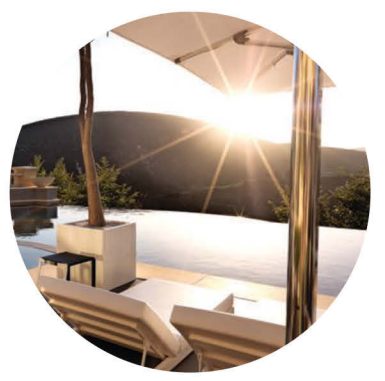
LOS ANGELES

IN PERFECT HARMONY

POOLING AROUND
On the backyard deck, all-white lounge furniture from Kettal, Veraschin, Gloster and Restoration Hardware create a streamlined, modern look surrounding the infinity pool. Schoos Design planters and fire pits add to the overall effect. Schoos Design did the landscape design, with installation by Landscape Development.

Designer Thomas Schoos transforms a dated hillside mansion into an airy family home with modern flair.

By Laura Eckstein | Photography by Ethan Pines



SLEEK SPACES From left: A hillside view overlooking the infinity pool; completely overhauled, the kitchen now features core wood peripheral and island cabinetry with a custom synthetic fir facing, a Silestone island and countertops, lattice bone chandeliers, and appliances from Miele and Wolf. The flooring is polished limestone. Opposite Page: More than 80 percent of the decor—including the white leather tufted chair with Lucite legs, interlocking marble-top cocktail table and gray and white silk area rug in the two-story living room—was created for the home by Schoos Design. Thomas Schoos' 16-foot-by-10-foot painting, "Silver Tree" (behind high-back sofa) was made with the room in mind.



"They wanted a contemporary home, but instead, they got a French classic," says interior designer Thomas Schoos of the 12,500-square-foot Westlake Village home he and his firm, Schoos Design, recently transformed for a family of six. "Now," he says, "it's traditionally framed, but with clean lines and a fresh feel."

When the family—an entrepreneur husband with multiple businesses, his musician wife and their four children, aged 7 to 15—moved into the home in 2009, it was custom-built to meet their needs at the time and to complement the private hillside community's traditional style. But before long, the hulky, country-style cabinetry, baroque ornamentation and heavy limestone pieces seemed a mismatch, and the young family yearned for a streamlined, functional space that

reflected their upbeat personalities and contemporary style. After unsuccessful relationships with two other designers, they connected with Schoos—known for his bold interiors at restaurants like Herringbone in L.A., Morimoto in Mexico City and Tao in Las Vegas—through a referral. He went on to transform the look and feel of the home with select surface changes, plus plenty of site-specific furniture, accessories and artwork (more than 80 percent of the new pieces are custom-designed by Schoos).

In the resulting space, "you feel very uplifted," says the designer. And no area in the six-bedroom, nine-bathroom home speaks more to that sentiment than the impressive two-story entryway. "Before, when you walked in, there was barely any furniture, no drapes,



the walls were a sandy yellow color, and the stairwell and trim was chocolate brown,” says Schoos. A tight palette of white, black, gray and silver was brought in with oversized furniture and modern accessories, including a dramatic custom crystal chandelier hung in the foyer. A graphic rug and an original, nearly 20-foot-tall abstract painting by Schoos complete the look.

Like many homes, the kitchen is the family’s hub, and with a sleek, open plan and central position that branches off to the backyard and pool, screening room, a hallway to the kids’ playroom (complete with arcade games and a stage), the wife’s recording studio and the husband’s game room—“because it’s easy to get from place to place, they really use all of the house,” says Schoos—it’s no surprise that they linger there often. Another attraction is how serene and orderly it is, mainly due to an extensive amount of storage that’s cleverly hidden behind beautiful, high-gloss gray cabinetry (supplied and installed by Cooper Pacific Kitchens) along the room’s perimeter and within the

Silestone island. “Before, the kitchen island was so massive, I wondered if they lap danced on the top,” jokes Schoos. “Now, you have everything you need right here, and it’s much more functional.”

Upstairs houses the children’s four bedrooms and the couple’s 2,000-square-foot master suite, including the wife’s closet, “designed to feel like a boutique clothing store that perfectly showcases each piece,” explains Schoos Design Senior Designer Erin Felder. And out back is the property’s crowning jewel: a resortlike pool and entertaining area, complete with Schoos’ signature planters, white upholstered furniture, outdoor kitchen, fire pit and stunning views of the California hills. Even though the home’s traditional exterior is on full display against the modern patio, it doesn’t bother the German-born Schoos one bit. “In Europe, you can have an old, old castle and make the interiors super-sleek,” he explains. “You see how traditional the house is,” he adds, “but with the clash of modernism, it’s suddenly something really beautiful.” ■

ON DISPLAY Schoos poses in front of the living room fireplace. Opposite page: The background cabinetry in the wife’s master closet was existing, but to give her the glamorous boutique look she was after, Schoos Design added the polished chrome detailing and the concealed lighting that frames each shelf opening, and added a new, custom crystal chandelier.

DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE
Single-family

LOCATION
Westlake Village

ARCHITECT
Larry Brisley, NEXtects Architects
nextects.com

DESIGN FIRM
Schoos Design
schoosdesign.com

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
Daniel Ord, D.J. Ord Construction
djordconstruction.com

VENDORS

Cooper Pacific Kitchens
Perimeter and island cabinetry
cooperpacific.com

Ironies
Lattice bone chandeliers in kitchen
ironies.com

Kettal
Sun loungers and outdoor side tables
kettal.com
