

VOGUE

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THE GOLDEN YEAR OF
Mona Zaki

STYLE AND PURPOSE: HOW FASHION WILL LOOK IN 2021

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STAR QUALITY

The Los Angeles home of Martyn Lawrence Bullard is as singular as the renowned interior designer's own style – with a Middle Eastern flavor and a sense of exoticism

Photography DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN Words KARINE MONIÉ



THE FIREPIT AREA IS COVERED IN ENCAUSTIC TILES, WITH THE BUILT-IN BANQUETTE CUSHIONED IN PERFORMANCE VELVET FROM BULLARD'S OWN COLLECTION **OPENING PAGE** IN THE MASTER BATH, THE BRASS TUB IS BY WATERWORKS AND THE VINTAGE CHAIR IS BY PEDRO FRIEDEBERG

British-born, Los Angeles-based interior designer Martyn Lawrence Bullard is accustomed to a life and work surrounded by celebrities. His A-list clientele includes Khloé and Kourtney Kardashian, Tommy Hilfger, Cher, Ellen Pompeo, and Eva Mendes. Among his previous clients is also comedian and television host Craig Kilborn, for whom Bullard designed a house in Los Angeles 20 years ago. That same 1920s Spanish colonial-style, 560 sqm property with a large garden has become his. “When it came on the market I knew the home and I knew I wanted it,” Bullard shares. “I spent a year redesigning the house, removing some walls, adding a new kitchen and dressing room, and redoing all the bathrooms.”

Located in Hollywood Hills, it has been the designer’s main residence since August 2019. With four bedroom suites, three reception rooms along with a bar, a screening room, and an open-plan kitchen, it is perfect for entertaining. “My home offers me many places to relax and rejuvenate. It is also a wonderful

“Green is my FAVORITE color. I adore how it pulls the OUTDOORS IN and always makes spaces feel fresh and bright”

RIGHT THE TENTED SCREENING ROOM WITH TABLES FROM MLB ATELIER, A CHANDELIER BY JASON KOHARIK, 1970S BRASS PALM WALL SCULPTURES FROM GUINEVERE, AND ARTWORKS BY RUVEN AFANADOR





entertaining space and has allowed many fun parties and dinners within the spaces, both indoors and out,” Bullard says. “All the rooms are decorated to lounge in and are designed for my absolute comfort; the same rules I apply to my clients’ designs.”

The designer chose a background palette of black and white on which he layered his favorite hues: green, jade, eggplant, gray, and desert rose. “All tones I feel have both drama and soothing abilities that balance my home and create an individual interior,” he explains. “Green is my favorite color, it makes me happy. I adore how it pulls the outdoors in and always makes spaces feel fresh and bright.” The custom-designed large green chaise sofas in the living room particularly exemplify Bullard’s style. “They are stylish statement pieces that are firstly comfortable and secondly make the perfect design expression that is both unusual and highly functional,” he says.

In all the nooks, different elements showcase what the designer likes and what his life is about, including his collection of photographs and a Jason Koharik chandelier in the screening room. “Lighting is an important part of my interiors, so I have special conversation pieces in my home that provide much character and warmth,” he shares. Every decision was carefully made, such as the selection of materials that directly respond to the place. “Since I live in a predominantly hot climate, I chose a lot of natural textures,” Bullard notes. “Woven and printed linens mix with cotton velvets and embroidered raw slub silk.”

Deeply inspired by travels, the interior designer has shopped around the world, from Morocco, Turkey, and India to Italy,

France, and the UK, sourcing unique and unexpected objects. “The house exudes personality, offers a warm welcome to all who visit, and its underlying Moorish flavor creates a sexy, comfortable ambience,” says Bullard. “I think it adds magic, mystery, luxury, and depth to whatever design it touches, from the most modern to the most traditional,” he says.

“It is a reflection of my evolving tastes as well as a window into my decorative soul and British-inherited influences. However, it’s also my experiment pad and a place to try things out and mix and match in a way that I can later use in a client’s design or interior.”

Also passionate about the Middle Eastern aesthetic and in particular its use of pierced screens, low seating groups, beautiful lighting, and lush textures, Bullard incorporates these references in the spaces he creates, including his home. “There is a great mystery somehow to this style and it conjures immense romance in the imagination, from the arabesque

TOP LEFT MARTYN LAWRENCE BULLARD IN THE ENTRANCE OF HIS LOS ANGELES HOME **TOP RIGHT** BOLD PATTERNS AND COLORS CHARACTERIZE THE ECLECTIC HOUSE **ABOVE** CUSTOM CABINETRY BY CHRISTOPHER PEACOCK, WITH PENDANTS BY BULLARD FOR CORBETT LIGHTING. THE MOROCCAN TILE IS FROM ZELLIJ GALLERY

shapes so often used to the interlocking patterns, and how the Middle East designers today and over the centuries have never been scared of color or mixing and layering patterns,” he says. “I try to emulate that in my work and will often be inspired by rooms of the past, including elements from Egypt, Morocco, Syria, and Turkey. All these flavors play a part in the Middle Eastern allure and decorative palettes.”

The interior designer’s home represents his own eclectic style, echoing the way he dresses. “I love tailoring mixed with more casual clothes, such as a fine cashmere jacket with a T-shirt and cargo pants,” he says. “My look can change daily, suited to my mood, switching from a Saint Laurent leather jacket and jeans to a Tom Ford smoking jacket and velvet waistcoat. I’m never afraid of color and texture and adore accessorizing with men’s jewelry pieces, especially vintage and antique items from my collection.”

In the coming months, Bullard will launch new collections – tiles, lightings, and wallpapers, among others – including his SV Casa accessories line in the Middle East. In the meantime, his never-ending list of projects keeps him extremely busy. “I am currently finishing the Four Seasons Residences in LA, a desert mansion for Cindy Crawford, a ranch for Gwen Stefani, a Malibu beach house for Ellen Pompeo, a Beverly Hills estate for RuPaul, a country castle in Ireland for a landed gentry family, a Mediterranean villa for an internet billionaire, and a Palm Beach mansion for a fashion mogul,” he shares. As for his own house, Bullard already knows that his passion for finding new homes will lead him to move one day. “It keeps me inspired,” he expresses. □



TOP IN THE BAR, VINTAGE JEAN ROYÈRE STOOLS, WALLPAPER BY BULLARD FOR COLE & SON, AND A PHOTOGRAPH OF ANDY WARHOL, EDIE SEDGWICK, AND KEITH HARING AT STUDIO 54 BY STEVE SHAPIRO **ABOVE** IN THE MASTER BEDROOM, THE BED, NIGHTSTANDS, RUG, AND FOOTSTOOL ARE BY MLB ATELIER. THE 1960S SWEDISH LAMPS ARE FROM LES TROIS GARÇONS **LEFT** A PAIR OF ANDY WARHOL'S SUNSETS IN A LIVING ROOM WALL FLANKED BY 1950S ITALIAN CHAIRS. THE MARBLE SIDE TABLE IS MANGIAROTTI AND THE FLOWERS ARE ARRANGED IN A VINTAGE JOUVE POTTERY VASE



A CORNER OF THE MASTER BEDROOM IS FILLED WITH AN IMAGE OF ELIZABETH TAYLOR AS CLEOPATRA BY BERT STERN. THE CHAISE IS A CUSTOM MARTYN LAWRENCE BULLARD DESIGN AND THE FUR THROW IS FENDI CASA

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