



# MAKE YOUR MOVE

HOUSES, MAKERS,  
MOVERS, SHAKERS: THE  
VISIONARIES ISSUE

# Resources



# En- light- ened up

One of the most magnificent homes in Dallas gets a rarefied rethink — and it only took a masterful architect, passionate interior designer, gifted landscape architect, new doors, new windows, new walls, new floors, two long years and a little Moorish millwork



The Spanish Colonial-style house was completed in 1934 by noted firm Lang & Witchell, which had also designed Highland Park Town Hall. The house was inspired by Mediterranean villas the original family had seen on their travels. The entry is accessed through a front hedge, motor court, parterre garden and courtyard. Antique fountains are in the entry and dining courtyards. Landscape design by Diana Green of Green Print Designs, Los Angeles.



The front entry. A cupola atop the roof adds light to the upstairs hallways and vestibules. The renovation by architect Wilson Fuqua, completed in 2015, updated and expanded the house throughout. Feature windows, roof tiles and exterior bricks were all chosen to hew to the original design.

Story by **Connie Dufner**  
 Photographs by **Jason Anderson**  
 Portrait by **Stephen Karlisch**



In a storied street in Highland Park lies a storied house by a storied Dallas architecture firm. Yet a puzzle: Where is the front door? Through a parking court and across a parterre garden beckons a gate, a French limestone fountain, then a courtyard. At last: Three mere steps to the discreet entrance. After all, when you ascend to a house by way of a delightful meander, who needs a showy front door? And when you live in a house designed by Otto Lang and Frank Witchell — and now renovated by Wilson Fuqua and decorated by Cathy Kincaid — you have arrived. The firm of Lang & Witchell was already known for the Spanish Mediterranean-style town hall in Highland Park and numerous grand houses in the Park Cities and on Swiss Avenue. This house, on Beverly

Drive, was built for a globetrotting businessman and his family, who had just returned from a four-month world tour and were inspired by the architecture they saw on their travels. (Reported *The Dallas Morning News* in 1931: “The first landing will be at Madeira, and from there the party will go to Gibraltar, Algiers, Morocco, Naples, and then to Jerusalem where they will spend Christmas Day. From the Holy Land, they will proceed to Cairo, Bombay, Batavia, and Singapore ...”) Their new home was designed in the Spanish Colonial style, and still bears its completion year of 1934 in a diminutive glass panel within the wall-sized arched window of the living room.

Fast-forward to 2013, when another family moved in, an executive/philanthropist couple and their brood, also enamored of the Mediterranean style of a previous residence in Santa Barbara, California. Recalls Dallas-based Fuqua, who earned his master of architecture degree at The University

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The front entry blossomed anew under Fuqua and Kincaid's direction. "The interior of the house had suffered an early '80s clever-modernist remodel," Fuqua, below, says, "jumbling the plan and stairs, creating a dark, awkward, small entry hall." The overhaul removed a hallway, opening up light from a new window on the stairwell. It also created an axis for the living room, dining room, kitchen and morning room.





In the living room, new side windows were added by Fuqua. Kincaid's interior design features multiple sitting areas, reminiscent of the villas in sun-filled locales. The designer and architect eschewed the heavier Mediterranean look of dark woods and wrought iron. The fireplace mantel is original to the house.





The kitchen continues the soft, light-infused theme of the house. All door, cabinet and window hardware is custom pewter from P.E Guerin in New York. The imported Moroccan floor tiles are from Ann Sacks.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Interior designer Cathy Kincaid chose antique Portuguese tiles for the dining room's wainscoting. The color palette was inspired by the owners' porcelain collection. Painted finishes throughout the house were executed by Barry A. Martin Painting Contractors, using custom-mixed Farrow & Ball colors. Double doors leading to the dining room are antique confessional doors from a church in Portugal.

of Texas at Austin: "The owner bought me a book about Mediterranean houses, and there were hundreds of houses in it. This one doesn't look like any of those."

It's a Mediterranean, all right, but without much wrought iron, dark wood or heavy colors. Indeed, the only wrought iron is in the entry hall, as a graceful stair rail and balustrades inspired by a staircase at Casa del Herrero, a fine Spanish Colonial Revival house in Montecito, California. When the current owners bought the Dallas house, the entry was cut in half by a wall, and the staircase was hidden behind another wall. "Someone had renovated it in the '70s and '80s, and it had lost much of its character," Fuqua says. He opened up the entry so that light now streams in from the dining room, morning room, library, living room and the reimagined, curved staircase. An unusual feature added to the foyer is a fireplace — and why not? An existing chimney already served the second floor and kitchen, and the new fireplace underscores the foyer's central role in the house.

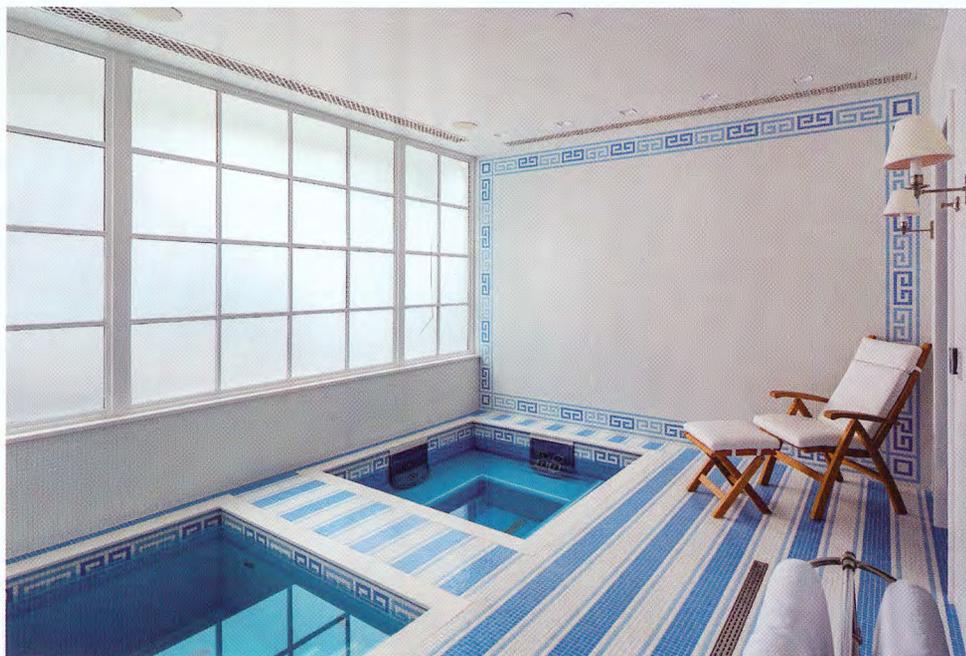
The house, indeed, stays true to the original vision of a grand villa. Tile floors and antique Portuguese tiles in the dining

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The sunroom extends the house's blue-and-white colorways with a modern touch. The tile is from Ann Sacks, the sectional sofa is from Kisabeth Furniture and the wicker chairs — designed in 1957 by Danish master Poul Kjaerholm — were found at Sputnik Modern in Dallas.



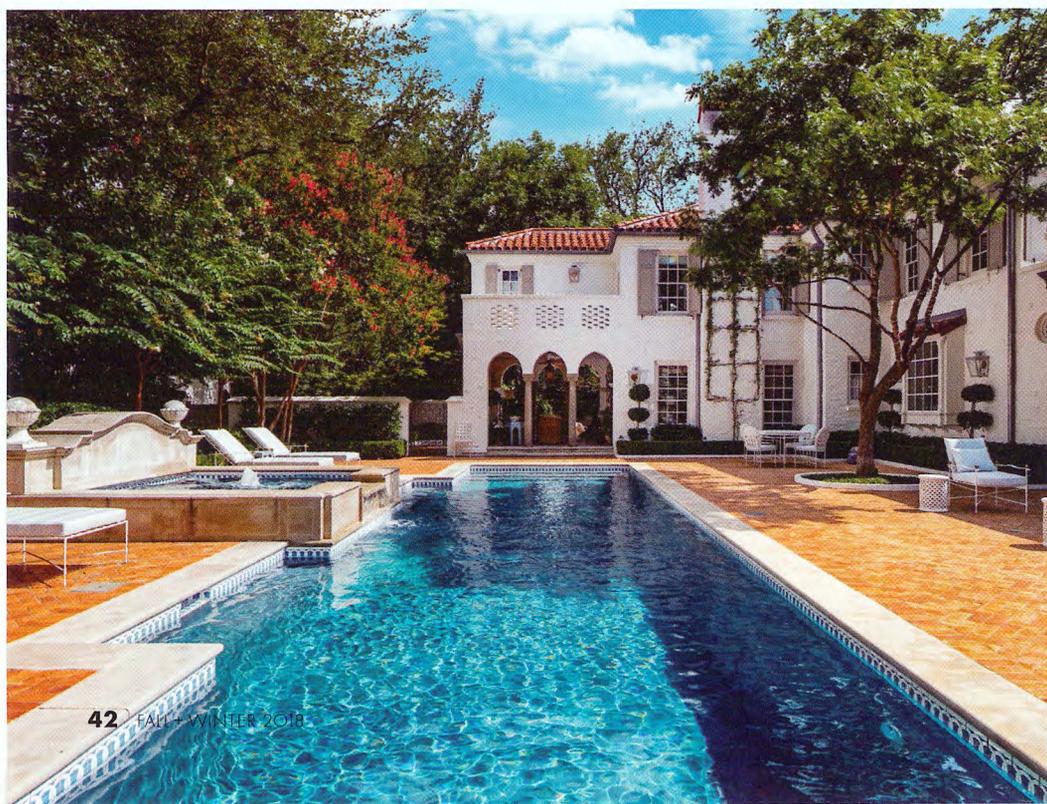
An indoor spa is accessed through the exercise room and includes a hot pool, cold-plunge pool, Finnish sauna and steam room.

Elegant courtyards and outdoor living areas add to the timelessness of the house. The pool design is by Green Print Designs. J. Wilson Fuqua & Associates Architects did the finishing details on the whirlpool. The blue-and-white tile surround includes custom tile from Ann Sacks.

room take you quickly to another continent. And if you suddenly feel chatty, blame the dining-room doors, which are antique confession doors from a Portuguese church. Light-filled rooms that overlook inviting courtyards suggest taking it all in — and slowing down. Expansive, yes (at nearly 12,000 square feet, the estate includes a main house and two luxurious guest suites, plus extensive gardens, courtyards and covered porches), but overwhelming, no.

During the two-year-long renovation, completed in 2015, architect Fuqua left no inch of house untouched. All doors, windows, walls and floors are new. New architectural details include rope trim on the ceilings and walls, patterned-tile wainscoting, even Moorish tracery patterns in the millwork in the library. Fuqua installed 10 small oval windows throughout, to let in more light and make the most of smaller spaces. Ceiling details include vaulting, beams, coffering and glossy paint — the perfect contrast to all those tiled and marbled floors. Most

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*The house stays true to the original vision of a grand villa. Tile floors take you quickly to another continent. The dining-room doors are antique confessional doors from a Portuguese church.*

rooms are accessed through arched hallways or vestibules, while paneled walls hide doors, closets, elevators and electrical infrastructure. Even the landscaping got a redo: The overgrown plantings that greeted the owners when they bought the house have been fully reimagined by Diana Green of Green Print Designs in Los Angeles.

The rebirth of the house brought together old friends and collaborators Fuqua and Kincaid. Kincaid's interior design has created welcoming spaces at an accessible scale: No massive furniture here. Furnishings are a mixture of traditional and antique, often enlivened with contemporary art. The sophisticated walls are the work of Barry A. Martin Painting Contractors, with custom Farrow & Ball colors and other finishes selected by Kincaid, who earned her interior-design degree from Texas Christian University and has worked for greats Joseph Minton and John Astin Perkins. Hardwood floors were imported from France. Custom scenic wall panels by Gracie brighten a powder room, as do antique limestone mantels, also from France, in the entry hall and morning room.

As integral as the professionals were to the revitalization of the house, the uniting element was the vision of the homeowners, particularly the wife, who spearheaded the renovation and design. Says Fuqua: "English architect Sir Edwin Lutyens said, 'There will never be great architects of architecture without great patrons.'"

**MORE TO THE STORY** Don't miss this house, 3806 Beverly Drive, Highland Park, on the AIA Dallas Tour of Homes, October 20 and 21, 2018. Tickets and information are at [aiadallas.org](http://aiadallas.org) and [hometourdallas.com](http://hometourdallas.com).

**CONNIE DUFNER** is a Dallas freelance writer and editor who contributes to numerous publications. She was the longtime editor of the Home & Garden section of *The Dallas Morning News* and has been an editor at *Modern Luxury Dallas* and *Dallas Interiors* magazines.



