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LOS ANGELES

MODERN REVIVAL

A successful internet entrepreneur teams up with designer Jennifer Dyer to add texture and intrigue to his Palisades home.

By Elizabeth Jenkins | Interior photography by Grey Crawford | Portrait by Dylan + Jeni

For a self-described “internet guy” who says he doesn’t take himself too seriously, Daniel Starr knows an awful lot about design. He treasures midcentury-modern masters like Eames and Saarinen, and appreciates expert landscaping. His ex-fiancee, an interior decorator, may deserve credit for his initial interest, but with each new residence he inhabits, Starr’s love of design—and a good project—has grown.

The Pennsylvania native and internet entrepreneur has lived in Los Angeles for 15 years, bouncing from Hollywood to Santa Monica, Malibu to Beverly Hills, trying different neighborhoods on for size. When Starr came across this contemporary home in Pacific Palisades, he couldn’t resist the views. However, he was intent on improving upon them, while also modernizing the interiors and making the house more masculine. And he knew he needed help.

A decade ago, Starr rented a house in the Hollywood Hills and was taken not only with the home, but with the furnishings. He asked the landlord who had decorated it and learned it was the previous tenant, Jennifer Dyer of Jeneration Interiors. “I asked her name before I rented it,” he recalls, “and said, ‘When I buy a house someday, I am going to have that lady design it.’ Then I looked her up like a million years later and said, ‘Are you still doing this?’” Luckily, the answer was yes, and Dyer was brought onto the project.



NATURAL ELEMENTS Starr loves the desert, specifically Palm Springs, and wanted to recreate that vibe outside his home. He removed the overgrown landscaping out front both to improve the view and to allow for a simpler, more eco-friendly design. Opposite page: Jennifer Dyer of Jeneration Interiors posed in the master bedroom’s en suite sitting area.

HAUTE HANGOUT Starr entertains friends and houseguests quite often and utilizes this space as a den. The tufted leather sectional, geometric coffee table and chevron-patterned hair-on-hide rug from Woven Accents make a bold statement beneath the black-and-white contemporary paintings and brass starburst light fixture from Arteriors.



“ON A CLEAR DAY, THE VIEW IS AMAZING, AND WHEN IT’S NOT TOO HOT, I OPEN ALL THE DOORS. IT’S REALLY BRIGHT AND OPEN AND BEAUTIFUL.”
—HOMEOWNER DANIEL STARR



LUXE LIVING From top: In the kitchen, only aesthetic changes were made, such as swapping Viking appliances for Thermador and Caesarstone countertops for Carrara marble. “Everywhere you look it looks like one piece of stone,” says Starr. “It came out really, really nice”; his home office, which overlooks the pool, is composed of a wood desk by Powell & Bonnell and bookcases by Noir.

In addition to the view, Starr loved the layout of the four-bedroom home. The open floor plan—with the kitchen, dining and living rooms all together—appealed to him, as did the outdoor entertaining areas and petite pool. He was not as keen on the outdated finishes and haphazard landscaping though. “It looked like someone took a bag of seeds and threw it at the house,” recalls Starr, laughing. “It was random and overgrown.”

He hired Brown & Associates Landscape Co. to overhaul the outdoor spaces and create the desert vibe he desired. “We found a great nursery down in Orange County that had this incredible 19-foot, 35-year-old cactus that we craned over and planted in front of the chimney outside,” explains Starr. “When it’s uplit at night, you can see it from all around. When I’m doing Postmates I just say, ‘Look for the cactus house.’”

The facade of the home was grayish-white stucco, but Starr preferred it white, so he had it painted. Afterward, however, he thought it looked boring, “like a white pill box,” he said, so he wanted to add texture—specifically, some kind of reclaimed material. Dyer suggested asking the contractor to locate beachy-

looking driftwood. Kevin Construction ended up finding reclaimed wood from a 100-year-old barn in Northern California. They used it on a new fence, gate and garage door, and to surround the front door. “I think the wood has done so much to warm up the house,” says Starr.

Out front, on the terrace, as well as in the backyard surrounding the pool, he replaced the existing synthetic turf with a better-looking version by Smart Grass. He purchased teak furniture and Sunbrella cushions from Restoration Hardware and added a fire pit in front and a second in back. “At night I always have the fire pits on,” he says. “The view of the Pacific is really nice, and even though the pool is small, it’s the perfect size for me.”

With family on the East Coast and colleagues overseas who visit often—and sometimes stay for months at a time—Starr wanted the home to feel inviting. “I am a single dude, and I have dogs, so I wanted the interiors to be simple,” he explains. “I told Jen that the furniture needed to be comfortable; it needed to last; and it couldn’t be unfriendly or cold.” Dyer chose a palette of white, black and gray to give the 3,500-square-foot house the crisp feeling he was looking for.



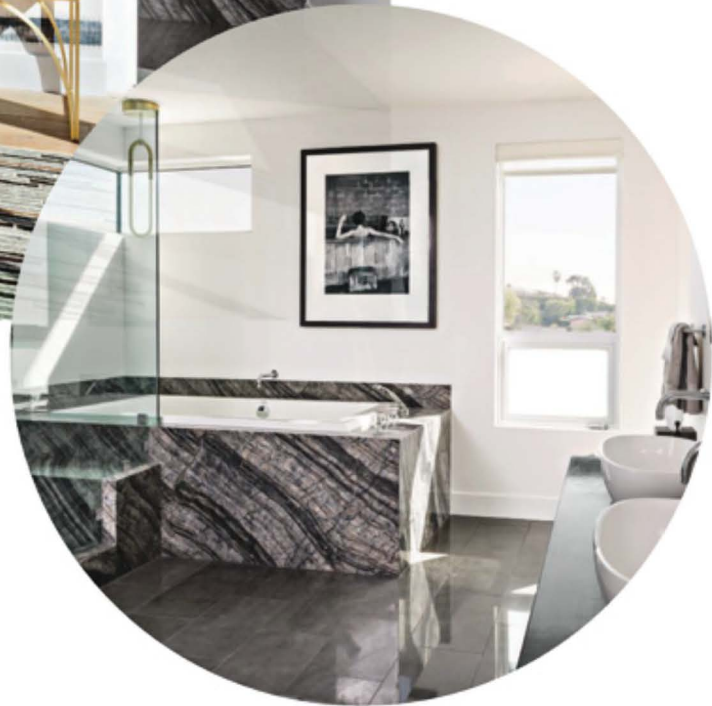
Despite avoiding tearing down walls and changing anything structurally, the home received a major face-lift. “The bathrooms were completely gutted, with new plumbing, tile, vanities, showers and tubs,” explains Dyer. The kitchen island was redone and wrapped in Carrara marble, and all new stainless steel appliances by Thermador and Sub-Zero were installed. Dyer created a dining area adjacent to the kitchen, granting Starr’s wish for a marble oval Saarinen table and Eiffel chairs by Charles and Ray Eames. Overhead, a brass and frosted glass fixture by Roll & Hill helps define the space.

In the living room, Starr requested a Restoration Hardware sectional that he had seen in another home. “The sofas are in the perfect leaning, snuggling position for dogs—and for just chilling,” he says. “Plus, you can beat them up. Sometimes if you have a beautiful Minotti or another high-end couch, it looks [terrible] after dogs are on it. But the more beat up mine gets, the better it looks, even with their nail prints,” he says proudly.

Starr feels the same way about the rustic-looking French oak floors by The Garrison Collection that he chose to replace the existing walnut-stained wood throughout the house. “People always ask if they have to take their shoes off,” he explains, “but I’m like, ‘No. Do whatever you want.’ They are durable and will look even better [with wear and tear].”

All three bedrooms feature digitally-printed wallpaper in a matte finish that adds both character and texture. In the master, sliding glass doors allow for a completely unobstructed view of the ocean, as does the glass railing outside, which replaced a bulkier cable-style overrun with plants. “On a clear day, the view is amazing,” says Starr, “and when it’s not too hot, I open all the doors. It’s really bright and open and beautiful,” he says. The master also features a raised seating area with a tufted leather sofa by Article and a velvet chair from Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams.

Starr turned the fourth bedroom into a handsome office with grass-cloth wallpaper by Holly Hunt and bookcases by Noir. Besides books, Dyer filled the shelves with vintage motorcycle helmets. “I used to ride motorcycles and have lots of helmets,” explains Starr. In the den, a tufted leather sofa from Restoration Hardware and a sculptural travertine table by The Phillips Collection create another seating area for guests to congregate. “The cool thing about this house is that every room feels really special and unique,” says Starr, “and it’s the perfect house to have five or six people over and just hang out. Plus, my neighbors are really chill. Toward sundown, pretty much everyone is outside having wine or smoking a cigar. It’s really pleasant.” We would have to agree. ■



GRAY’S ANATOMY Clockwise from top left: The master bedroom’s black, white and gray hues give it a chic, yet masculine feel; the adjoining master bathroom underwent a complete gut renovation; out front, new glass railings help the terrace feel as though it’s floating on a sea of green.



COZY COCOON Wallpaper in one of the home’s two guest bedrooms is done in jewel tones that Dyer compares to agate. The platform bed is from All Modern, the side table from Crate and Barrel and the sconce from Lamps Plus.

DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE
Single-family

LOCATION
Pacific Palisades

INTERIORS
Jennifer Dyer
jenerationinteriors.com

CONTRACTOR
Kavin Construction Inc.
kavinconstructioninc.com

LANDSCAPE
**Brown & Associates
Landscape Co.**
brownlandscapeco.com

VENDORS
Baker
Desk chair in office
bakerfurniture.com

Knoll
Saarinen pedestal dining table and
Eames Eiffel chairs
knoll.com

Living Divani
Coffee tables in living room
livingdivani.it

Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams
Velvet chair in master and club chair
with acrylic sides in living room
mgbwhome.com

Noir
Credenza in dining room and
bookcases in office
noirfurniturela.com

Plantation Furniture
Lamps in master bedroom
plantationdesign.com

Powell & Bonnell
Brass and leather barstools in kitchen
and desk in office
powellandbonnell.com

Restoration Hardware
Teak patio furniture, tufted leather
sofa in den, leather sectional in living
room and pendants in guest bedroom
restorationhardware.com

Smart Grass
Synthetic turf
smartgrassusa.com

Thrive Furniture
Rugs in master bedroom and master
sitting area
thrivefurniture.com

Woven Accents
Rugs in living room and den
wovenonline.com