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PERFECT BALANCE

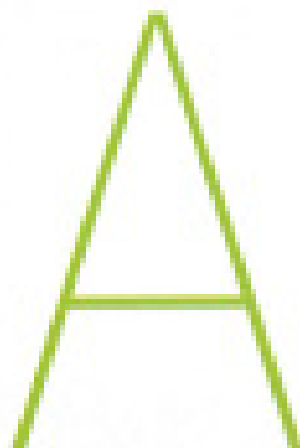


Alexander Miller of Box Design conceived this striking Los Angeles residence to share with his family, acrylic furniture by Paolo Mazzoni and Funtunberg, and two children, distinguishing the forecourt is a spherical chrome fountain (left). Inside, right, the couple in the living area, where a Minotti sofa is grouped with Mazzoni and Funtunberg cocktail table and a vintage Milo Baughman chair; the fireplace surround is Carrara marble. For details see source.

DESIGN DUO ALEXANDRA VON FURSTENBERG AND DAX MILLER COLLABORATE ON A GLAMOROUS LOS ANGELES HOME THAT REFLECTS BOTH HIS ARCHITECTURAL RISK AND HER PLAYFUL SOPHISTICATION

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Islandia was Furstenberg made only one request of her famed architectural designer Dan Miller, regarding the new Los Angeles

house he was devising for them and her two teenage children: She wanted it to have a classic H-shaped layout. "There's something very balanced and efficient about it—everyone gets their own space but remains connected," she says. "It feels like arms that wrap around you."

Now Furstenberg and Miller are big on balance. Introduced by mutual friends in 2004 and engaged three years later, the dashing couple speak about their relationship in the same terms they use to discuss the principles that guided the design of their home: harmony, stability, serenity. The ambience they've managed to conjure in the house—a meditative calm with touches of upbeat whimsy—rests on a carefully calibrated equilibrium.

Their shared passion for architecture, art, and film comes as no surprise given that their professional lives intersect in the arena of design. After a decade in the New York fashion world, notably as the creative director of DVF (the company founded by her former mother-in-law, Diane), Vee Furstenberg moved to L.A. and launched her own namesake brand, specializing in scruffy furniture and home accessories with a decidedly chic edge. Miller, a native Angeleno, is the founder of Dan Design and the mastermind behind a diverse portfolio of residential and commercial projects, ranging from the Hollywood nightclub *Los Bolas* to his father's own L.A. showrooms.

"I envisioned the house as a fusion of our sensibilities," Miller says. "But it's more than just aesthetics. This is a home for our family, a place we want to pass on to the children." Miller describes the residence as a "deconstructed classic American house," with slate-tiled pitched roofs crowning modernist volumes painted white inside and out. "It feels laid-back and intimate, but the spirit is unmistakably current."

The drama of the home's expansive, sunlit interiors unfolds just past the front doors, in the cojoined living/dining room that occupies the heart of the 15,000-square-foot, five-bedroom structure. Matching floorplanks roll across the double-height space—the one to the dining area underscored by a hypocaust Gary Lang painting, 11 feet in diameter, and the other, to the living area, framed by a shallow niche that gives the hearth more presence within the purposely understated wall. Monumental glass doors pivot open to overlook rear courtyard and striking swimming pool beyond, inviting the vacated indoor-outdoor lifestyle that remains Southern California's greatest allure.

Not to ignore the pleasures of the home's decor—a mix of modern classics, contemporary designs, and vintage finds, with a particular emphasis on the work of Mike Baughman. "I absolutely didn't want it to feel as if you were walking into my shop," Vee Furstenberg says. Still, her lineage with scruffy is well represented by, among other vibrant pieces, the living area's supplier-blue cocktail table, the high-pile yellow bookcases that sparkle in her office, and the navy-red console standing in the second-story hallway of the children's wing. The coupleamped up the glamour factor even more in the library, which is lined with black-lacquer shelving backed in gold leaf. Meanwhile, Vee Furstenberg's closet—a fantasy of white leather, gleaming glass, and polished chrome—rivals the most elegant boutiques in coastal luxury. "Dan's attention to detail is extraordinary," she says. "He knew all our needs, and he interpreted them in ways that honestly went beyond any of my expectations."

Once-jawsty flourishes include the David Hicks-inspired carpet that runs along the twin staircases, the Takami Mutsuami pillows in the children's quarters, and the powder-room vanities that look as if they were carved from massive blocks of smoky quartz but are in fact crafted of Carrara stone. In the kitchen, two "offering tray" signs from a Hong Kong airport nod to Vee Furstenberg's childhood in Asia, where her father, Robert Miller (no relation to Dan), cofounded the duty-free business empire DFB.

Tutelage on the interior? Pop-art shows and the collage of the white walls, Vee Furstenberg and

Opposite: A painting by Gary Lang resides above the dining area, which is furnished with a breakfast table by Hudson Furniture and a suite of Dan Design chairs.



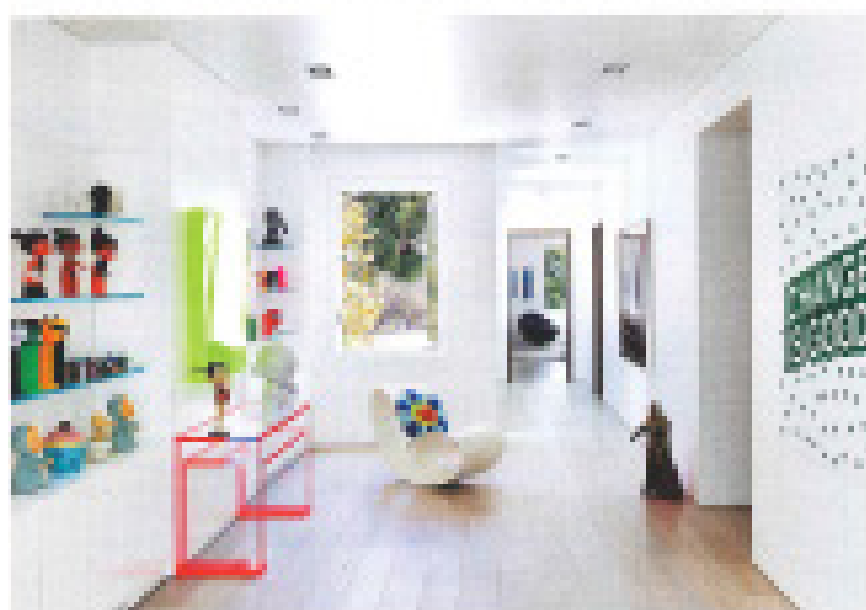


Alcove: The similar glass-and-steel detail on the floor above plays off the right angles that prevail in the double-height living/dining room. Right, roller-designed black-leather bookshelves tucked in gallop for the library, where twin Milo Baughman love seats mingle with an Alexander von Furstenberg cocktail table and Ralph Lauren's home decor—featuring the photograph of rapper J. Lo by David LaChapelle, the circular side table, also by Ralph Lauren Home, is personalized with an Alexander von Furstenberg pink acrylic top, and the carpet is by Kelly Wearstler for the Rug Company.





Decorated from above, von Furstenberg created the sofa, desk, side table, and (in collaboration with Sam Design) dining for her office, which is also outfitted with two Milo Baughman lounge chairs, an Eames desk chair by Herman Miller, a Sam Design cabinet, and a Philippe Starck floor lamp by Flex. The large photograph is by Kim Heaverland and the exact display on view of interior magazines is signed by early architect von Furstenberg. The master suite is decorated by a Ryan McGinness painting and a stainless-steel-on-wood 1960s-style Alti Lamp. A vestibule in the children's wing features a two-wheel rocking chair and an Alexander von Furstenberg acrylic console.





Alison Van Furstenberg took an art as Miller takes a dip in the terrazzo-lined swimming pool; the lounge chairs are by Ballard Furniture.

Miller installed oak floors in a pale driftwoodlike finish throughout the home. Offsetting the angularity of the architecture are occasional sinuous curves. The bathroom, for instance, is centered on a spherical, mirror-finished-chrome fountain, and the linen closet are inset with a circle rendered in polished stainless steel. And then there are the lyrical arabesques of the custom-made Balinese wood screens that grace the meditation room adjacent to the master suite.

"It all goes back to the idea of balance," Miller says. "The house has some fanciful moments, but they never overtake the pervasive sense of tranquility. This is ultimately a very peaceful place."

The construction of the home lasted three and a half years, roughly the same amount of time Miller and Van Furstenberg have been engaged. Now that their dream dwelling is complete, one naturally wonders when wedding bells will chime. To that question the concerned couple will only answer, "Soon." ■



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Right, these high-back J. Wegner chairs by Carl Hansen & Son from Design Within Reach surround a Remastered table in the combined family room and kitchen, which has built-in cabinetry and a circular ceiling light by Balthus. The wall units are by Miele, the cooktop is by Wolf, and the built-in refrigerators are custom wood panels. The room's counters are Carrara marble, and the built-in cabinets are by Alexander von Furstenberg.



clockwise from above: anchoring the master suite is a custom-made bed dressed in Galsworthy Shaggy Linens; building the framed print is by Susan P. Kelley; opposite, from left: Von Furstenberg's Coda features lacquer cabinetry accented with glass, white leather, and chrome; the Mike Dougherty chair is upholstered in a Roma velvet; in the master bath, Casamaster's top handles Bark the shower; the sink and the toilet (RIT) Bath have Oast fittings.

