



# AD

# the style issue

fashion insiders from New York to Nigeria

BEHATI PRINSLOO & ADAM LEVINE find their groove in Los Angeles

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# COOL OPERATORS

Australian model *Jessica Hart* calls on longtime friend *Carlos Mota* to fashion an exuberant Los Angeles residence for her growing family

TEXT BY CARLY OLSON PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN

Diana,  
Thank you  
for helping bring  
our home to  
life  
Jess &  
James

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY CASEY GORE USING CHARLOTTE TILBURY AND LUMA BEAUTY AT THE WALL GROUP

MODEL JESSICA HART (WEARING A VINTAGE T-SHIRT AND DENIM SKIRT) AND ENTREPRENEUR JAMES KIRKHAM (WEARING AN AMIRI SHIRT AND SHORTS AND GOOD ART HLYWD JEWELRY), A FORMER RACE-CAR DRIVER, IN THEIR GARAGE WITH A FERRARI 348 AND A MERCEDES-BENZ AMG GT R. FASHION STYLING BY MARY INACIO. FOR DETAILS SEE RESOURCES.



A VINTAGE GLASS GATE OPENS OFF ONE END OF THE KITCHEN, WHICH IS PAINTED A FARROW & BALL YELLOW. VINTAGE SPANISH CEILING LIGHTS; WOLF RANGE.



A MEXICAN RAFFIA LAMP FROM JF CHEN HANGS IN THE BREAKFAST NOOK, AND MOROCCAN BASKETS FROM CREEL AND GOW ADORN THE WALLS. THE VINTAGE WICKER CHAIRS ARE CUSHIONED WITH A CLARENCE HOUSE VELVET.

FLOYD, THE FAMILY'S YORKSHIRE TERRIER, PERCHES ON A VINTAGE DINING CHAIR. THE WALLS ARE SWATHED IN A WALLPAPER DESIGNED BY CARLOS MOTA FOR PIERRE FREY, AND FARROW & BALL'S CALKE GREEN COLORS THE CEILING. CABANA PLATES AND TABLECLOTH: NATURAL WOVEN MAURITANIAN RUG.



HART, WEARING A TORY BURCH DRESS, TURTLENECK, AND SNEAKERS, AND KIRKHAM (WITH BABY), IN A RHUDE SHIRT AND GALLERY DEPT. PANTS, IN THE LIVING ROOM. ARTWORK BY RICHARD PRINCE FEATURING HART AT LEFT; LEOPARD-PRINT CARPET BY PATTERSON FLYNN MARTIN. FLOWERS HERE AND THROUGHOUT BY ERIC BUTERBAUGH.

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ften, friends make the best collaborators. So for Australian model and Luma Beauty founder Jessica Hart and seasoned interiors editor, stylist, and designer Carlos Mota, a decorating partnership was a long time coming.

"I've just always really admired Carlos's taste and love for all things colorful and amazing," says Hart.

The pair rolled with the same social circles for years in New York City and even traveled to India. But it wasn't until Hart geared up for a cross-country move that their stars aligned for a project together. When Mota caught wind that she was giving up her glamorous Gramercy Park apartment (*AD*, September 2017) for a Spanish-style house in the Hollywood Hills, he immediately offered up his services. "I said, 'When you move to L.A., I would love to help,'" Mota recalls.

Things quickly fell into place. Hart decamped from New York to create a home with now-fiancé James Kirkham, a creative entrepreneur and former race-car driver, and his young daughter Wren, who lives with the couple part-time. She and

Mota set up meetings to discuss the vision for the layered, bohemian home. The pair pored over sample fabrics. Custom tiles were put into production.

But when COVID hit, around the same time the renovation started, everything came to a standstill. Hart found out she was expecting her first child, and Mota was hunkered down on the opposite coast indefinitely. "I mean, it was a scary time," Hart says. "I just found out I was pregnant. And my main priority was getting this house to where it needed to be."

It turned out that Mota had no choice but to design the home entirely from afar. (He didn't even set foot on the property until days before the *AD* shoot.) Instead of in-person visits, the friends exchanged countless photos and videos.

It helped that Hart and Kirkham were more hands-on than Mota's average clients. Hart would text Mota photos of furniture she found online, and he'd weigh in. When it wasn't yet safe for contractors to come back to work, Kirkham built the closet cabinetry, painted rooms, and rewired lights. He even learned to weld, thanks to the equipment at his body shop and instructional YouTube videos, building an iron gate that's seven feet tall for their yard. "I felt like he did just as much as the contractors eventually did," says Hart. "It all kept coming together one step at a time."

RICHARD PRINCE.



OPPOSITE THE PRIMARY BEDROOM'S WALLS ARE CLAD IN A CUSTOM CASAMOTA FABRIC FROM INDIA. VINTAGE BAMBOO BED; CUSTOM LAMPS BY CASA ALFARERA SANTO DOMINGO; ARMCHAIRS FROM NICKEY KEHOE; VINTAGE CHINESE TABLE. THE CEILING LIGHT IS FROM CIRCA LIGHTING, AND THE RUG WAS FOUND IN HYDRA, GREECE.

RIGHT A WALL COVERED IN A SCALAMANDRE PAPER DEFINES THE PRIMARY BATH. TUB BY MTI BATHS; RICHARD PRINCE PORTRAIT. BELOW BABY'S ROOM FEATURES A PINK-PAINTED BED BY CRATE AND KIDS IN D. PORTHAULT LINENS. WINDOWS DRESSED WITH COVERINGS FROM THE SHADE STORE. 1960s BRASS ARMCHAIR; MUSHROOM LAMP BY ATELIER MVM.



Slowly, the vision began to reveal itself. A combination of Moroccan, Turkish, and Italian design influences, the global mélange is held together by stripes and botanical patterns throughout.

Mota devised a combination of patterned wall coverings and graphic stripes to replace the home's white walls. "I love stripes, and I've always loved them on ceilings," he declares, a nod to Gio Ponti homes of the 1950s. Even the floors of the living and dining rooms got the punched-up treatment with a painted-on diamond pattern overlaid with Mauritanian flat-weave rugs. (Javier Sánchez created the house's vibrant, painted effects.)

**SWATHED IN A MUSTARD YELLOW** and accented with a stained-glass gate that Hart found leading to the laundry room, the kitchen, too, boasts no shortage of decorative elements. "I like to create kitchens that feel more like rooms," Mota says, eschewing the typical gadgets and slick surfaces of modern kitchens to maintain the artistic spirit of the home.

The adjacent breakfast room is a case study in coziness. Hart considers the "basket room," wrapped in a cane wall covering, one of her favorite spaces in the house. "L.A. is so bright, you have really great weather all year round, so I wanted to make that room kind of moody," Mota explains.

For the primary bath, Hart wanted something pink and girly but still in line with the ornate decorative themes of the common spaces. Mota dug through his treasure trove of samples for the wall covering he envisioned—a Scalamandré pattern based on an Iznik-tiled mural at the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul. "Any decorator will tell you they have a library, you know," he says. To offset the high-ticket panels, Mota dressed only one wall with the print and advised that the others get the painted-stripe treatment.

To furnish the eclectic home, Hart and Mota gravitated toward vintage pieces, which they mostly hit upon by combing through online auctions and boutiques. Some of Hart's favorite finds from her New York apartment even made their way into the mix, like a suite of wicker armchairs and a black Herman Miller bench. Other pieces are less recognizable. Curtains of a green Clarence House velvet—which formerly adorned the 14-foot windows of her Gramercy Park bachelorette pad—now upholster the wicker armchairs. And fabric from her old closet covers a bench in the breakfast room.

Today, with daughter Baby born—and a new baby on the way—the arduous process is finally becoming history. "I had no initial expectation; I just knew it would be great with Carlos," Hart says. "I just trusted him and took his lead." ▀



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**"I've just always really admired Carlos's taste and love for all things colorful and amazing," says Jessica Hart.**



IN THE LIVING ROOM, VINTAGE WICKER SEATING CLUSTERS AROUND THE COCKTAIL TABLE. A CUSTOM MUSTARD CERAMIC LAMP FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC STANDS IN THE CORNER. OPPOSITE MOTA DESIGNED THE BESPOKE TILES THAT SURROUND THE LIVING-ROOM FIREPLACE. VINTAGE JANSEN DAYBED; CUSTOM PAINTED FLOOR BY JAVIER SANCHEZ.



# design notes

THE DETAILS THAT MAKE THE LOOK



THE PRIMARY BATH FEATURES A VANITY CONVERTED FROM A VINTAGE DRESSER.

TOPKARI GARDEN WALLPAPER BY NICOLETTE MAYER; TO THE TRADE. SCALAMANDRE.COM

LINDEN TABLE LAMP BY KELLY WEARSTLER FOR VISUAL COMFORT; \$949. CIRCALIGHTING.COM

“We tried to be conscious and sustainable and reuse as much as we could and not buy anything too new.”  
—Jessica Hart

EMERALD-AND-PEARL-WHITE YORUBA GLASS-BEAD CHAIR; \$2,644. DAR-LEONE.COM



SHROOM LAMP BY ATELIER MVM; \$3,500. NICKEY KEHOE.COM

CANAIMA PANORAMIC WALL COVERING BY CARLOS MOTA FOR PIERRE FREY; TO THE TRADE. PIERREFREY.COM



JAIPUR MIRROR BY RILEY SHEEHY FOR FLEUR HOME; \$2,100. FLEURHOME.COM



INTERIORS: DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN. ALL OTHERS COURTESY OF THE COMPANIES.

MAURITANIAN TUAREG MAT; \$9,800. BAZARDUSUD.COM



BASKETS; FROM \$50. KAZIGOODS.COM



A JAPANESE LACQUERED TABLE FROM JF CHEN ANCHORS THE LIVING ROOM.



“This is truly like a global house—without ever leaving L.A.”  
—Carlos Mota

THE DINING TABLE IS ADORNED WITH TORY BURCH GLASSES, JULISKA FLATWARE, PLATES AND A TABLECLOTH FROM CABANA, AND VINTAGE MONKEYS FROM THAILAND.

BAMBOO BED; \$9,350. BUNNYWILLIAMSHOME.COM



MOROCCAN POM-POM BEDSPREAD; FROM \$400. CREELANDGOW.COM



PRESSED-GLASS WATER GLASS; \$148 FOR A SET OF FOUR. TORYBURCH.COM

BAMBOO FLATWARE; \$145 FOR A FIVE-PIECE PLACE SETTING. HUDSONGRACESF.COM

BLOSSOM DESSERT PLATE BY CABANA MAGAZINE; \$89. MODAOPERANDI.COM

