

with famed literary agent  
**BOB BRODER**  
The Heart of it All



WARM CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES, fresh coffee brewing and a collage of family photos decorating the kitchen's large stainless steel refrigerator. "To me this is what a home is all about," says Cindy Broder of her fridge collage.

A native of Mississippi and the wife of Bob Broder, one of Hollywood's most respected literary agents, Cindy explained that no amount of decorating is a substitute for good hospitality. "It's very important for people to feel comfortable in our home," she says with a slight Southern accent. "Whether it's the person installing the air conditioner or our friends coming over for dinner, I want people to feel welcome as soon as they walk in the front door."

Just off a narrow road and tucked neatly away in the Hollywood Hills, the two-story Spanish and Mediterranean style home is sheltered by trees and surrounded by lush greenery. An assortment of plants and flowers line the driveway and a small stone Buddha greets visitors at the front door. "I love to garden, but this side of the house is the hardest for a green thumb," Cindy says as she surveys the grounds.

Before getting settled into the Broder house no visitor can ignore the playful reception of the home's four most important residents, the Broder dogs: Torry, Katie, Rosser and Calvin. Oh, and don't forget Preston, the cat.

Formerly a spec house, it needed a little character when the Broders moved in almost eight years ago, Cindy says. So they called on decorator Chris Barrett to help make it their own.

Barrett, of Chris Barrett Design, explained the Broder project as a dream job. "Bob is wonderful. He's very straightforward but he's very loving and caring," Barrett says. "And Cindy is just so sincere, she's not the least bit pertinacious, she's just a beautiful person. I think that overall, the house is a huge reflection of who they both are."







With an emphasis on keeping the house comfortable, Barrett worked with the Broders to create a classic yet contemporary feel for the home. "I wanted toile everywhere," Cindy says laughing. "And Bob is more contemporary, so it was interesting how Chris was able to pull this out of us."

Decorated with silver leafing on the ceiling and a stenciled pattern on the walls, a large arched entryway gives the dining room an open feeling. The room is dominated by a large Barrett-designed wood table and an antique mirror that hangs above a wood wine cabinet. Although the room is now one of the Broders' favorites, it was the couple's only real challenge.

"Bob thought we were insane when we proposed the idea of silver leafing," Barrett says.

Cindy chimes in, "he didn't like the idea at all, but he came around and now he loves this room."

A few steps away from the dining room is the formal living room, which was designed around Cindy's love for music. A former piano teacher, Cindy says her grand piano stationed next to the fireplace in the northeast corner of the room became the living room's obvious focal point. The fireplace designed with stone from Cotswall, England, gives the room a more intimate feel and complements the portrait of a Spanish woman hanging on the neighboring wall behind the piano.

Several portraits decorate the walls and Cindy jokes that they are of Cindy and Bob's "fake relatives."

"Bob and I enjoyed going to antique stores and picking out the paintings," she says. "He really likes the portraits and I think they're fun because you wonder what the story is behind them."

The overstuffed couches add to the room's comfortable and easy feel and the large windows offer a lovely view of the backyard. Looking outside, Cindy says she thinks of the yard as another room. "My mom and I went to Italy and we stayed in a pensione and I fell in love with the formal gardens," she says.

Besides working in the garden, Cindy said she and Bob enjoy the benefits of the warm summer months by spending time in what she says is the couple's favorite room, the loggia. Protected by a roof but open by the absence of a wall, it's painted a soft yellow and with its cushioned wicker couches is perfect for reading the Sunday paper. And with a built-in mini-kitchen, it's also the perfect place to entertain guests on a warm summer night by candlelight.

"We spend a lot of time out here together, it's very peaceful," Cindy says. "It's nice to come out here early in the morning with a cup of coffee or after dinner just to relax with friends."

While the Broders both enjoy their time together, each have an office that Barrett designed according to their personality. At the top of the stairs, Bob's room demonstrates a more conservative tone. Barrett created a special piece of furniture to display Bob's

large collection of Kachina dolls. Each cottonwood doll is displayed with its own light.

Although Bob had full reign of how his office was decorated, when asked about some of the decision-making that went into decorating the home in general, he joked that it was Cindy who had the greater influence on the home. "You know the old saying, I'll make all the large decisions and you can make the small ones? Well, so far there haven't been any big decisions," Bob says. He added that while he does spend a fair amount of time in his office, he appreciates the entire home. "I don't have a favorite room. I have a favorite house."

Opening the double glass doors down the hall, the sweet smelling room painted red is Cindy's office. Furnished with a large



bookcase and a desk, the office is decorated with pictures of family and a handmade dog calendar made by a younger family member.

Because of the home's location and each room's exposure to the fresh air, Cindy says she would rather keep the windows open than the air conditioning on. "The fresh air is so nice, we usually get a nice breeze that makes the home very comfortable," she says.

Walking down the stairs and back into her kitchen, Cindy, a former schoolteacher, reminisces of teaching piano and visiting her students' homes. "I always remember this one woman who would make me a cappuccino every time I came to her home. She was so nice and I felt so welcome in her home, and that little gesture meant so much to me," she says. "I want to offer that same hospitality. The biggest compliment I can get is when people say that the house is warm and inviting and that they feel comfortable."

—Jen Evans



THE BRODER HOME IS A wonderful paradigm of elegance and comfort, the combination creates a welcoming and comfortable environment. So what's the Broders' secret? As always, it's the little things that make a big difference. Here are a few suggestions to bring the warmth of the Broders' home to yours.



### FRETTE bed linens

Famed literary agent Bob Broder knows that the most decadent place in your home to indulge in luxury is the bedroom. And when it comes to luxury bed linens, Frette is the name to snuggle up to. Their Spring/Summer collection is inspired by all things Roman, from classical Roman architecture to the colors of the "patina of the past" that emanate from Rome's rich history. The pure linear design of the Essentials Line is perfectly understated, with hand stitched edges, contrasting color inserts, and fine textures that are the epitome of elegance. 459 Rodeo Drive (310)273.8540



### Tommy Bahama Furniture Collection

You don't need a stamp in your passport to achieve a look of casual, worldly décor that decorates every room in the Broder house. Tommy Bahama's Spring 2004 "Traveler's Retreat" collection boasts an entirely unique style. Each piece is created to appear rare, antiquated and well traveled. Accented with detailed carvings and handles that look like they were taken from a beloved piece of luggage, the dark wood Entertainment Center is the perfect focal point for a room that is anything but pretentious. [www.TommyBahama.com](http://www.TommyBahama.com)

### Greg Jordan Throw

This rust-tinted swath of Greg Jordan's signature herringbone pattern is a nice little touch to any space. In fact, created in 100% natural, hand-knit Scottish cashmere, no one will be able to stop themselves from touching or even curling up in this delightfully soft accent to a masculine décor. 8450 Melrose Place (323)653.0526

— Jenn Thompson



### Blackman Cruz ottoman

Whimsical and quirky, Blackman Cruz succeeds once again in "innovating and renovating the modern antique." This smooth leather Hippopotamus Ottoman (named for its playful, bronze hippopotamus feet) is a beautiful and unexpected addition to any living room environment. It adds double the charm of a regular antique without sacrificing an ounce of classic style. 800 North LaCienega (310)657.9228

