



The Pool is a large lap pool connected right up against the house giving an illusion of water running through. Two retractable shutter stylites create more light under the loggia. Outdoor furniture by Brown Jordan.

Natural & Earthy

DESIGNER NORM WOGAN, ARCHITECT DEAN LARKIN, BUILDER ASHER ALSASI AND LANDSCAPE DESIGNER SERNA KELMES CREATE A CLEAN AND MINIMALIST HOME IN SANTA MONICA

TEXT **KAVITA DASWANI**
PHOTOGRAPHY **ROGER DAVIES**



LEFT Custom floating steel stairwell is over a water feature below. Stair treads are white oak. Stone flooring throughout the first floor is a leathered gray limestone from Rockmill. Barstools are leather and metal swivel from Cantoni.

BELOW Custom bleached walnut wood cabinetry fabricated by Peter Scholz. Island slab is a quartzite leathered with either side stainless steel ends. Pendants over the island are from Sonneman lighting. Dining table is a custom bronze finish steel base with a white oak wood top. Dining chairs are walnut wood with fabric backs and a pleather seat. Fabrics by Zinc.



THE OWNERS OF A NEWLY-constructed home in Santa Monica had one primary requirement; they wanted a house that was going to be easy to take care of.

“They wanted something clean and minimalist and not fussy,” said Norm Wogan, the Los Angeles-based interior designer who was enlisted to work on the house.

Work on the 7,500 square foot home was completed in March 2020. Architect Dean Larkin created the contemporary style

house, alongside builder Asher Alsasi and landscape designer Serena Kelmles. The team worked first on building a long swimming pool and then constructed the house to convey the illusion of the water moving into the home.

“Water and the outside elements were among the most important factors for the client,” said Wogan. “They also wanted a lot of glass in the construction, with a sense of flow from inside to outside.”

In creating the interiors for the four-bedroomed property, Wogan set out to keep everything “natural and earthy.

BELOW LEFT Dining room art piece by Harry Moody over the walnut cabinetry, flanked by bronze scones from Sonneman.

BELOW RIGHT Custom wine room is made from a steel frame and uses custom wood cabinetry.



Three floating crystal and metal custom light fixtures are over the living space. Fabricated by Wired Lighting Los Angeles. Walls are all Venetian plaster done by John Denniston. Custom sofa with fabric from Romo is the center piece of the room. Sofa fabricated by Tony Rodriguez. Pillows are dyed sheep skin from Between the Sheets. Custom Walnut and bronze metal coffee table. Fabricated by Marcelinos cabinetry.

In the master bedroom, two swivel chairs are covered with suede fabric from Castel. Small brass table is by RH. Custom oak night stands from Marcelinos Cabinetry and a custom steel and mirror wall is created as the headboard.



The house is significantly different from the client's previous one, which was a Spanish tract-style home in Encino, and which was done in a more traditional style. The aesthetic of their new Santa Monica residence is much more dramatic. The vaulted ceilings and pocket doors allow for a seamless flow from inside to out. The primary bedroom, which is located downstairs, has a bathroom that opens out to the pool. Wogan said that he wanted to keep all the materials in a similar palette and aesthetic so there wouldn't be any jarring transitions. As relaxed as the overall impact is, details were everything; the downstairs of the house is all limestone floors, the upstairs a French oak wood. Venetian plaster on the walls conveys a sense of texture. Three custom-designed hanging crystal and bronze chandeliers, that look like orbs suspended in space, had to be planned for very early on; by the time they were ordered and then hung, 18 months had elapsed. The lighting theme runs through the house, reappearing in other spaces. The house was designed as a true entertainer's home, with a wine room and home theater also on the ground floor.

"The family eats outdoors a lot," said Wogan. "That's one of the new rules of California."

Ultimately, despite the large interior spaces, Wogan said it was important to still convey a sense of coziness and comfort. "We aimed to ground the house," he said. "It was so big yet we wanted to give it that feeling of warmth."