



"NINOTCHKA" WATCHES  
Opposite, and left "Grand  
Comfort" chairs by Le  
Corbusier, Danish  
nesting tables, and a glass  
sculpture from the forties  
by Kosta are among Patrick  
Dragonette's favorite pieces  
in his living room, which  
adjoins the dining room. A  
Paul McCobb dining table  
was made in the sixties for  
Directional. Honored with  
silver-leaf frames are two  
portraits of Greta Garbo by  
Clarence Sinclair Bull, her  
favorite portrait photo-  
grapher. He was head of  
the MGM stills department  
for over forty years.

## SCREEN GEMS

BENEATH THE ELEGANT EYE OF GRETA GARBO, PATRICK  
DRAGONETTE DEFINES AN UPDATED ART DECO STYLE

Six years ago, a friend called Patrick Dragonette to tell him that there was a flat to rent in the "Magnificent Moroccans", a legendary group of white stucco duplex apartments with over-the-top "Road to Morocco" architecture, complete with minarets, onion domes, and giant palm trees.

"I had always dreamed of living in one of those buildings, which were built in 1926, the height of Hollywood romantic architecture," said Dragonette, the proprietor of Dragonette, a seven-year-old gallery on La Cienega Boulevard in West Hollywood which showcases mid-century art and furniture.

"The ceilings are coved, and each apartment has colonnades, arches, Moorish-Revival fireplaces, and large terraces," said Dragonette. "They look like a fantasy apartment overlooking the Mediterranean coast in North Africa, or a movie set. I saw apartments like these in matinees when I was growing up, but never

dreamed I might one day inhabit one."

Dragonette drove over to the apartment, fell under the Moroccan spell and rented it on the spot.

"The apartment is right of the border of Los Angeles and West Hollywood, so I sleep in West Hollywood and watch television in Los Angeles," said Dragonette, who shares the apartment with Charles Tucker, who works at the Dragonette gallery.

The apartment is decorated with an elegant collection of mid-century furniture and photography from a variety of sources and countries.

"It's a desire to return to the style of an earlier era, but in a contemporary context," said Dragonette. "Like my clients, I want a bit of Hollywood glamour."

Dragonette is not doctrinaire. He designed a pair of sofas covered in nubby wool/silk fabric from diamond foam and fabric. Beside them are Danish fifties nesting marquetry tables, and vintage "Grand Comfort" chairs









## STAGE SET

The beehive-shaped fireplace is original to the house, which is in a Moorish Revival Style, with a Moroccan twist, freely interpreted by Hollywood craftsmen.



by Le Corbusier.

"We keep the apartment simple, as we share it with two Abyssinian cats, Taylor and Burton," Dragonette said.

In the dining room, a chrome and mahogany sideboard is topped with a Georg Jensen coffee service designed by Johan Rhode, circa 1934.

Above it all hover a pair of thirties portraits of Greta Garbo.

"I fell in love with these portraits," said Dragonette. "They are flawless images of a flawless face. Perfection. Black and white is the ideal medium for such a timeless beauty."

In his gallery, Dragonette sells silver articulated bugs, silver-plated quince branches with crystal flowers, silver-plated magnolia-shaped plates. He also focuses on glamorous, hand-made Art Deco and mid-century furniture and accessories by in-demand designers like Paul Laszlo, Tommi Parzinger, and Billy Haines.

"Billy Haines, of all the fifties and sixties Hollywood interior designers, is my god," said Dragonette, originally from Burton, Ohio. "He created a glamorous décor as well as a wonder-

**BLOWING IN THE WIND**

On the blue and white terrace, with billowing curtains, are vintage Klismos chairs, X-backed chairs attributed to William ("Billy") Haines, and scent from nearby jasmine vines and citrus trees.



ful life for his clients. He crafted the finest of the fine interiors and mixed genres and periods with great aplomb. He wasn't trying to do period rooms or pretentious palaces. He had a vocabulary of antiques, but he lightened them up with fine contemporary art, fresh colors, and furniture that was never heavy or over-detailed."

Dragonette, who started his career as a collector, is now in demand for clients who commission interiors for their modernist house in the Hollywood Hills.

"I often start by editing their mid-century collections, and then we move forward creating new décor," he said.

"I like to re-envision decorative vintage furniture and update collections and interiors to make them relevant to today," he said. "I'm not a purist. Designs should be mixed, collections should be the best of the best."

"Hollywood set the standard of glamour in the thirties and forties, and fantastic designs came from this town," said Dragonette. "Money was no object. Beauty, luxury and recollections of time passed were the goal."



