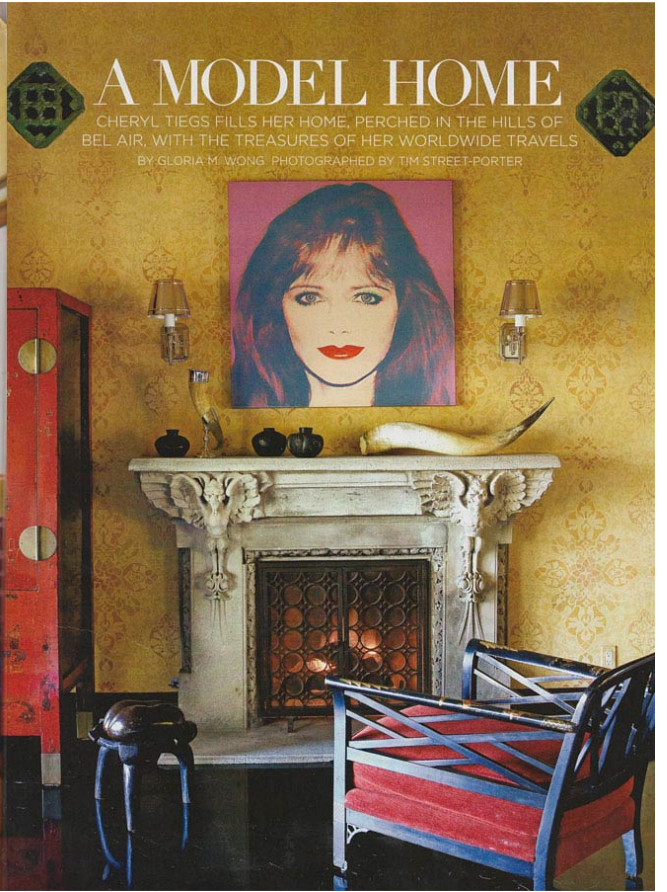




Antlers accentuate an Indonesian carved-wood deer head, circa 1980. Turkish Suzani and Southwestern-style rug fabric pillows for the sofa echo the Oriental motif. A portrait of Tieg by Andy Warhol hangs in the master bedroom.

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A MODEL HOME

CHERYL TIEGS FILLS HER HOME, PERCHED IN THE HILLS OF BEL AIR, WITH THE TREASURES OF HER WORLDWIDE TRAVELS.

BY GLORIA M. WONG PHOTOGRAPHED BY TIM STREET-PORTER

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heryl Tiegs greets me wearing sweatpants and a soft knit zip-up sweater, her blonde hair haloed around her face in oversized pink plastic rollers. At 62, she's girlish and immediately recognizable, her eyes an icy, mesmerizing blue. Squint a bit and she could still be the quintessential California blonde with a diffident smile that launched a legendary modeling career in the '70s. That career propelled her

from modest roots in the Midwest and L.A.'s San Gabriel Valley—she grew up in Alhambra—around the whole world, and finally back to Southern California.

Perched on the end of a winding cul-de-sac above Sunset Boulevard, at first Tiegs' house appears to be an almost-modest bungalow. (Modest by Bel Air standards—her neighbors are Elizabeth Taylor and Nancy Reagan.) The housekeeper has buzzed open the iron gate from the street, and the double front door is ajar, leading to a low-lit, snug foyer, then on to a spacious, breezy area anchored by four 28-foot-high pillars and wallpapered in woven grass cloth. Here in this lofty expanse, under a soaring ceiling, four distinct but integrated tableaux converge. To the right, a space with a cozy sofa, low, spacious table, and a television (the reassuring, now-old-fashioned cathode-ray variety) functions as a family room where Tiegs likes to eat dinner and watch the tube with her teenage son, Zachary. To the left of the entrance, a Ziegler Mahal Persian rug anchors a sitting area rounded out by a cobalt-blue mohair couch and cheerful cerulean ikat-covered chairs. Straight ahead, tall, carved Indonesian wood screens divide the room, behind which stand a navy blue-felted pool table and a mantle topped with family snapshots. Beyond lies the dining area, punctuated by antique Hundi lights, which at night offers a lovely view of the twinkling Los Angeles skyline.

The home exudes a layered, colonial aura, amplified by the exotic collection of keepsakes from Tiegs' peripatetic life. Tiegs is shy about personal matters, but her history and family life are apparent everywhere. A painted canvas of Peter Beard, an ex-husband, presides over the sitting-area fireplace, and his iconic collages are sprinkled throughout the home. Beard and Tiegs spent much of their married life at Hog Ranch, Karen Blixen's former estate in Kenya, and Beard's stark photographs of that locale are displayed on the walls. "I love things that have history," says Tiegs. "Everything I keep means something to me."

The bedroom of Zachary, Tiegs' son with Tony Peck, her third husband, is in meticulous order, possibly explained by the 18-year-old being away at boarding school. In the master bedroom, a portrait of Tiegs by Andy Warhol hangs opposite the bed, a memento from the days when she was a regular at The Factory. "Oh, I don't have a boyfriend right now; otherwise I wouldn't put that up here. It was hidden away in the gym—Martyn made me do it. I'm trying to find the right balance of



masculine and feminine in this room. I'd like to make it more inviting for male company," she says with a laugh.

"Martyn" is Martyn Lawrence Bullard, her longtime confidante, designer and collaborator, whose client list includes Eva Mendes, Elton John and Cher. He possesses an essential quality in a tastemaker: a self-assurance and conviction in his design that inspires confidence. The inveterate touch-up artist is a regular presence at Tiegs' home, eternally rearranging wooden panels, African artifacts, flowers, vintage books, pillows, settees and objets d'art—leaving everything just a little more deftly situated and visually pleasing in his wake. When Tiegs tries on a leopard-print blouse and asks: "Is it too Jackie Collins?" Martyn is the one to laugh and emphatically answer: "Yes."

The two met at a dinner party 12 years ago and clicked instantly. Tiegs had just purchased the '50s-era tear-down abode, its most notable features being the louvered windows and aluminum sliding doors. She sought to transform it into a Zen, Bali-inspired sanctuary, and invited Martyn over for an interview, then hired him on the spot. "I didn't really know what I was doing yet," he says. "It wasn't until later that I found out she had already considered almost every other decorator in town." They set to work, breaking down the low ceiling to reveal the high rafters and the house's airy potential. Since then, they've continued to collaborate over the years. "He's honest," says Tiegs. "And we've managed to become such great friends." Though Tiegs is often traveling for work—she's a spokesperson for Cambria, a luxury quartz-countertop line—they see each other often, including at Tiegs' convivial Sunday gatherings. Her long dining table can accommodate 24 guests, and her specialty is roast chicken. "I love the house most when it's filled with people," says Tiegs. •



A Chinese imperial painting and a hand-crafted 17th-century Japanese Tansu cabinet preside over the home's common area, OPPOSITE Tiegs with designer Martyn Lawrence-Bullard.



Raffia cloth softens the kitchen island, which is topped by an oversized butcher block. The counter is covered with Cambria stone, for which Tiegs is a spokesperson. Above: A 19th-century copper vat, now a planter, was originally used to dye traditional fabrics. Left: The tile on this Regency table comes from the floor of an ancient villa uncovered in the ruins of Pompeii, on-site. Tiegs sleeps in a custom-made replica of a half-tester bed, common in 19th-century Indonesian colonial homes. The trunk is Bavarian.





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The mid-19th-century teak dining table was the official picnic table for the ambassador of Java. OPPOSITE A Peter Beard photograph inscribed by Karen Blixen presides over the bar service.



Teak stenciled to resemble inlaid ivory overlays the steel beams that soar over the heart of the home. opposite The pool area also features a guesthouse, now used as a drumming studio for Tiegs' son Zachary.

