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# Totally in Tune

For music impresario **RICHARD FOOS** and his family, a new place in the hills west of L.A. has proved to be pure platinum.

By Michael Webb

Photographs by Luca Trovato

A onetime spec house is now a highly personal home for Richard and Shari Foos and their daughter, Harley, thanks to some practical magic from L.A. designer Thomas Callaway. In the entry hall (opposite), he added a vaulted ceiling and stone floors; his clients came up with the girl group of Indian instrumentalists.



RICHARD FOOS is a self-confessed pop-culture fanatic. As a boy growing up in Pennsylvania, he was often glued to the radio, listening to "Blue Moon," by the Marcels; Gene Chandler's "Duke of Earl"; anything by Dave Brubeck or the Beatles; and a jukebox's worth of other songs. Soon after his family moved to L.A., he started selling records out of a yellow Ford van—his very own yellow submarine—and in 1973 he opened a store named Rhino Records, which would soon grow into the legendary reissue label. After selling it to Warner Brothers, in 2001, he established the Shout! Factory, a CD-releasing company that has since expanded to television, sports and animation DVDs. Foos's zeal for sharing music inspired him in 2003 to cofound Rock the Classroom, a music-education program for inner-

city public-school children in L.A. Several years earlier, his wife, Shari, started the Bridge Program, which offers disadvantaged adults in the area a yearlong college-level course in the humanities.

Richard and Shari Foos are passionate about everything they do. So it's no surprise that when they decided their Spanish-revival-style home in Brentwood, where they'd lived for seven years, was a bit too open and noisy, they weren't going to settle for an off-the-shelf house. They knew just what they were looking for: a place that would be big enough to accommodate the eager crowds attending their fundraisers and intimate enough for smaller gatherings—but also one that would serve as a tranquil retreat for them and their thirteen-year-old daughter, Harley. Richard occasionally works from home; Shari, a marriage-and-family therapist, keeps an office in Santa Monica, where she sees patients, but she also appreciates a quiet zone for her own creative pur-

suits. A writer of songs, poetry and stand-up comedy over the years, she is now working on her first novel.

The couple bought their present house in 2000 for its generous footprint and leafy site looking west from Brentwood, at the edge of Mandeville Canyon, to the Santa Monica Mountains. At the time, it was a half-framed spec house; Shari says she and Richard rejected the idea of building out the "vanilla shell" that the developer proposed. A neighbor's contractor put them in touch with L.A.-based architect and designer Thomas Callaway, and the three established an immediate rapport.

**A pair of carved-stone lions from India guard the entry court (above), which leads into a two-story atrium (opposite) with travertine floors and plaster walls. Inlaid Indian armchairs flank a shell-encrusted table.**

"What gives the place its spice is the use of Moorish details."





A bedroom in the pool house features antique cement-tile floors, a neo-Gothic chair and a bedspread in Lee Jofa's Ganton Stripe. Opposite: The music room plays a Moroccan-style fireplace off a French chandelier, an Italian painting and furniture from India and China.





Callaway's passion lies in historic buildings, an enthusiasm that grew out of his experiences in Europe, where he spent his junior year in college. Though he ended up pursuing an acting career in New York after graduation, Callaway never forgot his first love, and he put his architectural knowledge to use as soon as he got married.

"My wife and I pooled our income from working on the soaps to buy a prewar apartment on West 81st Street and Central Park," the designer recalls. "The ceiling had fallen in, and she ran out screaming, but I looked past the rubble to the fantastic proportions and spent every minute between acting jobs creating an American Federal interior."

Eventually, Callaway moved to the West Coast, where he's spent the past twenty years creating homes in a diverse range of period styles for a starry client list that includes Steve Martin, Michelle Pfeiffer, Larry David, Peter Horton and Pat Riley, the former L.A. Lakers coach. Recent jobs have ranged from a thatched Tudor cottage to a midcentury modern revival, though several of his current projects are variations on traditional Mediterranean themes.

Unlike Wallace Neff, George Washington Smith and other architects who emerged from European Beaux-Arts schools early in the past century to create Southern California's distinguished period-style residences, Callaway is self-taught >179

## GLOBAL SOURCEBOOK

Thomas Callaway is a designer whose specialty is foreign accents. Here are a few of his top sources and favorite products.

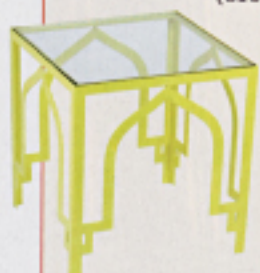
**Fabrics:** Callaway often relies on colorful prints from Lee Jofa, including Intaglio Weave for upholstery and Summerhouse Crewel for curtains (*to the trade, leejofa.com*). From Cowtan & Tout, he likes Carinthia and Spoletto for curtains (*to the trade, cowtan.com*). In the Fooses' music room he used Quadrille's Mojave on the sofa (*to the trade, 310-657-2995*) and Nancy Corzine's Parrish (*to the trade, 310-652-4859*) as drapery and pillow fabrics. Also check out Alhambra (above) from Pierre Frey (*to the trade, pierrefrey.com*).



**Tile:** French reclaimed cement tiles are Callaway classics. He finds them at Exquisite Surfaces (*xsurfaces.com for locations*) and Country Floors (*countryfloors.com for locations*). For a decidedly Moroccan look, try La Brea Moresque tiles from Country Floors (above).



**Furniture:** The designer mixes antiques with his own line of custom furniture, Thomas Callaway Benchworks (*310-828-1030*). In L.A. he frequents Reborn Antiques (*310-289-7785*), Minton-Spidell (*to the trade, 310-836-0403*), J.F. Chen (*310-559-2436*) and the Collection (*310-205-3840*).



**Carpets:** Callaway keeps a stash of antique carpets in his inventory for clients. The rest of us can visit Mansour (*mansourmodern.com*), E.J. Hakimian (*212-371-6900*), Edward Barsamian (*212-689-6273*) and Doris Leslie Blau (*212-586-5511*).

**Accessories:** For tabletop objects and other decorative additions, Callaway visits Tod Carson Inc. (*310-271-1947*) and Evans & Gerst Antiques (*310-657-0112*). To give your own Moorish style a brisk update, consider the Casamidy iron-and-glass table (above) from vivre.com.



Artist Esther Carpenter stenciled the ceiling beams in the media room (this page), and Callaway added a ca.-1900 Agra carpet that echoes their intricacy. The Fooses found the Moroccan-style coffee table in L.A. In the yoga room (opposite), a 1940s Samar-kand carpet is the star.