

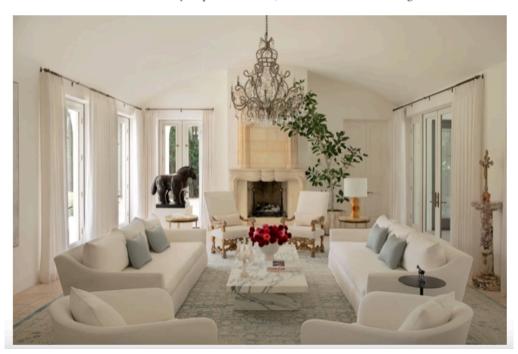
## Inside Sofía Vergara's Personal LA Paradise

The Griselda actor worked with designer Ohara Davies-Gaetano to create an inviting home for friends and family

By Mayer Rus
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Styled by Amy Chin
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Sofía Vergara doesn't mince words about the condition of her palatial <u>Beverly Park</u> manse when she acquired the property. "There were arches on top of arches, all with columns. It felt like a castle in Transylvania," recalls the effervescent actor-producer, currently playing against type as Colombian cocaine queenpin Griselda Blanco in the Netflix series <u>Griselda</u>. "But the layout was perfect, and I loved that you could see the landscape from every room, even though there wasn't much of a garden to look at yet. I knew what I would do to make it my own," she insists.

There were, predictably, a few challenges. Despite the voluminous rooms and <a href="https://history.nih.google.com/history.co



Davies-Gaetano seconds the notion of an immediate click. "Sofia articulated a clear vision for the project. She wanted a home that felt ethereal yet grounded, something fresh, clean, and bright, with lots of great antiques that added patina and warmth to the architecture," the designer explains. "It had to feel layered and curated. Sofia wanted to tell a particular story," she adds.



Casting a wide net, Davies-Gaetano and Vergara stocked the house with a broad array of continental antiques from Sweden, Spain, France, and Italy. The airy living room, for example, is anchored by an 18th-century French limestone fireplace and a pale Persian Tabriz rug, while a pair of heavily carved, gilded <u>Baroque</u> armchairs rests beneath a lyrical 19th-century Italian chandelier. "I'm not afraid to <u>spend money</u>, but it has to be for something practical, not just things that are there to look good. I didn't want furniture that is so precious that people would be afraid to use and enjoy it," Vergara avers.



The dining room is crowned with a wall covering that is hand-embossed in plaster by MJ Atelier. Dining chairs by Dennis & Leen, de Le Cuona curtain fabric through Thomas Lavin, and a 19th-century French buffet.

In the dining room, Davies-Gaetano applied a foliate wall covering hand-embossed with plaster vines and leaves to the ceiling. "Every room has special flourishes to add depth and interest to the composition," the designer notes. "We really focused on decorative lighting to underscore the emotion and essence of the house," she continues, citing the baronial Spanish tole chandelier that tempers the scale of the double- height family room as well as the jewel-like Baguès rock crystal sconces that grace a powder room.

As for color, Vergara confesses that her predisposition is to avoid it altogether. "If it were up to me, everything would be monochromatic. I don't like crazy jolts of color, and I really don't like pastels—they remind me of *The Golden Girls,*" the actor quips. Nevertheless, while maintaining a ubiquitous palette of serene whites, Davies-Gaetano managed to introduce hushed tones in the form of upholstery details, antique carpets, artwork, and other subtle accents. The family room is a case in point: Davies-Gaetano gently tweaked the neutral scheme with throw pillows in various shades drawn from the hues of the carpet. Of course, the brightest chromatic pop in the room comes from a striking painting by Vergara's fellow countryman, the late Colombian artist Fernando Botero.



The primary bedroom is furnished with a Louis XVI regency-style fireplace from the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City and an antique Swedish

The primary influx of color arrives by way of the refreshed landscape. To rejuvenate the grounds, Davies-Gaetano brought in landscape designer and antiques dealer Stephen Block of LA's Inner Gardens. "Initially we came in with a few great trees for the interior, but Sofia wanted more and more and more. The landscape had never been properly finished, so we tried to bring the property to life with new plantings and a mix of unusual antique urns, fountains, benches, and pots," Block reports. "We also added a few tropical elements that connect Sofia to her roots. She was so excited and grateful for everything we did—she's really the perfect client," he enthuses.

Although Vergara doesn't cook, she relishes any opportunity to entertain, and her new home allows her to <u>host friends</u> and family in high style. "I love decorating for parties, setting beautiful tables, and watching people enjoy my home," she says. "My friends from <u>Colombia</u> find any excuse to visit. There's just something about this place that makes guests want to stay. It's special. I still wake up every day thinking, I can't believe this is my life."



 $\label{thm:makeup} \mbox{ Hair by Kelly Kline; makeup by Sabrina Bedrani using Dior for the Wall Group. Art: Fernando Botero/Gary Nader, Miami. \\$ 

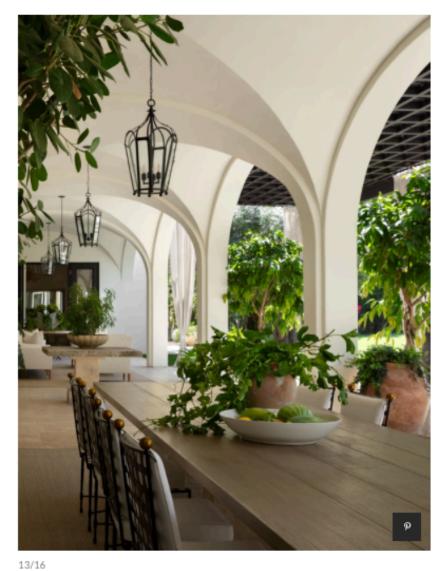


In the entry, an 18th-century Venetian mirror hangs above an Italian neoclassical console.



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In the foyer, a black olive tree from Inner Gardens is planted in an 18th-century Anduze vessel from ODG Galerie. Tabriz rug from Lawrence of La Brea; antique limestone center table from Authentic Provence.



Vergara refers to the loggia as her command center.



The allée of olive trees terminates in an antique marble trough planted with hydrangea. Landscape design by Hoffman & Ospina and Inner Gardens.



15/16View of the poolhouse across the lawn.



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Outdoor furniture by <u>JANUS et Cie</u> is arrayed on the pool deck. Landscape design by <u>Hoffman & Ospina</u> and <u>Inner Gardens</u>.