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MASS STUDIO REVIVES A
HOLLYWOOD HILLS HOME

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LOS ANGELES

POWER PLAY

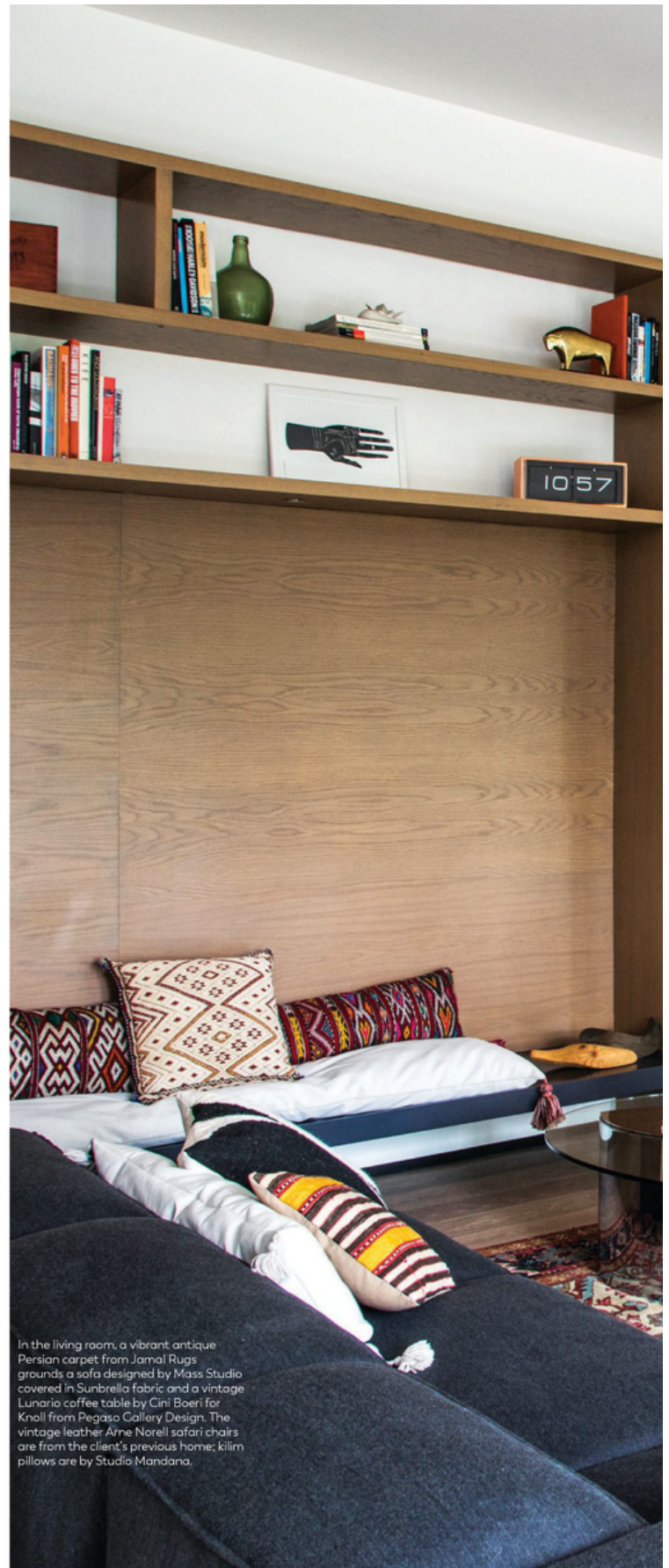
MASS STUDIO'S SAFURA SALEK ORCHESTRATES THE VIBRANT RENOVATION OF A HOLLYWOOD HILLS HOME FOR A MUSIC BUSINESS EXECUTIVE.

By Abigail Stone

Photography by Betheny Nauert

"Originally he only wanted to update the kitchen, bathrooms and pool area," explains architectural designer Safura Salek, recalling inaugural conversations with her client, Power Music CEO Daniel Hubbert, about his vision for the hillside residence. "But I don't really work that way. I like to envision the entire project as whole." Salek, who worked with Commune Design before teaming up with her sister Sanam to launch Mass Studio in 2011, immediately saw the home's potential. The stucco structure, a trilevel house with a small guest bedroom above the main floor and a master bedroom and office on the pool level, was fairly nondescript. "You need something to pop," she observed on her first walk-through, "because there's nothing in this house that pops."

It turns out the snow-white corner home, built in 1948, had been constructed over another building. At least two prior renovations had resulted in a mishmash of styles and quirky architectural details—such as the quartet of Juliet balconies off the living room—that immediately caught Salek's eagle eye. "I said, 'You're a bachelor; you want to have people over. There's no room to do anything in [the balconies].'" To compensate, she suggested he connect the tiny terraces into one large porch that would not only make the balcony more usable, but also act as an extension of the living room and engage the upper level with the lower pool area. "He loved that idea," she says. As they toured the house, she took note of other challenges: The kitchen was cramped; there were doors off the dining room that led nowhere; the pool needed updating; windows needed replacing; the entryway was lackluster. "The entrance, to me, is a very big deal. It's kind of what grabs you." Salek suggested adding a more dynamic entry and ended up custom-



In the living room, a vibrant antique Persian carpet from Jamal Rugs grounds a sofa designed by Mass Studio covered in Sunbrella fabric and a vintage Lunario coffee table by Cini Boeri for Knoll from Pegaso Gallery Design. The vintage leather Arne Norell safari chairs are from the client's previous home; kilim pillows are by Studio Mandana.



A painting by Safura Salek sets the tone in the dining room, which features a custom table and chairs from Thomas Hayes Studio and a carpet from Jamal Rugs. Opposite page, from top: Lounge chairs from Design Within Reach are a soothing counterpoint to the bohemian mosaic pool tiles, custom-designed by Mass Studio; designer Safura Salek stands next to James Bearden's "Mystical Galaxy Chimes" steel metal sculpture, found at JF Chen.

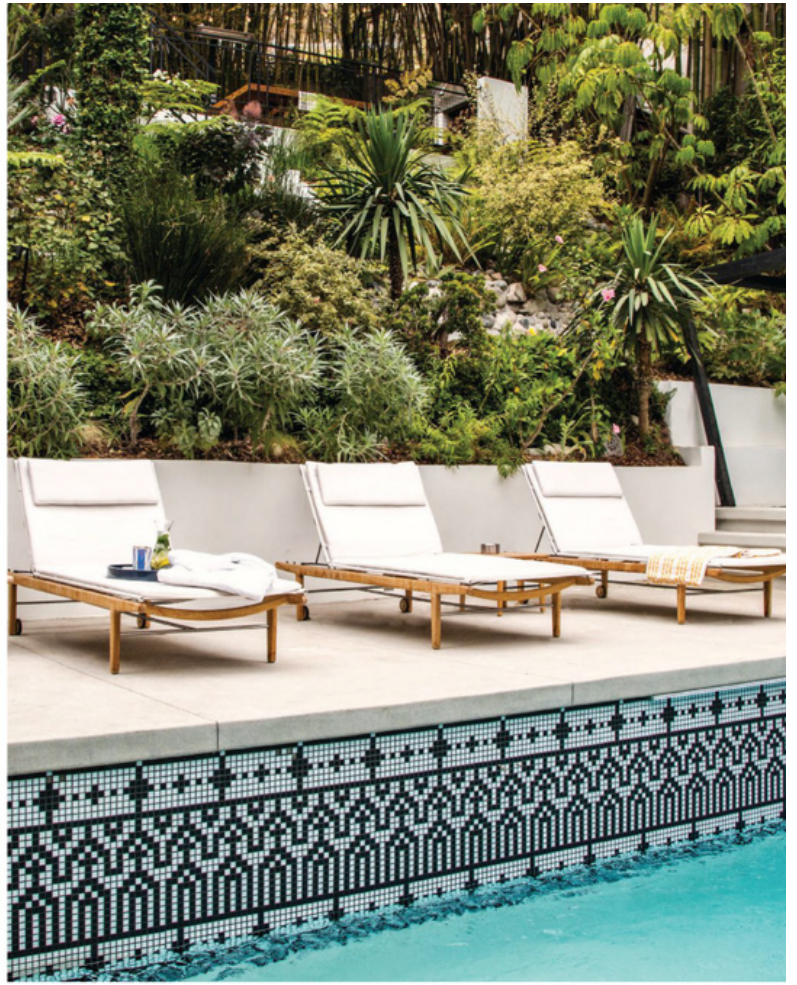


designing a stained glass door to create a strong focal point. The result, which frames geometric panels of glass in unusual color combinations with an Arts and Crafts vibe, hints at the funky-yet-masculine decor hidden within.

Though Hubbert hadn't anticipated tackling a full-scale remodel, he was intrigued by Salek's thoughts and her impeccable solutions. "I told him, 'Listen, everything is designed so that you can pick and choose what you want to do,'" she says. Initially wary, Hubbert relaxed as he saw how her ideas translated into spaces that were not only beautiful, but highly functional and livable as well.

Renovations started in the kitchen, which, in the manner of older homes, was dark, cramped and closed off. "If you were in there, you had no idea what was going on [anywhere else in the house]," says Hubbert. Salek dismantled the wall that separated it from the dining room and erected a peninsula with a waterfall white Caesarstone countertop in its stead, pairing it with custom leather-topped stools from Thomas Hayes Studio. Open oak wood shelving reinforces the lightness of the space; sliding brass-framed panels by Mass Studio add a note of whimsy. Navy lower cabinets keep everything grounded. "Everybody always hangs out in the kitchen, right?" says Hubbert. "And now you have a kitchen that flows seamlessly into the living room and deck."

The veranda, which, per her initial idea, Salek connected into one sleek expanse, not



only relates to the kitchen visually but, paved in the same custom-designed bespoke black-and-white hexagonal cement tiles that cover the kitchen floor, stylistically as well. With the new French doors flung open, it magnifies the square footage of the living room. "You've got the pool people down below and the other people that don't want to get into the pool are up here, so you kind of have dual parties going on," says Hubbert. "People can talk to each other, so it's pretty cool."

Surprisingly, given the home's many open and welcoming spaces, Hubbert's favorite room is the library, a slender room right near the entrance, filled with books and art, painted in Benjamin Moore's Hunter Green. "I have my coffee in there every morning, read the news, relax," he says, "and it's the room that ends most parties. I've had 15 people in that room. They sit on the floor and hang out and everyone's really happy. There's something about that space—it's small—but with the books and the vibe and everything, you don't even want to crank up the music, you want it really low so you can have a conversation. It's a



really special room.” A custom leather-upholstered sliding door hides it from public view. “A lot of people don’t even realize it’s there,” says Salek. A cubist brown leather club chair from JF Chen, attributed to Yves Saint Laurent, and a Herman Miller Papa Bear chair by Loft Thirteen add to the room’s warmth and coziness.

The center of the home, the formerly stark white living room, has been warmed up with texture. Unfilled travertine stone slabs highlight the fireplace while a custom shelving unit hides a television behind its hand-brushed sliding brass panel. “We had an argument about whether or not a TV should go in the living room, so this was the compromise between a formal living room and somewhere to watch TV with your friends that’s not your bedroom,” says Hubbert. Though it may be formal, the room is anything but stodgy. A built-in bench, pillows by Studio Mandana fashioned from vintage carpets, a plush Salek-designed sofa covered in a soft Sunbrella fabric, and a vintage Lunario coffee table by Cini Boeri for Knoll that seems to float over an antique Persian rug by Jamal Rugs, invite visitors to kick back and relax. “There’ll be a few people by the fire, a few people on the bench, someone on the other side of the table on a pillow and there’s a conversation going on over here, so this is another little area where people gather,” says Hubbert. “I’m all about little conversation corners,” explains Salek. “I like to create little pockets of places where people can have... personal interactions.”



From top: Mass Studio custom-designed the bathroom’s sconces and vanity, while tiles were found at Ann Sacks; Environment’s Edge bed is made up with Matteo linens and sits atop a vintage Moroccan rug from Lawrence of La Brea. Opposite page: An outdoor area shines with Jorge Ferrari-Hardo Butterfly chairs from Circa50, a custom fire pit, dining table and benches from Mass Studio and cushions in red, white and blue Ralph Lauren fabric.





Cabinets painted in Benjamin Moore's Polo Blue shade set the tone in the kitchen, which boasts custom leather-topped bar stools by Thomas Hayes Studio and cement tiles by Mass Studio. Opposite page: Hunter Green paint by Benjamin Moore covers the library walls. Herman Miller's Papa Bear chair is from Loft Thirteen.





These moments are not limited to inside. When it came time to redo the exterior, Salek's genius for fashioning beguiling nooks extended to the home's hardscaping. The jacuzzi is roofed with a pergola; a fire pit in the upper garden, encircled by a built-in lounge, beckons when the evenings turn chilly; and a concrete ledge runs along the length of the pool, the perfect perch for sipping midafternoon cocktails. "On weekends, there's a bunch of people just hanging out here, and we'll put on the outdoor TV or listen to music," says Hubbert. With the help of Salek and the client, Terremoto Design streamlined the landscaping, emphasizing the angular lines of the home's

architecture and softening the steep hillside with lacy ferns and a riot of rosebushes. The backyard's original trio of tall palm trees tower over the entry level's outdoor kitchen and dining deck and bring a touch of shade to the newly squared-off pool, with its bold black-and-white-tiled mosaic, another Salek touch.

"Even when you have a lot of people here," says Hubbert, who's still getting used to having the home people want to hang out in, "you have a vantage point of seeing everyone at one point or another from any angle... you feel like everyone's close by even though they're far away." We'll bet his bachelor days are numbered. ■



DESIGN DETAILS

RESIDENCE

Single-family home

LOCATION

Hollywood Hills

REMODEL, INTERIOR DESIGN & CUSTOM DECOR

Mass Studio
mass-studio.net

CONTRACTOR

Luxe Built
luxebuilt.com

OUTDOOR LANDSCAPING

Terremoto Design
terremoto.la

VENDORS

ANN SACKS

Bathroom tile
annsacks.com

BENJAMIN MOORE

Interior paint (Hunter Green & Polo Blue)
benjaminmoore.com

DESIGN WITHIN REACH

Poolside lounge chairs
dwr.com

EMPIRIC

Custom bar and lights in dining room
empiricstudio.com

GALERIE SOMMERLATH

Vintage credenza in bedroom
galeriesommerlath.com

HEATHER ASHTON DESIGN

Custom outdoor chairs on balcony
heatherashtondesign.com

JAMAL RUGS

Vintage Persian carpets
jamrug.com

J.F. CHEN

Leather club chair in library; James Bearden "Mystical Galaxy Chimes" sculpture in living room
jfchen.com

LOFT THIRTEEN

Herman Miller chair and ottoman in library; custom desk in office
loftthirteen.com

MATTEO

Bedding in master bedroom
matteohome.com

MIELE

Kitchen appliances
miele.com

THOMAS HAYES STUDIO

Table and chairs in dining room; bar stools in kitchen
thomashayesstudio.com