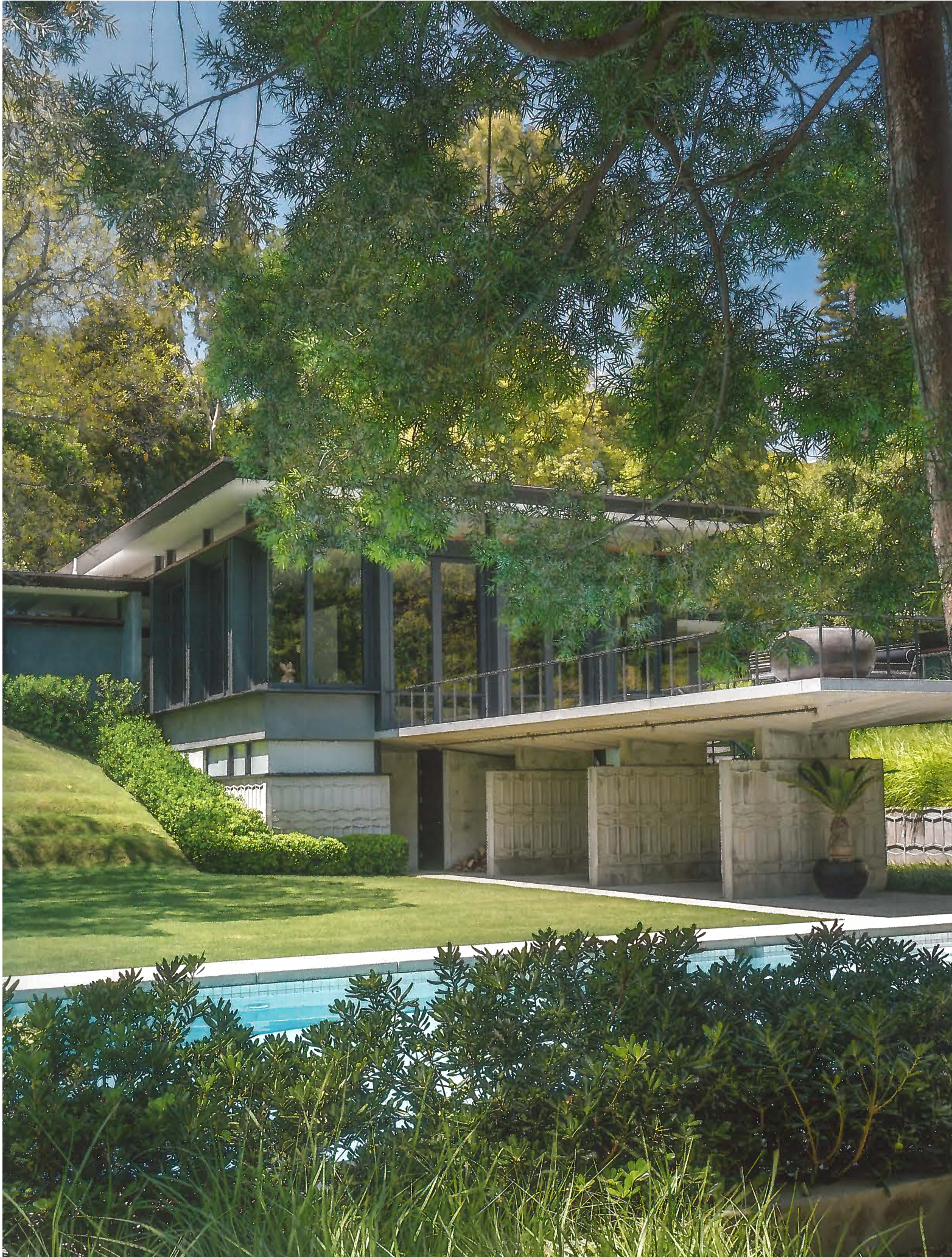


CITY OF ANGELS

Houses and Gardens of Los Angeles



Firooz Zahedi • Jennifer Ash Rudick



BEVERLY HILLS ARCADIA



DIERDRE AND TONY GRAHAM'S DREAM of moving into an arresting mid-century modern house originally designed by Rex Lotery appeared to be dashed when they lost it to another buyer. "My husband wasn't ready to move and it sold while we went back and forth, but we couldn't get it off our minds," says Dierdre. So when the house went back on the market two years later, they pounced. The stylish glass cube, set on a large, cloistered property along one of Beverly Hills' most central and desirable streets, is the kind of place that leaves an indelible impression.

The Grahams set about to restore, but not enshrine, the 1960 house, which was conceived when kitchens and bathrooms were small and closets were not designed with a couple who are considered cornerstones of L.A.'s fashion business in mind. Enter award-winning architect Tim Campbell. "The only way to save these historic houses is to make them relevant. Someone from the Getty told me, 'When I restore a painting, you should not know I was there at all.' That's my goal. I want to improve the structure but I don't want to leave my mark," says Campbell, who performed a surgical intervention on the existing structure and also conceived an addition that would provide a study, a guest room, and a larger kitchen for the family of four. Campbell designed the addition with his typical restraint, setting it a few feet back from the original structure. "The new pavilion sits a little less proud but mindful. I like to think of additions as backup singers," supporting but not overshadowing the original design. He drew inspiration from the huge expanses of glass and the pavilion-style roof, with its deep overhang. "Rex Lotery houses are sexy. The original pavilion with the terrace that extends from it is called the adult playroom. It's very open and designed to show off the fact that people are having a fantastic life. With this design, Lotery wasn't shy, rather, almost voyeuristic." In both the original structure and the addition, enormous windows emphasize indoor-outdoor fluidity; bright rooms merge with shaded terraces, giving way to sleek gardens, the unmistakable work of landscape designer Art Luna.

Opposite and above • Dierdre and Tony Graham's mid-century modern house, originally designed in 1960 by Rex Lotery, emphasizes indoor-outdoor fluidity. The gardens were designed by Art Luna, who sculpted a sloping front lawn into stadium seating bordered by *Pittosporum tobira* hedges.



Top and bottom right •
Honed bluestone pavers lead past a water feature, original to Lotery's design, to the front door. Grasses soften the façade.

Lauded for his hybrid style of free-flowing yet formal gardens, Luna famously honed his craft by shearing Hollywood's most beautiful heads. Clients so admired the garden he created for his salon that they began begging him to design for them. "I always try to bring out the soul of the garden, just like you always try to reflect the soul of a person when you work on their hair," says Luna. The Grahams' garden incorporates resting areas for reflection and unexpected elements such as crystals. Behind the house, winding, stepped paths lead to the top of a hill where an Airstream—installed using a crane—serves as a retreat.

The couple called upon Poonam Khanna to conceive the interior finishes, fixtures, and millwork. She set the tone by using the back sides of bronze slabs for the entrance hall fireplace surround. "I knew Tony and Dierdre would appreciate the rawness of it," says Khanna.

For the décor, the couple turned to an old friend from the fashion business, former buyer, merchandiser, and master of nuance Cliff Fong, who was thriving in his second act as an interior designer. "Tony and Dierdre have great style from top to bottom, and they don't dress or live to impress. They're more about high/low and the unexpected, and they're also very warm, casual, and unfussy. I wanted the house to reflect who they are." To that end, he incorporated vintage ethnic fabrics and African elements, drawing on Tony's heritage. "A few pieces of furniture really brought the house together," including an architectural leather chair from Arne Jacobsen. "It's an example of something that could be precious but treated in a casual way—that's the Grahams."





Award-winning architect Tim Campbell was charged with restoring Rex Lotery's design. In the entrance hall, the sofa and chair are by Tobia Scarpa, the floor lamp is from Vintage Art, and the sculpture is from JF Chen.



Opposite top • In the lower living room of the original structure, or “adult playroom,” as Rex Lotery called it, is an Ox chair by Hans Wegner. The coffee table is by Brian Thoreen and the rug is by Amadi Carpets. A painting by Gary Lang adds a pop of color.

Opposite bottom • In the entrance hall, a Rodney Graham *Inverted Drip Painting* and a Serge Mouille four-arm sconce hang over a Charlotte Perriand cabinet.

Right • Kilim runners from Woven warm up the hallway.

Below • In the library, a Hans Wegner Flag Halyard chair sits next to a small wood side table by Michael Wilson, found at JF Chen. The 1930 Axel Einar Hjorth Uto coffee table was found at Galerie Half.

Overleaf • An Amadi rug lies in front of a built-in sofa covered in cream custom linen. The tripartite anthracite coffee table is by Jim Zivic. An Arne Jacobsen Oksen lounge chair sits in one corner.









Left • A modern sectional Tufty-Time sofa, designed by Patricia Urquiola for B&B Italia, blends with a George Nakashima live-edge coffee table, ca. 1971, found at Galerie Half. The hanging sculpture, *Vintage Pawn Balls*, is from de Vera in New York.

Below • A Hugh Scott-Douglas blue cyanotype print on linen hangs to the right, and Al Taylor's *Helen*, 1976, to the left.



Opposite top • In the dining room, a Rick Owens chandelier hangs over a BDDW table surrounded by vintage Paul Evans sculpted-bronze dining chairs. A narrow mosaic by Joe Conforti runs along two walls.

Opposite bottom • In the kitchen, vintage stools are upholstered in mohair.







Opposite top left • In the master bath, the sheepskin-covered stool is by Paul McCobb.

Opposite top right • A vintage desk and chair by Pierre Jeanneret take center stage in a guest bedroom.

Opposite bottom • The master bedroom is furnished with a pair of nightstands and a sideboard by George Nakashima. The vintage lamps on the nightstands are by Swedish lighting designer Hans-Agne Jakobsson.

Above • In the guest bedroom, a pair of lounge chairs with adjustable backs and leather seats by Kai Lyngfeldt Larsen, found at JF Chen, flank a low, organically shaped wood coffee table by Michael Wilson. Vintage iron, leather, and brass nightstands were found at Hollywood at Home. The lithograph is by Louise Nevelson.



Left • Six concrete chairs by Willy Guhl blend into the landscape and create an intimate seating area.

Below • Large bronze pots on the upper terrace are planted with citrus trees.

Opposite, clockwise from top left • Creeping fig climbs a wall; a long series of wooden steps ascends the steep back yard; Art Luna often incorporates crystals such as these from Belo Horizonte in Malibu into his garden designs to generate positive energy; star jasmine covers a wall in an area of the garden furnished with stone chairs that Tony Graham found in South Africa.



Overleaf • A vintage Airstream was installed by crane in the upper reaches of the property next to an outdoor seating area, creating an enticing retreat.

