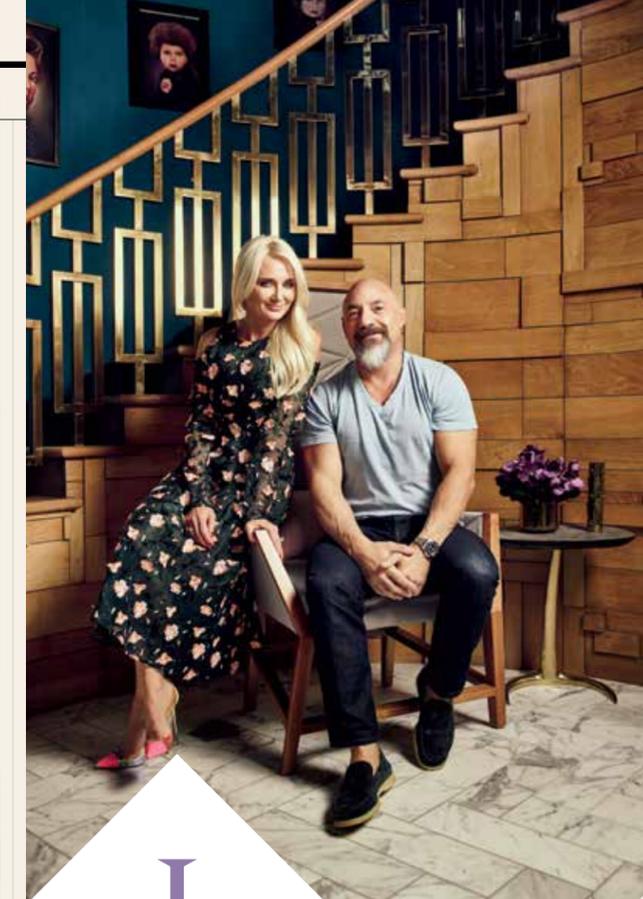


Hollywood at Home

WME agent **Adam Venit** and wife **Trina** share their stunning hilltop estate, **Simon Cowell** reveals his plans for two modern mansions, a fresh design trend supplants L.A. midcentury (finally), and there's a hot, new, George Lucas-approved starchitect in town
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It started with the windows. Fourteen years ago, WME partner and motion picture department head Adam Venit and his wife, Trina, bought a 13,000-square-foot residence in a gated community on a Beverly Hills ridge. It turned out that the house, a spec project, was built with no weather-stripping on any of the windows or doors. So in 2013, recalls Trina, “we started with one room and redoing a couple of windows, and the rest is history. It turned into a total home renovation.”

Renovation may be too insubstantial a word for it. The couple ended up not only gutting the entire place, installing a larger pool and adding a 2,000-square-foot wing but also embarking on a creative journey together that saw them abandon their traditional Tuscan style and embrace contemporary design and art in

exuberant, showstopping ways. “It used to be a big, white Tuscan box. It was built like a McMansion,” recalls Adam, 54. Now their home — the redo was completed two years ago — is richly layered with bold patterns and color, an ever-growing art collection and an overall sense of playfulness befitting an agent who has represented Adam Sandler for 28 years, from the bar stools in the living room shaped like derrieres (Trina won’t say from whom they are molded) to the peacock feather-covered powder room. “It’s the most detailed house I’ve ever been in,” says *Creed* actor Michael B. Jordan, one of Adam’s clients. Adds *Million Dollar Listing* star Josh Altman, a friend and neighbor: “They haven’t been afraid to take chances. I told Trina she is one of the best interior designers who’s not doing it professionally and have asked if she would help with my own house.” Pieces in their art collection include a video work by Jennifer Steinkamp of

1 Large-scale elements in the media room include Mike Stilkey’s art installation showing a couple dancing, an acoustic wood panel cathedral ceiling by The Warwick Group and a sectional conversational/lounge pit by Storm Interiors in Pindler’s Medici Turquoise fabric.
2 The Venits were photographed Oct. 5 in their Beverly Hills home’s foyer, which features a walnut-curved block wall treatment by Amy Tripi, a brass railing by Gilad Ben-Artzi and paintings by Israeli artist Nir Hod. “Our kids hate them because the paintings are of kids smoking,” says Adam. “They think it’s really weird.”

flowers blowing in a breeze, works by their friend (and Adam's client) Shepard Fairey and a series of large-scale photos of a Japanese forest by Takeshi Shikama that line the main hallway downstairs. "Because our house is so colorful, the hallway is like the decompression zone," says Trina, 48. Jokes Adam: "I stay out of the way — my wife created most of the house. She's artistic and ethereal in her thinking." Trina, who worked with a team that included architectural firm Abramson Teiger Architects and designer



Sandler

Lara Fishman of Storm Interiors, commissioned a slew of custom creations for the property. Out on the patio, rather than a typical pergola, there's a bronze structure shaped like a tree that shades the outdoor kitchen; created by sculptor Gerard Basil Stripling, it features both lighting and misters. "This is one of the coolest things Trina did. She didn't want to just do something normal, you know?" says Adam. To give pop to the media room, Trina engaged artist Mike Stilkey to create one of his signature installations, in which he paints a tableau on the spines of dozens of

shelved books. Stilkey's painting is meant to represent the Venetian family, depicting a couple dancing and five birds in flight, signifying the couple's five children. They've had two together — Matthew, 14, and Olivia, 16. Adam also has two kids from a previous marriage, twins Michael and Sarah, 24; and Trina has a daughter from a previous marriage, Madison, 26. "This house is full all the time. I love it, love having noise and lots of kids," says Trina. "I think, maybe selfishly, I wanted to make the house fun so our kids would always want to be here, like, 'OK, you have no reason to leave. There's a

pool table. There's ping-pong.'" The nine-bedroom house (three have been converted into a yoga room, gym and playroom) accommodates her husband's work in stylish surroundings as well. The new wing not only added the media room — featuring a 100-inch TV and a cathedral ceiling covered in acoustic wood panels laid out in a puzzle pattern — but also a spacious green leather-lined home office for Adam, who has been at WME since its inception in 2009 and previously worked at Endeavor starting in 1996. Before that, CAA, where he began



SANDLER: MIKE MARCEL/ANDREWREINAGE; MOORE: KASWAL/TANDEMIMAGE

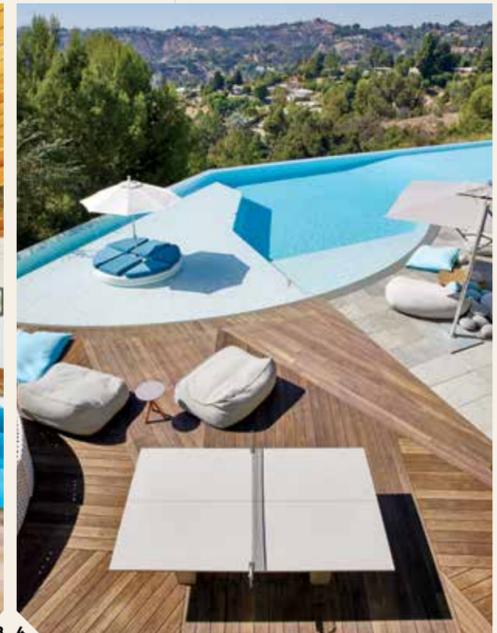


Moore

in the mailroom alongside Ari Emanuel. He found his first job in the industry during his undergrad years at UCLA: "There was a handwritten 3-by-5 card in the university's career-placement center. It was before computers. It said, 'Work for a Director.' I was going to write the number down, but I was smart enough to say, 'Well, if I take the card ...' It was my entrée to Hollywood, and I worked for Ron [Howard] for four years — for free, by the way." Today, his starry client list includes Gal Gadot, Sylvester Stallone, Kevin James, Vince Vaughn, Steve Martin, Dustin Hoffman and directors Shawn Levy and Marc Forster. When he's rolling calls from home — some of his more recent deals include convincing Stallone to let Ryan Coogler make *Creed*, putting together Sandler's four-picture Netflix agreement and negotiating Gadot's compensation for the *Wonder Woman* sequel — the agent sits in a green velvet-upholstered vintage Edward Wormley for Dunbar chair behind a curvilinear Ceccotti "Bean" desk. On how her husband conducts business, Trina says, admiringly: "I'll say, 'I love the fact that you just really fought hard for that person to get vacation time.' Or, maybe it was a woman who was pregnant, an actress, who needed extra time with her baby. So he was working hard to make sure that that happened because it wasn't about the money; it was about that person's happiness. I remember Adam saying, 'Well, selfishly, I want them to be happy because you know it comes back to me.' But I don't think that's selfish at all. I think that's beautiful."

THE PAIR'S FUN-LOVING AND IN-LOVE personalities come through in Trina's Instagram postings, such as a video she shared earlier this year of Adam bench-pressing her entire body and another one of them making pancakes in a pinup-girl design with a PancakeBot printer. They also

1 The walls in Adam's office are decorated with Moore & Giles Evergreen leather squares. The rug is by Nalbandian.
2 In the dining room, an original Charles Hollis Jones table, chairs designed by Trina, carpet by Stark, a chandelier by Hudson, wall treatment by Fromental and a mirrored wall installation by Teresita Fernandez.
3 The couple's meditation room, with a mandala-design chandelier by Willowlamp and pillows and sheepskin throws from Silver Sky Imports.
4 The zero-edge infinity pool is surrounded by outdoor furniture from Niche Beverly.
5 The house's exterior. "I saw the house before renovations, before Trina put all her finishing touches on it," says client Jordan, "and I just remember being like, 'Damn, I got to make it in Hollywood so I can get a house like this.' It's massive."



take seven minutes each day to meditate, usually in a room on the second floor dedicated to silence and reflection, where a chandelier by South African lighting manufacturer Willowlamp forms a mandala when looked at directly from below. Trina has been meditating for a few years now, ever since Adam's client Russell Brand took her to a Kundalini yoga

class with longtime teacher Tej Kaur Khalsa; Adam just got into it. "It really changed my life," says Trina. "It's kind of funny now because Adam will be the one to say, 'Let's go meditate.'" The couple, married for 18 years, met when Adam (who grew up in Cleveland) visited the set of the 1997 TV movie *Bad to the Bone*, starring his then-client Kristy

Swanson. Trina (who was raised in upstate New York, Anaheim and Tempe, Arizona) was working on the film as a makeup artist for special effects. A large group went to dinner one night. "Adam was just a funny guy," recalls Trina of first meeting him. "At the time, he was married." Says Adam, "Nothing happened." A year later, Swanson told Trina, "You should date my agent. He's not married anymore." To this day, Trina likes to poke fun at Adam for what he said when he called — two weeks later — to ask her out. "He says, 'I'd like to take you to coffee,' and I thought, 'That's a really classy thing to say.' Then he goes, 'Yeah, 'cause I'd really like to get the ball rolling.' I just think it's so funny." Adam adds: "She's beautiful and cool and very different from me. I was excited about it."

Nearly two decades later, they've created a blended family. Trina's ex-husband came along

with them on a trip to Israel for the bar mitzvah of Adam and Trina's son. And Adam's ex and her crew will be their guests for Thanksgiving. "This year we're inviting Adam's ex-wife, her new husband and her new husband's children from his previous marriage," says Trina. In the years since they've met, Trina stopped working as a makeup artist and has embarked on a variety of pursuits, including starting and running an organic baby-food company for four years and producing a documentary and coffee-table book, both titled *Aroused*, about women in the

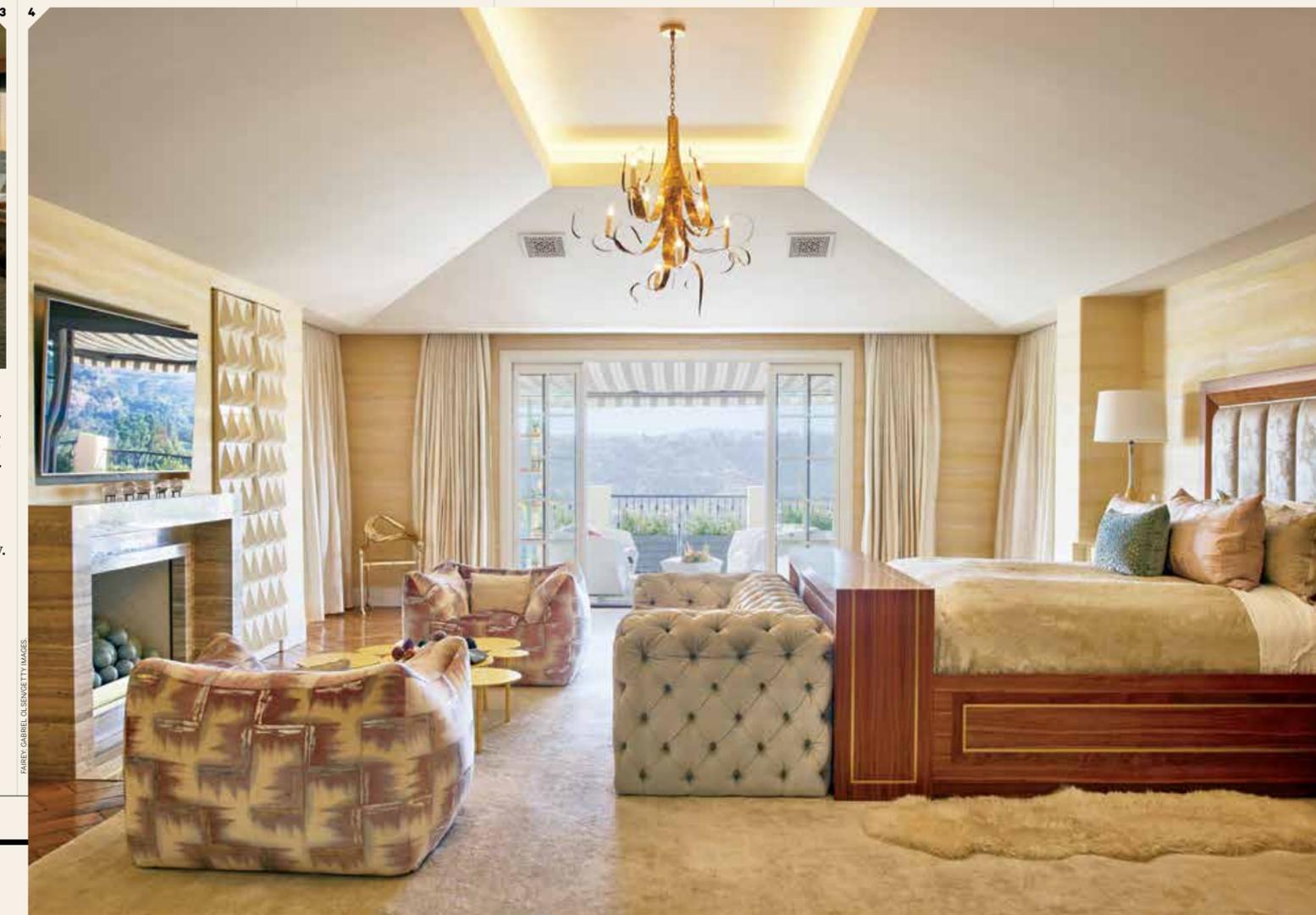


Fairley

porn industry. She's now designing her own studio in their home, which, when completed, will have three walls covered with a blown-up photo of a lake in Scotland. "I like to sit on the floor and write and draw and sculpture. I really want it to be a place where I'm going to be able to leave my art supplies out."

THE POOL AREA AND OUTDOOR DINING

room (which is surrounded by a multicolored metal mesh curtain) is where a lot of the couple's entertaining takes place. "My wife and I love going over to visit Trina and Adam and their kids," says *Million Dollar Listing's* Altman, "especially evenings around the pool. It twinkles with fiber-optic lights imitating the Milky Way. It's one of the best pools in Los Angeles." Adds Fairley, "Adam and Trina are aesthetes, but they also like to entertain and surround themselves with creative movers and shakers. I've had some amazing evenings at the Venits for their spectacular dinner parties with some incredible people, including Dustin and Lisa Hoffman, Sylvester Stallone, Russell Brand, Elon Musk. Adam and Trina are both unpretentious, so despite the impeccable design and curation, the house feels warm and not stuffy." Demi Moore, a friend of Trina's, says: "As I have watched Trina delve deeper into her spiritual path, I have



- 1 The kitchen features a La Cornue stove, Howe London bar stools in leather and Pindler fabric and a pair of custom ceramic-bowl chandeliers by Lesley Anton.
- 2 The family's 13 chickens live in a geodesic dome on the 7.5-acre property.
- 3 The outdoor dining room includes a James Perse table, nest chandeliers by Gulla Jonsdottir, a KriskaDecor metal curtain from Daisycake, chairs from Giati and custom pavers with circular designs by Trina. "The sense of design for the floors is exceptional," says Fairley. "I'm a huge fan of tile work and patterns, from which I frequently draw inspiration for my own artwork, so I immediately noticed how nicely the floor patterns work."
- 4 In the master bedroom, a Phyllis Morris bed in fabric by Donghia, linens by Rodriguez, a tufted sofa fabricated by Design Quest in Chris Hylan fabric, a coffee table by Interieurs, a Jacques Jarrige Fiori chandelier and a banana silk rug from S & J Biren.
- 5 Trina furnished the powder room with a vintage Gaetano Sciolari mirror, hand-placed peacock feathers by MDC Wallcoverings and a violetta marble counter with an integrated sink and brass base by York Studio. "This is one of my favorite rooms," she says.

seen her surroundings reflect a bolder, more confident, colorful and playfully expressive dynamic. The throughline for them is and has always been about family and loved ones. You feel that welcoming generosity the moment you walk through the door." Just don't ask them about the construction of the pool. It was a headache. "When we bought the house, the pool was tiny and way too small for the house," remembers Adam. "We were in Bali and were talking about redoing the house, and we saw this zero-edge pool, which has no coping [the cap for the edge of the pool], and it was

infinity on the back. I was like, "That's really cool." Little did they realize the amount of engineering that would be required to create it. "You have to be completely level, right?" says Adam. "Because if you're more than an eighth of an inch off, the water will lap one way. The whole point of zero edge is that it's a conceptual masterpiece. Well, how do you get incredible stability? Eighteen 16-foot pilings into the ground. Our backyard looked like they were putting an on-ramp onto the 405." At some point, they found out that their contractor wasn't licensed; the couple then scrambled to find a new one. "We were past the point of no return," says Adam. "Great end of the story: It's awesome. And if we have a massive earthquake, you're going to want to run to our pool." Across the street from their house — the property covers 7.5 acres — the couple also created a small park complete with basketball court and playground. Anyone on their street is welcome to enjoy it. "Considering the size of the houses, how many gates there are, we know our neighbors really well. It's just like

the warmest, kindest, loveliest group of people. We're very tight here," says Trina, who admits she felt trepidation about moving to the community. She worried Beverly Hills would be less friendly than Encino, where they previously lived. It turned out to be the opposite. "In Encino, we didn't know our neighbors," she says. Both say they feel lucky every day to live in such a place. "I didn't come from too much," says Adam. Adds Trina, "I definitely didn't come from much." Continues Adam, "I think we both really like our life and enjoy it and try really hard to make sure we keep liking it because we all know so many people who are super successful and aren't really happy. You know, the more you complicate your life, it takes a real effort to have fun. We don't ever want to lose that." **THR**

