

# CALIFORNIA HOMES

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**OPPOSITE** Mandeville Canyon Residence front entry.

**ABOVE** Mandeville Canyon Residence auto court/entry porch

Growing up in Sacramento, Hefner used to hang out with carpenters as they made additions to the family home, and his interest in building led him to spend a year at the American School for Classical Studies in Athens and get his master's in architecture from UCLA. For seven years he worked on commercial projects with Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, while dreaming of designing houses. In 1989, he took a break, secured some small commissions, and set up his office on the eve of a recession. Undeterred by the scarcity of jobs, he married Kazuko Hoshino, who had studied interior design and was working in contract furnishing for the Bradbury Collection. Soon after she became an integral part of his practice, designing many of the interiors, and contributing her ideas on materials and layouts.

The harmony of their taste is well expressed in the house they share: a radical remodel they did to please themselves, with no concern for marketing or resale. It's much admired and several clients have said they want one just like it. The period style of the façade was mandated by the design constraints of Hancock Park, but Hefner is now challenging the limits imposed by Montecito, another traditional community. He's building what he calls "a series of shacks"—minimal shelters of wood siding and standing-seam metal roofs in a canyon—to serve as modest weekend homes. "For me, less is more, and our next house will be contemporary," Hefner explains.

Every architect has mentors—Frank Lloyd Wright tops many lists—and Hefner's choice is eclectic. He particularly admires a New Yorker,



*"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 Rococo 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, ensuving 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 congregate 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 Lafa. "Throw dinner parties, enjoy all the spaces. And remember, the luxury is in the now." 

