

**WHY DUDAMEL
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LOCAL TEENS WHO ARE ON
THE CULINARY CUTTING EDGE

Los Angeles

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- ➡ Canyon Jungles!
- ➡ Hidden Stairways!

(Are You Thirsty Yet?
We've Got a Hollywood
Pub Crawl, Too PG. 83)

HOME
DESIGN:
WHEN
LIFE'S A
BEACH

PG. 98

BATTERY
INCLUDED:
LA'S
OWN
ELECTRIC
CAR

PG. 58



• \$4.95
• JUNE 2011
• LAMAG.COM



1 The view of the Gold Coast house from the beach. The doors on the upstairs terrace lead to the master bedroom

2 Michael, Danielle, and Zoey, the Maltipoo. The beams above them came from a Pennsylvania farm

3 The Moorish arches and iron gates open up the back patio, decorated with Malibu-style tile, to the expanse of sand and sea

4 The portrait that holds pride of place in the study was bought by Michael on a trip to Spain

SANTA MONICA

The Age of Romance

THEY PRESENT a plain face to the drivers whipping past on PCH, these dwellings of Santa Monica's historic Gold Coast. But walk the stretch of sand between the Jonathan Club and the Marion Davies estate (now the Annenberg Community Beach House), and the manses of Old Hollywood's elite are visible in all their splendor.

They changed hands over time, sometimes the new owners as prominent as the old (the towered beauty built by Louis B. Mayer became the property of Peter Lawford and the western White House for John Kennedy on visits to sister Pat). When Chicago entrepreneur Michael Braverman bought a piece of Douglas Fairbanks Sr.'s estate in 2000, he hewed to the home's footprint when he remodeled six years

later. The ceiling of the living room was raised to bring the outside in and a pool with fountain, tiled in the period style, was added to the yard (the original swimming area was filled in when yet-to-be-mayor Richard Riordan subdivided the estate in the 1970s).

From the second-story terrace Michael, his wife, Danielle, and newborn son, Noah, can survey the runners and cyclists in the distance. Inside, Michael proudly displays the art he picked up on his wide-ranging travels, sojourning on hold for now. He revels in running at low tide on the firm wet sand. He and Danielle walk the dog and baby, usually at sunset. "I'm like most of my neighbors—out there every day and night," Michael says.

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Film World At Play



DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS SR.
& IRVING THALBERG

➔ The ladder bolted to the wall between actor Douglas Fairbanks Sr.'s estate and that of movie chieftain Irving Thalberg enabled the friends to hop in and out of each other's yards freely. Or so a young Peter Philbin was told after his family moved in 1952 to the compound Fairbanks had erected in the late 1920s. By the time he heard the tale, Philbin and best friend Barry Hilton, whose hotelier father, Barron Sr., had purchased the Thalberg home, had adopted the ladder as their own. From the platform on top they launched themselves into the pool that the athletic Fairbanks built. It was there that Philbin also caught glimpses of a parade of starlets. One of them might have been the stunning Elizabeth Taylor, newly divorced from Nicky Hilton.