

Phoenix Rising

Interior decorator **David Phoenix** may not be in the governor's cabinet—but he's the man the Schwarzeneggers call on to design their kitchen cupboards. | ERIC BUTERBAUGH

As owner of his eponymous design firm, David Phoenix has carefully and quietly built a reputation within L.A.'s elite circles, decorating multiple homes for the Schwarzeneggers and the Riordan, among others. But his versatility is most evident in that he also appeals to the hip, young Hollywood crowd, including actor Sean Hayes (*Will & Grace*) and writer Greg Berlanti (*Everwood*, *Dawson's Creek*), both of whom who employed the affable interiors whiz. "His designs have a worldly mix of comfort and sophistication," says Karen Fisher, founder of Designer Previews, which reps decorators worldwide. She sought out Phoenix for her roster because of his talent in layering accessories and artwork to produce homes with a personal look. "His rooms look as though they evolved from tasteful people." Clients rave about his personal touch and ability to make them feel comfortable throughout the tedious renovation process. He's been known to hop on a plane at a moment's notice to scout out summer-houses or go antiquing with a client.

Recently, he's been surveying properties on the East Coast for Paul Pressler, CEO of Gap, and wife Mindy's second home. The couple's loyalty to him runs deep—he decorated a new Bay Area home for them in 22 days, so they would be settled in time for their children to start school. He has also been spending a lot of time in Sacramento redesigning the governor's office and accompanying the Schwarzeneggers in their quest to find a suitable property for the governor's mansion. He will, of course, be designing that, too. *David Phoenix Interior Design, 8485 Melrose Place, Suite A, Los Angeles, 310-657-6577; davidphoenix.com.*

David Phoenix (above) and two of his comfortable, sophisticated designs.

