

DOUBLE VISION

PARTNERS RYAN BROWN AND DIEGO MONCHAMP
TRANSFORM A 1960s HOLLYWOOD HILLS HOUSE TO REFLECT
THEIR SIGNATURE WARMTH AND SOPHISTICATED STYLE

By Heather John Fogarty Photographed by Matt Wier



Brown and Monchamp designed the armchairs, coffee table and sofa, which is upholstered in a Knoll fabric and sits atop a "Pale Swirl" rug by Paul Smith for The Rug Company. Vintage oars, a solid brass marine lamp and a fishing net lend a nautical note to the room. The couple used custom-fabricated concrete fish-shaped tiles from Arto Brick. A Robert Mauthe painting on aluminum hangs above the sofa.

IT TAKES A SINGULAR HOUSE to lure a couple who have moved 20 times in the past 13 years to drop anchor and stay awhile. For interior designers and California natives Ryan Brown and Diego Monchamp, it was ultimately a 1960s Hollywood Hills home that had the

couple hook, line and sinker. "I was obsessed the moment I saw it," says Brown, a former cast member of Bravo's reality series "Flipping Out" and partner with Monchamp at Brown Design Group in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara. Brown and Monchamp were living in the neighborhood with their 8-year-old daughter, Chloe, when the house came on the market. "We bought it from the family who built and originally owned it," Brown says. "They took care of it wonderfully, but nothing had been upgraded since the '60s. It was like walking into a time capsule."

The couple, who are known for their eclectic but clean residential and commercial interiors, were designing with a very specific end-client in mind: themselves. "In some respects you would think clients would be more challenging," Brown says, laughing. "But doing a house for myself—I eat, breathe and sleep it."

Monchamp and Brown opened up a warren of smaller rooms to create an expansive great room with vaulted ceilings in which they installed a glass wall using vintage factory windows to separate the kitchen from the dining and living areas. Monchamp found the factory windows before they bought the house, and Brown arranged the entire space to accommodate them as well as an expansive farm table that comfortably seats 12. "The dining table is the soul of our home," Brown says. "We entertain a lot. It's the only piece of furniture that has stayed with us in every house."

A masculine, neutral palette presents a warm backdrop for clean lines and organic textures. In the living room, a curvilinear-patterned Paul Smith rug sits beneath a custom sofa and armchairs. The couple replaced the original lava rock around the fireplace with fish-shaped cement tile from Arto Brick, and hung vintage oars above. "I grew up on the coast, so the oars are a reminder of being on the water," Brown says. A vintage nautical lamp used to signal Morse code that Brown found in Amsterdam and a fishing net add another marine layer to the mix.

The master bedroom was inspired by a trip to Bangkok. "We had an awesome, open hotel room that I've never forgotten," Brown recalls. "I don't like a lot of doors and separation, and for us this feels like we're living in a great hotel suite!" A vintage carnival sign depicting a billiard ball acts as a reading light and hangs above a custom bed with a headboard made from hand-stretched leather tiles.

Throughout the space, Danish modern pieces blend seamlessly with eclectic pieces from Etsy and local antique shops as well as finds from trips to Amsterdam, Buenos Aires, Paris and beyond. But will the couple's wanderlust find them relocating again, or are they here for good? "We plan to stay," Brown says. "Of course I always say that and then we move." •

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT Brown added open shelving to the factory windows between the kitchen and the dining room; The couple entertains frequently, and guests help themselves to the bar; Countertops are "Shitake" Caesarstone and Carrara marble, and Schoolhouse Electric factory lights hang above the island; Hand-cast concrete tiles cover the kitchen wall; The range and hood are by Wolf. Vintage Thai temple angels flank the front door, which is designed to let in light but also provide privacy; The front steps are fabricated from Athens Grey marble from Ann Sacks. A vintage cabinet by Bert England features a rush bench.







Artist Paul Rusconi used dots of nail polish and acrylic on plexiglass to create *Julia on Lavendar*, the couple's favorite piece of art in their collection. The 13½-foot solid teak farm table sits beneath modern Sputnik pendants that Brown discovered on Etsy. The chairs are vintage teak and leather by Hans Wegner.



The master bedroom suite was inspired by a spacious hotel room. Brown and Monchamp designed the bed, complete with a headboard of handmade leather tiles. A vintage carnival sign of a billiard ball features lightbulbs that double as reading lights.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP In the bathroom, Schoolhouse Electric sconces, Wetstyle soaking tub and Watermark Designs fixtures; the master bedroom's "Serpent" rug is by Kelly Wearstler for The Rug Company. A vintage teak desk by Svend A. Madsen. A vintage 1960s brass Sputnik pendant hovers over a vintage French marble cafe table in the master closet.

