

Speaking Volumes

The design firm Citizen Artist fine-tunes a cavernous, robustly modernist

residence in Los Angeles, amplifying the atmosphere and the art



*By Michael Slenske
Photography by
Douglas Friedman*

A Friedrich Kunath painting overlooks the living room of a couple's Brentwood home, where Joshua Rose and Rafael Kalichstein of Citizen Artist designed the rug and the oak cocktail tables, one of which hosts a tabletop sculpture by Alexander Calder. The sofa is by Paola Lenti, the swivel chairs are by Dmitriy & Co, and the stainless-steel floor lamp is by Egg Collective. Citizen Artist oversaw all aspects of the residence's design, except for its structure, which was conceived by architecture firm Carl Massara & Associates. For details see Sources.

In the family room, a circular abstraction by Don Suggs is mounted above a bespoke Una Malan sofa, a pair of Pinch oak cocktail tables, and a Timothy Corrigan for Perennials rug. The freestanding fireplace is by Ortal. OPPOSITE, FROM TOP: A Cybele Rowe sculpture anchors the entry, which features photographs and artworks by Friedrich Kunath beneath a gleaming light installation by Jeremy Maxwell Wintrebert. The pool area is clad in travertine stonework by Casone Group and drew inspiration from the Barcelona Pavilion.





“There’s a cinematic and graphical kind of storytelling piece to this house,” says designer Joshua Rose

area furnished with a Paola Lenti sectional and Dmitriy & Co swivel chairs. Directly opposite, an enigmatic Christoph Ruckhäberle painting of three snappily dressed young men hangs prominently between the bar and dining area.

A massive table designed by Citizen Artist in oak and stainless steel anchors the dining space. Adding warmth above is a trio of bulbous, cloudlike light fixtures by Jeremy Maxwell Wintrebert, one of the few examples of decorative lighting in the pared-down, clean-lined home.

In the husband’s office, a Jonas Wood painting of former L.A. Lakers star Pau Gasol overlooks the custom-designed desk. The pièce de résistance, however, is the wall of bespoke bookcases filled with bobbleheads of sports figures—more than a thousand collected by the owners’ older son. The display was more of a priority for the husband than for his wife. “She wanted to make sure they were presented in a way that felt artful,” says Kalichstein.

Despite the home’s serene and spare vibe, there is a recurring sense of playfulness. In the younger son’s bedroom, Citizen Artist designed a bunk bed and desk with integrated storage and

shelves for books, toys, and stuffed animals. A gorilla chair covered in fur-like strips of blue-green leather adds whimsy.

That spirit is carried into a subterranean game room, where the designers installed an oak air hockey table and a Ping-Pong table with a mesh net. “We play Ping-Pong down there forever,” says the husband. The lower level also features one of the home’s coolest design elements: At just the right time in the afternoon, dappled sunlight filtering down through the staircase transforms the landing into a veritable Light and Space installation. It’s the kind of lyrical detail one wouldn’t expect to find in an L.A. basement.

“In Eastern medicine you take in more information from being with a person than you do from what they tell you,” says Kalichstein. “Sometimes supplying things that a person doesn’t know they want, but you can see they need, is part of the process.” Adds Rose, “There’s a cinematic and graphical kind of storytelling piece to this house. We’re always involved in telling other people’s stories; we’re just utilizing technology and imagery to bring those to life.” □



In the primary bath, a painting by Gideon Rubin is displayed above an Aquatica tub outfitted with a faucet and a hand shower by Cea. ABOVE: On the roof terrace, custom-designed seating is paired with tables by Four Hands. OPPOSITE: The primary suite’s Jiun Ho bed features integrated nightstands topped by Fuse Lighting lamps and TL at Home bedding with a Sandra Jordan alpaca throw from Holly Hunt. The clients’ Bernese Mountain Doodle rests on the Citizen Artist–designed rug made by Mehraban, the sofa and tiered table are by Amura Lab, and a small Mathew Cerletty painting hangs near a Robert Graham bronze sculpture.