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MARCH 2012

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PRIME-TIME LINEUP

Television mogul Darren Star recruits architect Mark Rios and designer Waldo Fernandez to breathe new life into his classic Hollywood home

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PRODUCED BY CARLOS MOTA



TV producer Darren Star (above) holds court in his Los Angeles residence, which was renovated by Mark Rios of Rios Clementi Hale Studios and decorated by Waldo Fernandez of Waldo's Design; the sculpture is by Thomas Houseago. Left: The living room's roll-arm sofa was custom made; on display are works by, from left, Kehinde Wiley (through doorway), Candida Höfer, and Robert Therrien. For details see Sources.



bag of Los Angeles architectural styles might reasonably be termed Spanish Regency.

"I loved the Old Hollywood feel, especially in the spectacular rounded bar," says Star, who purchased the property in 2005 and lived there for three years before undertaking his own renovation with architect Mark Rios. "The site is amazing," Star adds. "You get a panorama of L.A. that sweeps from the mountains, across the city, and out to the ocean."

Nevertheless, the TV producer concedes that a "huge face-lift" was in order to bring the house up to speed for 21st-century life. "The goal of the renovation was to make the place cleaner, hipper, and more unified in its design language," explains Rios, whose major moves involved carving out a grand hall centered around a sculptural floating staircase; building an independent pavilion that includes a screening room, a gym, and an office; and converting the garage adjacent to the kitchen into a double-height family room that serves as a lively social space.

Beyond his own extensive contributions, Rios shaped the look and atmosphere of the house by introducing his client to the high-powered decorator Waldo Fernandez. "Waldo immediately grasped my style and knew how he could help me elevate it," Star raves. "The house was

a bit dowdy—Waldo described it as an old lady—but he understood how to make it relevant and exciting."

Fernandez accommodated Star's frequent informal entertaining by placing a premium on comfort as well as looks. For the voluminous rooms, he designed upholstered furniture with ample stuffing, while incorporating classic pieces by Jean Royère, Émile-Jacques Ruhlmann, and Eugène Printz to raise the glamour quotient. The decorator also deployed a range of items from Star's personal collection, notably a bronze Stalagmite dining table and a set of chairs—both by the American designer/artist Paul Evans. But Fernandez's most impressive gesture unfolds in the bar, where the walls and beams are enrobed in 16 luxurious coats of chocolate lacquer.

"My last place was more of a modernist, Case Study-ish house, which was ultimately not very comfortable or livable. I had a lot of couches that you'd slide off," the producer says. "Waldo gave me a place where I can be a little messy."

"The furnishings we selected were not primarily about provenance or pedigree," Fernandez explains. "Darren is a pretty simple, straightforward guy. We created rooms that are chic and modern, but the real punch comes from the art collection." →

Above: The sun-drenched rear terrace provides a panoramic view. **Opposite, from top:** The dining room table is by Paul Evans, as are the four sculpted-metal chairs covered in a Pollack mohair; Émile-Jacques Ruhlmann rosewood armchairs in a Larsen fabric stand at either end. The vintage light fixture is by Venini, the artworks are by Mike Kelley (left) and Walead Beshty, and the carpet is by Mansour Modern. The kitchen, with cabinetry by Bulthaup, includes suede barstools; the sink fittings are by Dornbracht.