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VOGUE
LIVING



In the POOL AREA, Krios outdoor furniture by Summit Furniture; Tribute stools beside sun lounges by Kelly Wearstler; Paola Lenti Bistrò parasols. Details, last pages.

KELLY'S

There's no place like home, and that definitely applies for *Vogue Living's* guest editor, Kelly Wearstler. Her stately mansion showcases all the glamour of the golden years of Hollywood, crowned by irresistible touches of her signature style.

BY TIFFANY BAKKER PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANSON SMART

WORLD



Kelly Wearstler may have grown up a design-obsessed kid scouring flea markets in her native South Carolina before moving north to Boston to follow her passion at university, but our guest editor's style ethos lays firmly in her adopted home.

"California totally informs my work because it's not rooted in tradition, so there's always new and emerging artists — whether it's film or architecture or design," says Wearstler, kicking back in the living room of her Beverly Hills home. "The design styles are so vast in California and there are no rules. You can do what you want here in a way I don't think people do on the east coast [of the US]. There's a freedom in design here."

That particular freedom suits Wearstler's uninhibited aesthetic, which often plays with intense colours, graphic prints and luxe textures. "I like to do things differently on every project, which is great because the client is my muse and so is the architecture, and so is the location and what's outside the window," says Wearstler, who has designed homes for Cameron Diaz and Gwen Stefani. "And then I'll assemble a lot of 'vibe imagery' — it might be a piece of furniture or a painting or a pattern or texture, and then it starts figuring itself out."

In the 21 years since she started her eponymous business "in a very grassroots way" by designing rooms here and there for her friends, Wearstler has created a global design empire, which she directs from her second-floor studio in West Hollywood. Her portfolio spans interiors, furniture, lighting, rugs, wallpaper and fabrics, residential and commercial design, and a flagship boutique on famous Melrose Avenue — a treasure-trove of artisanal furniture, quirky objets d'art and one-of-a-kind vintage pieces along with bespoke designs from her own collection. She has a fifth design book (published by Rizzoli) due in 2019.

Wearstler and her husband, Brad Korzen, CEO of prestigious property firm the Kor Group, virtually launched LA's hip boutique hotel boom early last decade. Their latest project, with the Proper Hotel group, includes highly prized locations in San Francisco, Santa Monica, Los Angeles and Austin (see page 160). There are other collaborations on the horizon, including a silver line with Georg Jensen. "I'm a very good multi-tasker," Wearstler says with a hearty laugh. "I work hard and I really love what I do. It's my passion. It's not work for me; it's sort of like an obsession, really."

Wearstler, Korzen and their teenage sons, Oliver, 15, and Elliott, 14, make their home in a 1926 Hollywood estate that sits on 1.3 hectares just off Sunset Boulevard in Beverly Hills. "I'm my most difficult

client by far," says Wearstler with a grin. "It's challenging designing your own home and I'm particular — things change a lot. My other clients are my two sons and my husband, and they're all very opinionated, which is good. There are a lot of discussions."

And with a home like this, there's a lot to talk about. Built for silent movie star Hobart Bosworth, the Spanish hacienda-style house was sold to actors William Powell and Carole Lombard — Tinseltown royalty at the time — in 1933 and remodelled the next year by LA architect James Dolen into a glamorous Hollywood Regency style. The estate was ultimately acquired in 1969 by Albert 'Cubby' Broccoli, the renowned producer of the James Bond film franchise. When Wearstler and Korzen expressed interest in the property 14 years ago, they were advised they had a legacy to uphold.

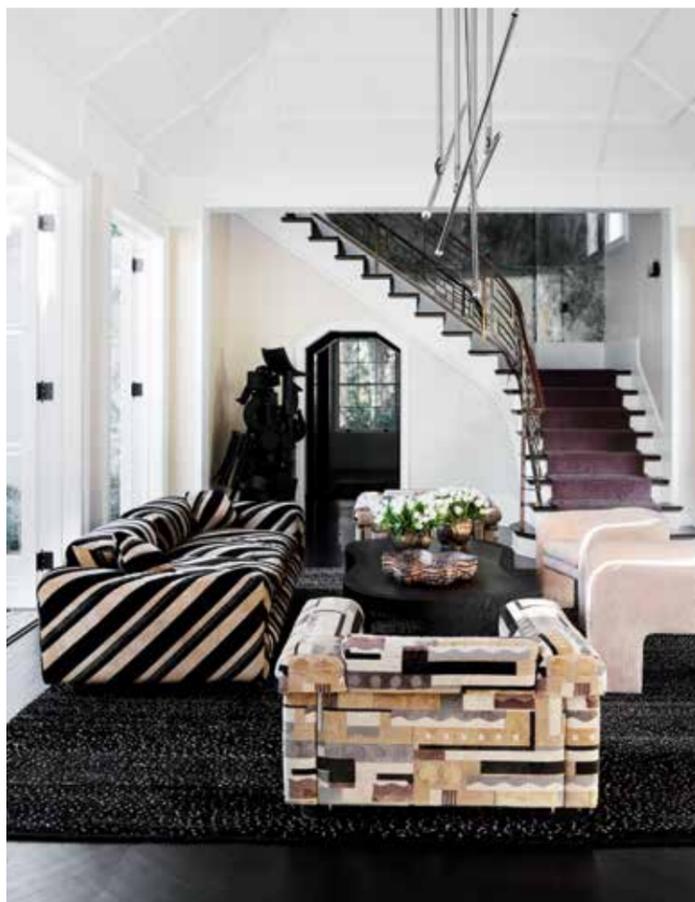
"The Broccoli family was very particular about who bought the house. Anyone could have torn it down," says Wearstler. "But we wrote a long letter about why we wanted to be in the house, so they knew that we were going to keep the bones and just give it a new spirit. I think they trusted us with it and it's now historically protected."

It's rare to see a true old-style Hollywood mansion up close. At 1056 square metres, the scale is awe-inspiring; it's easy to imagine a scene from *Sunset Boulevard*, with Norma Desmond sweeping down one of the glorious staircases. While the interiors display many of Wearstler's signature pieces — such as the graphic Durant sofa and the elaborate fractured-glass dining table matched with black leather-and-bronze Elliott chairs — they don't detract from the grandeur of the design, with its spectacular polished dark wood floors and vast, high ceilings. In fact, Wearstler's bravura style works perfectly. "The home's original design and workmanship is genius — the proportion and scale is so refined and delicate," she says. "And people used real materials. If it's wood, it's wood. If it's plaster, it's plaster. If it's stone, it's stone. It's not porcelain that looks like stone. There was some incredible craftsmanship."

After more than a decade, Wearstler says she still finds a deep creative insight in her own home. "Design and history are super inspirational to me," she says. "My style is evolving because I don't like to do the same things twice. I know what the anomalies are in this world, what's special and what's common."

"I'm inspired by fashion, by mother nature, by my boys, by texture... I can't even pick a favourite design period because I love all of them. But your eye gets more educated with time, and it's just about being aware of your surroundings and thoughtful in how you look at things." *VL*

Visit kellywearstler.com; @kellywearstler



THIS PAGE: in the DINING ROOM, Fractured dining table and Elliott chairs by Kelly Wearstler; Louis Durot spiral chair; Bubbles dresser by Patrick Schols; vintage Jacques Duval-Brasseur table lamp on dresser; painting by unknown artist behind dresser from JF Chen. In the background, through doors, artwork by Eleni Nicodemou bought at a Paris flea market. OPPOSITE PAGE: in the LIVING ROOM, Kelly Wearstler Durant sofa; 1980s Italian armchairs covered in Clarence House fabric; vintage J Schellenberg Interiors curved chairs; Rhodes coffee table with Rarity bowl, both by Kelly Wearstler. In the background, vintage sculpture purchased at auction.

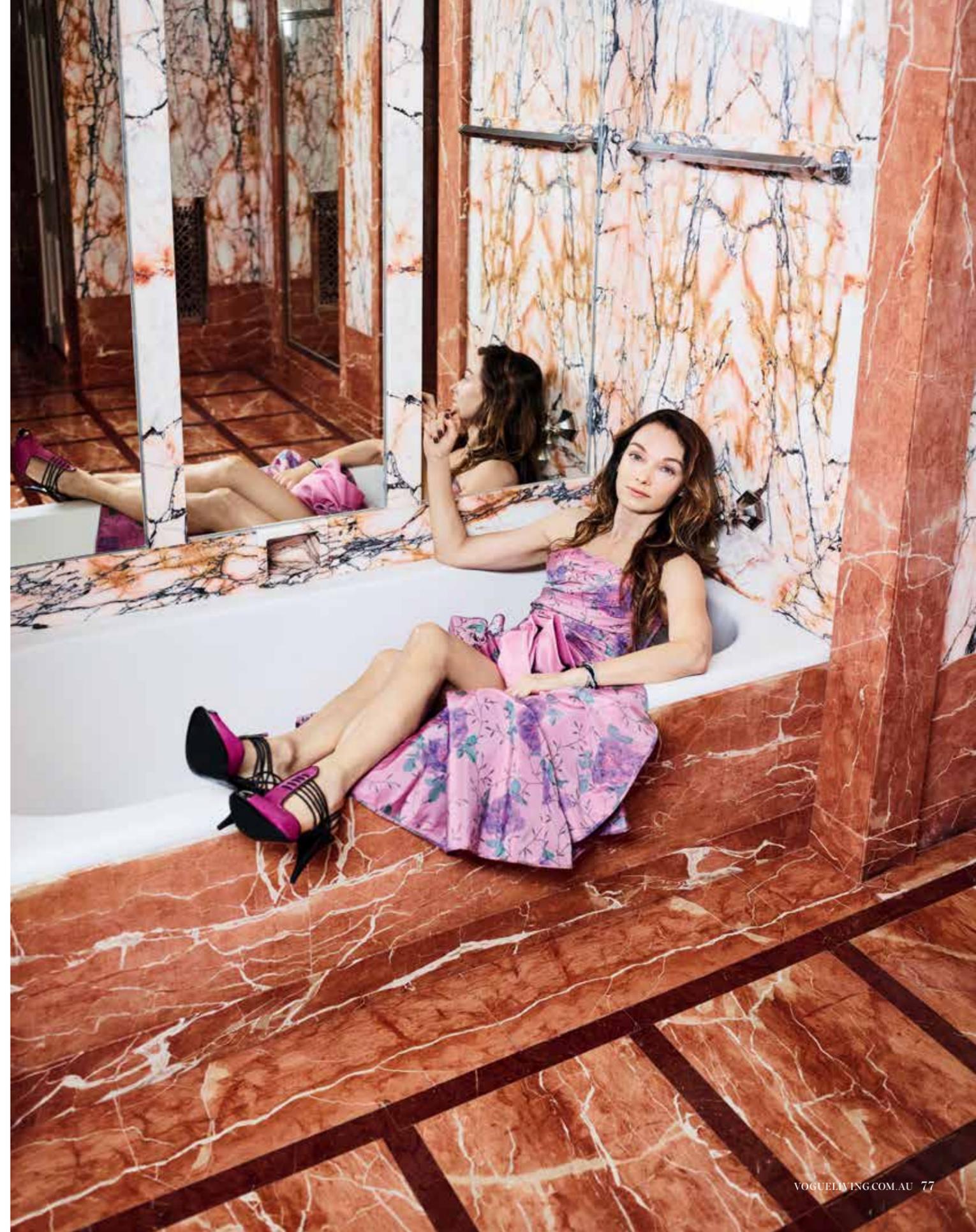


THIS PAGE: in the custom Kelly Wearstler-designed KITCHEN, Precision pendants and small fluted vase by Kelly Wearstler on Calacatta marble-topped island. OPPOSITE PAGE: in the DEN, De Sede Terrazza landscape sofa by Ubald Klug; plaster-cast foot on 1970s table bought in Paris; painting on wall by unknown artist, c. 1960.



“THE HOME’S ORIGINAL DESIGN IS GENIUS — THE PROPORTION AND SCALE IS SO REFINED AND DELICATE” — KELLY WEARSTLER

THIS PAGE: in *Wearstler’s* SITTING ROOM, off the main bedroom, Art Deco cabinet purchased at auction; vintage mirror *Wearstler* reportedly sourced from the set of the original *Star Wars* movie; vintage busts collected over the years — the one in foreground is French resin; wall covered in *Kelly Wearstler Crescent* wallpaper for *Lee Jofa* in *Ebony/Cream*. OPPOSITE PAGE: *Kelly* in her husband *Brad Korzen’s* BATHROOM; the red Italian marble is original to the home.





THIS PAGE: *Wearstler's sons, Elliott (left) and Oliver, have a band called The Negotiators.* OPPOSITE PAGE: *in another view of the POOL AREA, Krios outdoor furniture by Summit Furniture; Tribute stool beside sun lounge by Kelly Wearstler.*



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: in other views of the STUDIO, Heath bronze bowls and striped Optic bowls and base, all by Kelly Wearstler. In the BOUTIQUE, Calia draped chair in solid bronze by Kelly Wearstler; Zephyr sofa, striped Fairfax chair and Rarity bowls on coffee table all by Kelly Wearstler. Details, last pages.



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: view of the KELLY WEARSTLER FLAGSHIP BOUTIQUE on Melrose Avenue, West Hollywood. In her STUDIO, Wearstler at work; Detail of raw mineral samples; Wearstler's team at work. Detail of fabric samples.

