



The eastern Mediterranean marble head of a man is first century B.C. Molecule Men, a contemporary artwork by Jonathan Borofsky (on Lexan, a bullet proof acrylic) hangs in a small hallway that links the living room and foyer. OPPOSITE Travertine marble floors; two elegant, yet whimsical sconces from Michael Taylor Designs and a pair of antique chairs from Italy in the foyer. Roses throughout the house are from Rose Story Farm in Carpinteria.



Sense & Sensibility

Los Angeles Designer Mark Weaver's
Weekend Retreat In Montecito
Reflects Style, Comfort And Elegance

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“I like to mix modern
with antiques.” — *Mark Weaver*



Perhaps Mark Weaver's best calling card is his own retreat: a study in elegant simplicity. The Los Angeles based interior designer is a master of editing; possessing a superb eye and knowing exactly how many pieces to use in a space, or on a table or ledge, thereby guaranteeing each and every object appreciation and its proper due. No clutter here, just airy expanses with perfectly arranged, exquisite objects throughout.

"I like things clean," Weaver says in the comfort of his den, "and I like to mix modern art with antiques."

When this busy talent—who travels the globe for, and oft times with, his clients—takes time to slow down, he heads ninety miles north of Beverly Hills to his second home in Montecito. It's easy to imagine Weaver taking a deep, relaxing breath as he arrives at the quiet lane, where dappled light plays from a canopy of California oaks and noble olive trees frame the house that exemplifies classical elegance with an edge.

OPPOSITE A 19th century "grisaille" (monochromatic paintings in shades of gray used to decorate walls and ceilings) of an imaginary scene in an architectural setting hangs above the living room sofa by Weaver, influenced by an Ionian daybed at the J. Paul Getty Museum.

A Grand Tour collectible statue adorns the coffee table. ABOVE LEFT Sunlight pours into the spacious living room enhanced by tall glass doors that open into one of several garden spaces. The patio off the living room becomes an extension of Southern California living: lunch in the gardens occurs year round in Santa Barbara style due to the Mediterranean climate. ABOVE RIGHT A 19th century French terracotta urn and Rain Mountain by Isamu Noguchi provide focal points for the eye.





With numerous design projects in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, as well as those as far afield as Hawaii, London, Italy, Aspen, Nantucket and New York, it's no surprise that Mark Weaver always wanted a "little villa" escape of his own.

An Isamu Noguchi sculpture in the garden, hanging Pompeian oil lamps in the living room and a Japanese maple by the sunken marble tub create an aura of tranquility in Weaver's weekend getaway. It's a seamless blend of Greek, Italian, Egyptian and contemporary design elements.

"It's better to have a few well selected pieces," says Weaver, a founding member of MOCA, Los Angeles' Museum of Contemporary Art, "so that every place you look, there is something unique, special, exciting or challenging. Even a piece of art or furniture that you think might not necessarily fit in can sometimes add more of an edge to a room." Contemporary art by Richard Serra and Jonathan Borofsky serve as perfect examples of this philosophy.

OPPOSITE The dining table was designed by Weaver and constructed in Italy from antique tiles and mosaics; red and black ancient Greek Attic pottery carefully placed in the shelves was collected during various travels. Chairs from Michael Taylor Designs. ABOVE LEFT The neat, tailored kitchen is an exercise in simplicity and functionality. Four Italian balustrades sit on the kitchen counter. TOP RIGHT The garden area off the master bedroom provides a cool, inviting rest area.




Scale, balance and proportion are critical, says Weaver, and an appreciation of classical buildings infuses his sensibility. “The Greeks had a great sense of scale and proportion. It’s about creating balance and a sense of harmony in a room.”

The native Southern Californian designer, like his rooms, is elegant, but not stuffy. He likes to be artistically “pushed and challenged” and raves about his wonderful clients. Indeed, many of them have become dear friends over the years.

Inspired by Japanese gardens, great architecture, nature and rooms that open out to gardens and views, Weaver grew up in a small town with limited cultural offerings. Running as fast as possible to Los Angeles, he studied design, worked for

a designer for one year, then opened his own business. Thirty-five years later, Weaver oversees a staff of six with an office conveniently located in the heart of Los Angeles’ La Cienega-Melrose design, art and antiques district.

“Eighty percent of our business is from repeat customers,” he notes, and although Weaver cites his personal taste as leaning toward an eclectic mix of modern and traditional styles, when working with a client he likes to discover what interests and amuses them, in order to reflect their own lifestyle and tastes in their surroundings.

Perhaps they’d be best following his sage advice and good taste. Isn’t that what a superb interior designer is for? 



LEFT The walnut bed frame, designed by Mark Weaver, flanked by two Japanese screens, linens by E. Braun, and bronze Giacometti lamps get rave reviews from guests. Natural elements—rock crystal, amethyst and rose quartz—add to the tableaux. TOP The gardens were designed by noted landscape designer Robert Truskowski. Weaver wanted a garden “in harmony with the creek, indigenous to the environment and drought tolerant.” Designer Mark Weaver holds a succulent plant from his garden. ABOVE A Japanese maple is reflected in a mirror over one of the twin sinks in the cool master bath awash in white Carrara marble.