

CULTURE *case study*

IN PALM SPRINGS, A 1960S
BUFF & HENSMAN HOUSE
HAS BEEN FRESHLY UPDATED
BY MARMOL RADZINER. FOR
DETAILS SEE RESOURCES.



True to Form

For a little-known house in Palm Springs, Marmol Radziner forgoes a textbook restoration in favor of a thoughtful update to the midcentury-modern gem

Was there ever an odder movie star than Laurence Harvey? In unsettling films like *BUTterfield 8* and *The Manchurian Candidate*, he was the definition of the smooth, handsome devil, that strange light behind his eyes making clear that in real life, too, he was trouble: never without a cigarette and drink, bellicose, sexually all over the map, and doing his best to die young. He made it to 45.

Harvey lived only four years to enjoy this house, which he built in Palm Springs, California, in 1969. The wild man liked his 1963 Beverly Hills house so much that he commissioned the same architecture firm—venerable Southern California modernists Buff & Hensman—to create this oasis of tranquility in the desert. After nearly 50 years it has passed the truest test of architecture: It looks even better today than when it was built, after a fine-tuning by architects Marmol Radziner and in the care of Rea Laccone and Paul Perla, the couple who have found their own bliss here.

Amazingly, this house is barely on the radar in Palm Springs, where trophy properties by midcentury masters, particularly those with an Old Hollywood provenance, are paraded like dogs at Westminster. It's in a fine old neighborhood where once you might have bumped into Kirk Douglas or Dinah Shore taking a morning walk. As big as the compound is, little of it can be seen from the street—only a long, low stone wall and two seemingly impenetrable front doors. Solid walnut, they swing open slowly, and when they do the last thing you expect happens: You are still outdoors, in a vast garden room surrounded by glass pavilions, under the spell of towering Mount San Jacinto. There's hardly any color. The furniture is spare and quiet. Every element is strong and deliberate. All the local kitsch suddenly seems very far away as a deep calm sets in. "No makeup required," says Laccone, who cofounded the fashion brand Vince because she couldn't find a good T-shirt.

It might easily have gone a different route. Palm Springs has a taste for fanatical midcentury restorations, down to original appliances and an Avanti in the driveway. Partly because

resources

Items pictured but not listed here are not sourceable. Items similar to vintage and antique pieces shown are often available from the dealers listed.

(T) means the item is available only to the trade.

LIVING LARGE

PAGE 37: On Battaglia-Engelbert, gown by Giambattista Valli; *giambattistavalli.com*. Coffee table and PK80 leather daybed, both by Poul Kjærholm for Fritz Hansen; *fritzhenzen.com*. **PAGE 38:** Josef Frank mirror with lacquered-birch mirror frame, in red, from Svenskt Tenn; *svenskttenn.se*. Jean Royère Five-Arm Bouquet sconce, in painted tubular metal, from Magen H Gallery; *magenxxcentury.com*.

CASE STUDY: TRUE VALUE

PAGES 66–68: Architecture, interiors, and landscape design by Marmol Radziner; *marmol-radziner.com*. **PAGE 66:** Baia Sun beds by Paola Lenti from Niche Beverly (T); *nichebeverly.com*. **PAGE 68:** In living room, Vladimir Kagan Free Form Curved sofa, covered in Pillow Talk viscose-blend, in high cotton, by Great Plains, both from Holly Hunt (T); *hollyhunt.com*. Vintage Arthur Umanoff walnut three-legged table from Red Modern Furniture; *redmodernfurniture.com*. Vintage Maison Lunel three-light iron floor lamp from Habitat Décoration; *habitatla.com*. On lounge chair, Arrowhead viscose linen, in marshmallow, by Holly Hunt (T). Klaus bronze end table from KGBL; *kgbny.com*. Vintage Dick Cordemeyer Cleopatra daybed from Full Effect; *fulleffect.be*; covered in Cotton Velvet, in pear, by Maharam (T); *maharam.com*. Angelo Mangiarotti Eros low table, in Carrara marble, from Agapecasa; *agapecasa.it*. Reverso wool rug by Bowles and Linares, in soft brown and off white, from Christopher Farr; *christopherfarr.com*.

FLIP THE SCRIPT

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PAGE 109: Custom-made bed by Sawyer|Berson; *sawyerberson.com*; in fabric from Diamond Foam & Fabric; *diamondfoamandfabric.com*. Plain rug, in willow, from Odegard Carpets (T); *odegardcarpets.com*. Paavo Tynell floor lamp from Galerie Eric Philippe; *ericphilippe.com*. Axel Einar Hjorth chair from Hostler Burrows; *hostlerburrows.com*. George Carwardine sconces from Wyeth; *wyeth.nyc*. Curtains of linen by Rogers & Goffigon (T); *rogersandgoffigon.com*. Akari light sculpture by Isamu Noguchi; *shop.noguchi.org*. Bedding by Matteo; *matteohome.com*. **PAGES 110–11:** Sofa by Harvey Prober from Wyeth; *wyeth.nyc*; in leather by Edelman Leather (T); *edelmanleather.com*. Vintage Danish chair (on left) from B4; *b4decor.com*; in sheepskin from Global Leathers; *globalleathers.com*. Side table by Carl Auböck from Sigmar; *sigmarlondon.com*. Uno and Östen Kristiansson Giraffen lamps from Galerie Half; *galeriehalf.com*. On sofa, pillows by Matteo; *matteohome.com*. Shelving by Vitsoe; *vitsoe.com*. Vintage Moroccan rug from Nazmiyal Collection; *nazmiyalantiquerugs.com*.

PEAK PERFORMANCE

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FRENCH EVOLUTION

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Manach (T); *lemanach.fr*. On armchair (center), Chic linen by Pierre Frey (T); *pierrefrey.com*. On Louis Philippe armchairs (back left), Toile Montrichard viscose-cotton by Jean Roze (T); *soieries-jean-roze.com*. Custom-made sofa by Tino Zervudachi & Associés; *mhzlondon.com*; in Horsehair linen-wool, by Holland & Sherry (T); *hollandsherry.com*. Pillows of Timba organic cotton, in brique and tallow, by Malabar (T); *malabar.co.uk*. Cotton rug by Cindy Singh, in chocolate/beige, for Shyam Ahuja (T); *shyamahuja.com*. **PAGE 131:** Custom-made bed by Tino Zervudachi & Associés; *mhzlondon.com*. Exterior canopy, exterior bed curtains, headboard, bedskirt, and window curtains of Sultan Gardens linen, in saffron, by Martyn Lawrence Bullard Design; *martynlawrencebullard.com*. Interior canopy and interior bed curtains of Chancy linen-cotton, in chaya, by Nicole Fabre Designs (T); *nicolefabredesigns.com*. Custom-made brass wall sconces, in patine antique, by Dutruc-Rosset (T); *dutrucrossetluminaires.com*. Adjustable bedside table lamps, in brass, by Robert Kime (T); *robertkime.com*. Antique Aubusson textile atop Goosebay wool-linen rug, in blue/cream, by Shyam Ahuja (T); *shyamahuja.com*. **PAGES 132–33:** On custom-made ottoman, Kilim viscose-blend, in dark brown, Edmond Petit (T); *edmond-petit.fr*. On Louis XV striped bergère, Santos cotton-blend, in pink, by Andrew Martin (T); *andrewmartin.co.uk*. Curtains of Grapes crewel cotton with wool embroidery, by Chelsea Textiles (T); *chelseatextiles.com*; with trim by Declercq Passémentiers; *declercqpassementiers.fr*. Bridgewater sofa (center) by Howard Chairs; *howardchairs.com*; in Velours Moquette silk velvet, in fauve, by Le Manach (T); *lemanach.fr*; with custom-made fringe and cord by Declercq Passémentiers. On custom-made sofa (right), Point de Tours cotton-blend, in laurier, by Le Manach (T). Swing-arm sconces, in dark bronze finish, by Soane; *soane.co.uk*. **PAGE 134:** On walls and headboard—and bedskirt and curtains of—Chateau Renaud cotton-linen, in rouge, by Braquenié (T); *pierrefrey.com*. On bed, linens by Marquise de Laborde (T); *marquisedelaborde.com*. Custom-made brass wall sconces, in patine antique, by Dutruc-Rosset (T); *dutrucrossetluminaires.com*. On Louis XV side chair, Croquet cotton by Malabar (T); *malabar.co.uk*. On Paul Dupré-Lafon club chair, Toile Montrichard viscose-cotton by Jean Roze (T); *soieries-jean-roze.com*. Vintage Turkish Sarköy kilim rug from Galerie Triff; *triff.com*. **PAGE 135:** Tay tub by Drummonds; *drummonds-uk.com*. Fittings by Volevatch (T); *volevatch.fr*. Custom-made shower curtain of fabric by Osborne & Little (T); *osborneandlittle.com*. Window curtains of Croisé Colibrières viscose-linen, in creme, by Pierre Frey (T); *pierrefrey.com*.

TWIST AND SHOUT

PAGES 138–141: Architecture by Rafael de Cárdenas Ltd./Architecture at Large; *architectureatlarge.com*; in collaboration with Purcell; *purcelluk.com*.

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papersandpaints.co.uk. Lempicka mirrored screen from Oka; *oka.com*. Custom-made Sputnik chandelier and cabinetry by Joanna Plant Interiors; *joannaplantinteriors.com*. Map Room adjustable sconces by Hector Finch; *hectorfinch.com*. Vintage table from Valerie Wade; *valeriewade.com*. **PAGE 153:** On Delevingne, Coco Amethyst silk pajamas by Olivia von Halle; *oliviavonhalle.com*. Lum suspension light by Kaia Lighting; *kaia.at*. Eero Saarinen round dining table for Knoll from Design Within Reach; *dwr.com*. Flat rattan chairs by Cox & Cox; *coxandcox.co.uk*. Linen pillows from the Conran Shop; *conranshop.co.uk*. **PAGE 154:** Custom neon sign from Gods Own Junkyard; *godsownjunkyard.co.uk*. Squiggle lampshade by Lucy Jane Cope; *ritakonig.com*. On Ruby chair by Fiona McDonald; *fionamcdonald.com*; a Palmalmer cotton-linen, in white/azure, by House of Hackney; *houseofhackney.com*. On walls, Khaki Mists 5 paint by Dulux; *duluxtradepaintexpert.co.uk*. **PAGE 155:** Martineque wallpaper from Designer Wallcoverings; *designerwallcoverings.com*. Custom-made sink by Joanna Plant Interiors; *joannaplantinteriors.com*; with fittings by Lefroy Brooks; *lefroymartineque.com*. Antique hand towel from Guinevere; *guinevere.co.uk*. **PAGE 156:** Custom-made sofa by Joanna Plant Interiors; *joannaplantinteriors.com*; in Velveto viscose-blend, in garnet, by Designers Guild (T); *designersguild.com*. Lighting mirrors by Bride & Wolfe; *brideandwolfe.com.au*. Hans Koenig golden palm table lamps; *1stdibs.com*. Velvet pillows from Oka; *oka.com*. Custom-made iron-and-leather side table by Joanna Plant Interiors. **PAGE 157:** On Delevingne, dress by Alberta Ferretti; *albertaferretti.com*. Jute rug from the Conran Shop; *conranshop.co.uk*. Flat rattan chairs by Cox & Cox; *coxandcox.co.uk*. **PAGE 158:** In bath, Earlhain silk wall covering, in emerald green, by de Gournay (T); *degournay.com*. Rolltop freestanding bath, and Original bath shower mixer, by C.P. Hart; *cphart.co.uk*. Blue Asiatic pheasant tea set by Burleigh; *burleigh.co.uk*. Marble floor tiles by Vitruvius; *vitruviusltd.co.uk*. In master bedroom, linen wall covering by Fromental; *fromental.co.uk*. Vintage peacock chair from Phoenix on Golborne; *phoenixongolborne.co.uk*. Livia headboard by Ensemblier; *ensemblierlondon.com*; in a mohair velvet by Claremont (T); *claremontfurnishing.com*. Karaikal quilt, in dusty pink, and silk pillows, both from Oka; *oka.com*. Bed linens by the White Co.; *thewhitecompany.com*. Custom-made curtains by Joanna Plant Interiors; *joannaplantinteriors.com*; of Burley linen, in pink, by Veere Grenney Assoc. (T); *veeregrenney.com*. Heston sconce from Lorford's; *lorfordsantiques.com*. Antique bench from Hillary Batstone; *hiliarybatstone.com*. Vintage rug from Joshua Lumley Ltd.; *joshualumley.com*. **PAGE 159:** Linocut prints by Hugo Guinness from Wilson Stephens & Jones; *wilsonstephensandjones.com*. Custom-made sofa by Joanna Plant Interiors; *joannaplantinteriors.com*; in Velveto viscose-blend, in olive, by Designers Guild (T); *designersguild.com*. Silk pillows from Oka; *oka.com*. Jute rug from the Conran Shop; *conranshop.co.uk*. ■

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