

style

All-American style

Cheryl Tiegs
in the
garden of
her Bel
Air home.

After two decades as a globe-trotting model, Cheryl Tiegs settles into the serene life



The great room's 36-foot-high steel columns are clad in stained teak; the ceiling is covered in J. Robert Scott's Madagascar straw. See Resources.

text by WENDY GOODMAN

photography by FERNANDO BENGOCHEA

produced by MIGUEL FLORES-VIANN



"We literally shopped the world"

Even in our celebrity-soaked era, when sneezing in the right company seems to merit front-page news, Cheryl Tiegs's modeling career is hard to fathom. Tiegs, who worked from the late '60s to the mid-'80s, was a groundbreaking cover model for *Glamour*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Seventeen*, and *Sports Illustrated* and was also the first American model to grace the cover of French *ELLE*, all of which landed her contracts with Cover Girl, Clairol, and Sears. Tiegs appeared on the cover of *Time* three times; the March 6,

1978, issue gushed that she was "the nation's muse, our new moon," while photographer Francesco Scavullo raved, "She has fire and excitement in her eyes. Her body looks healthy, and strong enough so you could wrestle and roll with her." Almost overnight, Tiegs became the golden girl who didn't tarnish.

Maury Hopson, the hairdresser who did Tiegs's tresses for her *Glamour* and French *ELLE* covers, remembers being in Paris with her in 1968 and practically starting a riot when they went to *La Coupole* one

This page: An 18th-century Japanese gold-leaf screen depicting Mt. Fuji lines a wall of the sitting room, which also includes an antique English chinoiserie table and a 19th-century Chinese bamboo prayer mat. Facing page: In the dining room, a 19th-century teak table from the Javanese governor's mansion and an 1820s Persian carpet.



Above: A stone window frame from the Bank of New York serves as a mantelpiece in the master bedroom. Left: A half-tester bed by Waldo's Designs is draped in silk voile from the Silk Trading Co. Facing page: In son Zack's room, a red cashmere blanket by Ralph Lauren covers a reproduction Colonial four-poster from Martynus. See Resources.

night. "I don't think they had ever seen a beauty so tall," Hopson says of six-footer Tiegs, who was oblivious to the commotion. "Cheryl never, ever runs," he adds. "In the midst of the most frenetic set, she would just move at her own speed, and all she would have to do was smile that smile, and she'd make us all look good. She is a pro."

"I was lucky to be working when the whole thing was changing, and they began using my name," Tiegs says. "I was very fortunate. I always loved modeling. I don't understand these girls who complain about it now. It's a great career." Today Tiegs works with children and on environmental issues, sitting on the boards of Coach for Kids, which provides medical treatment for homeless children, and the Washington, D.C.-based Earth Conservation Corps. She still has her hand in the marketplace, with her own line of sportswear for QVC, as well as eyeglasses, hosiery, watches, and wigs.

The daughter of an undertaker, Tiegs, 51, grew up in Alhambra, California. As a 16-year-old pom-pom girl, she was spotted by a talent scout, which led to covers for *Teen*. In 1970 she married Stan Dragoti, an art director 15 years her senior. They lived in a Spanish-style mansion in Bel Air where Tiegs flirted with the idea of being a Hollywood housewife. After they divorced, she moved to "a sexy New York apartment" on Park Avenue done up in monochromatic grays and a smattering of contemporary art. After marrying photographer-adventurer Peter Beard, she commuted between a tent in East Africa and a house on the Montauk cliffs. Her third marriage, to Tony Peck, the son of actor Gregory, brought her back to Los Angeles. After she and Peck divorced, Tiegs decided to redesign "a '50s Polynesian-style A-frame house" for herself and seven-year-old son Zack, which they now share with her fourth husband, yoga master Rod Stryker.

When she first saw the house, Tiegs was immediately won over by the dramatic



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Left: Stone boulders surround the pool. Below: The master bathroom's steam shower is lined in limestone. Facing page: The teak kitchen island and cabinets are inlaid with straw panels; the stools were designed by Martynus. The French cement tile is from Exquisite Surfaces. See Resources.



view of the city from such a private and protected setting (her neighbors include Elizabeth Taylor and Nancy and Ronald Reagan). To embark on a project of this scope alone was "the scariest thing I'd ever done," she says. After interviewing a number of big-name designers, she settled on British-born decorator Martyn Lawrence-Bullard, whose firm, Martynus, Inc., opened in L.A. three years ago. "I put a great deal of faith and trust in Martyn, and he came through. He is enormously talented."

The A-frame was key to Tiegs's dream of an Eastern-oriented house, but beyond that Tiegs, Lawrence-Bullard, his partner, Trip Haenisch, and architect Clive Bridgewater started over, even jettisoning most of Tiegs's furnishings and possessions. A radical but liberating move. "Cheryl gambled on a lot of things she hadn't seen," says Lawrence-Bullard. "We literally shopped the world to do the house." Pieces from Kansas to New York, London, Paris, and the Far East complete "an exotic retreat" that blends British Colonial accents with an Indonesian sensibility, enhancing Tiegs's treasured rare books and Kamante paintings from Africa. (Kamante gained fame from Karen Blixen's book *Out of Africa* and was a friend of Beard and Tiegs; all the paintings in Zack's room are by him.)

Originally, there was one closet in the master bedroom, and Tiegs admits that while designing the house she was "very happy to be by myself raising my son. It just never occurred to me there would be a man in my life." She and Stryker were married at the house a few months after its completion, and needless to say, the master bedroom now has two closets. "This house is representative of where I am today, who I am today," says Tiegs. "I'm not sure that it would have been right for me at other periods of my life, but this is what I want now." *

