

# THE MAGIC TOUCH

SFA Design conjures up Parisian glamour atop the W Hollywood

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**OPPOSITE PAGE:** sconces from Lawson-Fenning illuminate a custom-painted powder room. **THIS PAGE:** The stunning living room design centers around a coffee table by Candelabra.





**TRANSFORMING A CAVERNOUS** space into an elegant penthouse with the grandeur of a Parisian apartment while also incorporating the laid-back comforts of Southern California living takes a magic touch. Luckily, interior designer Kara Smith of SFA Design has it in spades.

The apartment, one of five that Smith designed in the building, is perched at the top of the W in Hollywood (although it has no affiliation with the hotel). If the setting seems worthy of a debonair spy with an English accent, chalk it up to Smith's experience designing for the family of legendary movie producer Albert Broccoli, famed creator of many James Bond films. Smith, who also designed the Viceroy L'Ermitage Beverly Hills Hotel and florist to the stars Eric Butterbaugh's blossom-drenched atelier, is no stranger to creating celeb-worthy design.

"We made it a large open area with smaller spaces that spilled into each other to counterbalance the home's imposing length, a solution that ended up

creating a more functional design," Smith explains. They installed an entryway at the midpoint, an expansive open-plan living room, and a dining room and kitchen that undulates into a family retreat, creating a sumptuous master sanctuary. It's balanced on the opposite side by two luxury bedroom suites.

Juxtaposed against a panorama of the iconic Hollywood Hills that stretches across the entire apartment, the home's design seduces with an understated mix of elegant materials and sensual textures. Rustic herringbone floors and custom-blackened stainless steel and glass doors are nods to the space's raw underpinnings. NanaWall windows roll back to invite in the view. High-gloss lacquer finishes and ornate moldings provide an unexpected yet pleasing tension. Custom furnishings, many courtesy of SFA Design, seduce with tactile curves and Art Deco details that could have been pulled from Hollywood's golden age. As Bond said in *Goldfinger*: "Ingenious and useful too."

**TOP:** The SFA team designed a custom black and white kitchen.  
**OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP:** The Welles Glass Chandelier by Gabriel Scott hangs above a Plinto Y2W dining table by Meridiani. **BOTTOM, LEFT:** Sculptural elements can be found throughout including a vintage brass object from Coup D'Etat and a desk lamp by David Weeks.  
**MIDDLE:** A black and white striped Avro rug sits below a chaise in the master bedroom. **RIGHT:** The Cupid tub by Avo sits below a bold, geometric chandelier by Noir Lex.

