



NO DELUSIONS

DESIGNER SHELDON HARTE DESIGNS HIS OWN HOME IN PALM SPRINGS

TEXT BY KAVITA DASWANI | PHOTOGRAPHY BY TREVOR TONDRO



such as Raymond Strapens, Tony DeLap, and John M. Miller.

“We wanted a home that was comfortable, livable, and attractive, so our art would be showcased,” said Harte. “We didn’t want the interiors to compete with the art. The art had to be the shining star.”

Still, Harte knows the demands he puts on himself when designing for his roster of clients, and had the same approach when working on his own home.

“We have so much at our fingertips,” he said. “I also have a husband who says, ‘I don’t do this. I can barely pick out socks. Do whatever you want to do.’ So it’s always an adventure.”

The couple primarily uses the home on weekends, and enjoy entertaining there. Harte selected lighting - such as a Paul Ferrante pendant in the living room - that was hung in such a way so as not to obstruct the spectacular mountain views. The overall aesthetic is modern and contemporary, with each piece was carefully chosen for the way it might enrich the space, and rugs from Woven in the La Cienega Design Quarter to anchor it all. There are some quirky pieces, like a striking chair covered in a thick, furry fabric gifted to the couple by Combs’ aunt.

“We call it the Cousin It chair,” said Harte, referencing the hairy character from *The Addams Family* franchise.

Otherwise, much of the furniture was designed and custom-made by Harte; the four-poster bed in the master bedroom is made of chrome, with bed linens from Barbara Martin in Indian Wells. It was designed by Harte, whose client had it made as a wedding gift for the couple. The linen insets in the Paul Ferrante dining chairs were hand-painted by Harte’s brother. The master bathroom features grasscloth wallpaper with customized embroidery from Crezana, and a 17th-century Italian torso anchors a cozy outdoor seating area beyond the bathroom. Given the extent of the couple’s entertaining, creating an inviting outdoor space was crucial; Harte brought in a table and teak chairs from Restoration Hardware and host chairs from Formations in Los Angeles.

“We just wanted to be sure that all the spaces were geared towards entertaining, that they were comfortable and welcoming. It’s really a great house.” CH

SHELDON HARTE HAD NO delusions about what it was going to be like designing his own home from the ground up.

“It was hell,” said the acclaimed interior designer, founder, and principal of Laguna Beach firm Harte Brownlee & Associates. “I’m the worst client.”

Harte was referencing the approximately 4,000 square foot Palm Springs house that he

and his husband, John Combs, bought four years ago. They purchased the property just as the ground was being broken, allowing them to customize the open-plan, single-story home to their specifications. When it came to conceptualizing the interior spaces, top of mind was maintaining a mostly neutral background, allowing the couple to highlight its extensive collection of mainly abstract black-and-white art from renowned artists



Harte’s and Comb’s interest in art spreads to the outdoors, where a Robert Kuo grasshopper climbs a wall next to a 17th-century marble torso from Italy. The dog sculpture and furniture are from Formations.



ABOVE Harte likes to design custom furniture, and the oak dining table, with cerused sides, is his creation. Chairs and pendant light are from Paul Ferrante, draperies are Cowtan & Tout, and the woven shades are from Conrad.

OPPOSITE Marcello Villano Landscape Design envisioned the outdoor terrain around the pool and pool house, where a Paulden Evans abstract painting on aluminum and seating area are cloaked by draperies with fabric from Perennials.

RIGHT Draperies in a Jim Thompson Bamboozle print frame the views in the master bedroom, anchored by Woven's fur Tulu rug. Chrome bed and nightstand were designed by Harte.

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