

TOWN & COUNTRY

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L.A. CONFIDENTIAL:
AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO
THE NEIGHBORHOODS

SPECIAL HOME ISSUE

Hollywood's High Style

Sharon Stone:
The Star Next-Door

L.A.'s Have-to-Have
Decorators

The Best House in Town

Glamour Houses
Of the Golden Age

OCTOBER 1999
U.S. \$4.00 CANADA \$5.00
FOREIGN \$5.00



Sharon Stone in Vera Wang,
with jewelry by Tony Duquette

HANCOCK PARK HAS PERFECTED THE CURIOUS SOCIAL BLENDING OF
OLD MONEY AND NEWEST POSSIBLE MONEY (ONLY SILICON
VALLEY MINTS MILLIONAIRES QUICKER THAN HOLLYWOOD).

HOLLYWOOD: the former Jack Warner mansion in Beverly Hills, now home to David Geffen. Architecturally speaking, Marc Appleton (310-828-0430) does thoughtful traditional work; for landscape design, Robert E. Truskowski (949-494-6650) has done gardens for Forstmann Little CEO Ted Forstmann and Herbalife founder Mark Hughes.

HIGH STREETS Rodeo Drive, and Wilshire Boulevard between Rodeo Drive and Santa Monica Boulevard.

SHOP OF THE MOMENT Gucci on Rodeo Drive, where you can pick up the latest impractical high heels while enjoying the Bill Sofield-created décor.

SPLURGE FOR THE HOUSE A media room with a movie screen at least 17 feet wide, as well as randomly placed, oversize club chairs. Preferably, the room should be detached from the main house so that you can leave home and "go to the movies."

OUT TO EAT Breakfast at the Peninsula Hotel Dining Room, lunch at The Grill, dinner at Mr. Chow's.

ON THE SPEED DIAL Bicoastal hairdresser Frédéric Fekkai (310-777-8700), mainstay of both Betsy Bloomingdale and Liv Tyler; Tom Byrne of La Cuisine catering (310-837-8445) for California cooking with a French flair (clients include Barry Diller and Aaron Spelling); custom-linen designer Nancy Stanley Waud (310-273-3690); society contractor Peter McCoy (310-278-3503), who tools around town in a Mercedes sport utility vehicle and is married to heiress Kacey Doheny.

Brentwood

BY GAYLE GLENN

CHIEF APPEAL Now that the paparazzi chasing down O.J. and Monica leads are long gone, Brentwood is once again a prime choice for family-oriented, privacy-loving entertainment-industry types. "It's basically the same buyer profile as Pacific Palisades, though Brentwood is about one third the size," notes Murray Weisberg, associate manager of Fred Sands Realtors in Brentwood. At about twelve square miles, it's the heart of west-side L.A., bounded by Westwood and Bel-Air to the east and Santa Monica to the west. The place to live is anywhere in the Brentwood Park area north of Sunset, where lot sizes are bigger and the hillside sites are more interesting. But truth be told, anyplace in Brentwood is mighty nice. "It's not too congested, it still gets ocean breezes, it's family-friendly and safe," adds Weisberg. What more could any Hollywood princeling want?
ZIP CODE 90049

THE NEIGHBORS Mike and Judy Ovitz, John Travolta and Kelly Preston, Meg Ryan and Dennis Quaid, Cindy Crawford, Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen, Jim Carrey, L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan, conductor Zubin Mehta, and, when she's in town, Monica Lewinsky.

BEST ADDRESS Oakmont Drive (where billionaire Eli Broad lives) or any of the streets in Brentwood Park: Carmelina Avenue, Cliffwood Avenue, and—yes—Rockingham Road.

AVERAGE HOUSE PRICE About \$1.6 million. \$1.17 million recently bought a two-bedroom, one-and-three-quarter-bath, 1,524-square-foot house—"A teardown," says Murray Weisberg. In Brentwood Park, \$3.175 million buys a "traditional" six-bedroom, seven-bath house with a pool and a guesthouse on 28,000 square feet, described as needing "renovation or a teardown." "You can't get anything decent in Brentwood for less than a million," says Crosby Doe of Mossler, Deasy & Doe. "And even that's not a whole lot here."

TYPICAL HOUSE Traditional—or, as interior designer Michael Smith puts it, "Think Connecticut as seen through the eyes of Howard Hawks circa 1930."

LANDSCAPE LOOK English country garden, arbor covered in jasmine, white picket fence, steppingstones, well-groomed lawn.

CARS OF CHOICE Range Rovers, Jeep Grand Cherokees, Mercedes station wagons, BMWs (all types).

ACCESSORIES OF CHOICE Babies (in Peg Perego strollers), lemon trees in terra-cotta pots, Labrador retrievers.

NECESSARY LUXURY Screening room, playroom for the kids, membership in nearby Riviera Country Club (\$75,000 per year).

HOME IMPROVEMENT Barbara Barry (310-276-9977) has a simply glamorous vision of contemporary life that has many fans here, including Eli Broad, Richard Riordan and musician Glenn Frey. Neo-traditionalist Madeline Stuart (323-935-3305) is also very busy in Brentwood. The landscape design firm to watch is Mia Lehrer + Associates (213-892-0009), known for its relationships with several big-name architects, including Ricardo Legorreta.

HIGH STREET San Vicente Boulevard—especially the Brentwood Gardens shopping area and the Brentwood Country Mart, at San Vicente and 26th Street.

SHOPS OF THE MOMENT Ice Accessories (for Kate Spade bags, Lisa Jenks jewelry, silver frames and chenille throws), Harrari (Asian-influenced frocks and beads) and Boulmiche

(for hipster lines like those of Anna Sui and Vivienne Tam).

SPLURGE FOR THE HOUSE Slipcovered sofas and distressed vintage furniture in various shades of white from Shabby Chic; kids' rooms decorated with state-of-the-art Italian furniture from Bellini, located on San Vicente.

OUT TO EAT Vincenti, a reincarnation of the famed downtown restaurant Rex—although the nearby Toscana still has a faithful following. Both on San Vicente.

ON THE SPEED DIAL Allen Edwards Salon & Serenity Spa (310-394-2878); The Woods Fresh Flower Market (310-826-0711); L.A. to Go food-delivery service (310-440-4455); the Brentwood Newsstand (310-447-2080) at Whole Foods Market (celebs need to know if their cover stories have come out yet).

Hancock Park BY BILL HIGGINS

CHIEF APPEAL South of Hollywood and midway between Beverly Hills and downtown, L.A.'s Hancock Park has perfected the curious social blending of Old Money (in Los Angeles, that's two-and-a-half generations) and Newest Possible Money (only Silicon Valley produces millionaires quicker than the entertainment industry). This is the only section of Los Angeles where Pasadena-style society (the late Music Center founder Buff Chandler, who set the local blue-blood standard, lived on Lorraine Boulevard) coexists alongside an influx of industry luminaries (Antonio Banderas and Melanie Griffith; John Malkovich, until he moved to France last spring).

This 2.2-square-mile neighborhood offers roughly 1,200 houses, most built at the turn of the century in a charmed-by-time mixture of standard European and American styles. What they have in common is size: more than 4,000 square feet is not unusual. The mix of old homes, old trees, old money and having a bold-faced name for a neighbor makes Hancock Park that most attractive Southern California hybrid—Pasadena without the smog, Beverly Hills without the tour buses. And Paramount Studios is next-door.

ZIP CODES 90004, 90020

THE NEIGHBORS Miramax West Coast President Mark Gill; former Los Angeles Dodgers owner Peter O'Malley; actress Elizabeth Perkins; Music Center's Theatre Group president Phyllis Hennigan; George Takei of "Star Trek"; "Friends" creator Marta Kaufman; Kevin Williamson, creator of the TV series "Dawson's Creek."

BEST ADDRESS Between 1st and 2nd streets on Hudson Place. (Big plus, at least until a ball cracks the glass: a view of the golfers at the Wilshire Country Club.) Farther down on Hudson, between 3rd and 4th, there's no view of the golf course, but the lots are deeper and have tennis courts and pools.

AVERAGE HOUSE PRICE \$1.5 million, which will buy a four- or five-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath Mediterranean of about 4,500–5,000 square feet on a quarter acre. "But you could spend up to \$3.5 million for something big on the golf course," says Susan Chadney of Fred Sands Estates (323-468-2266). Or spend more: Banderas and Griffith paid \$4.2 million for a thirteen-bedroom, 15,000-square-foot house designed in 1925 by Gordon Kaufmann, who built the Doheny family's Greystone mansion.

TYPICAL HOUSE Primarily Mediterranean, Spanish and English, with a sprinkling of Colonial.

LANDSCAPE LOOK Old trees with lush lawns. When viewed from the hills, the neighborhood appears parklike.

CARS OF CHOICE Black Volvo V70, Lincoln Navigator, Lexus SUV, a new Volkswagen Beetle for the kids.

ACCESSORY OF CHOICE For the Hollywood crowd, a publicist. For everyone else, an energetic dog. It's a great place for dog walking.

NECESSARY LUXURY Driving lessons for the Salvadoran housekeeper.

HOME IMPROVEMENT Architect Mary Pickhardt (323-935-1353) specializes in redesigning traditional styles; Suzanne Rheinstein (323-466-0750) knows just how the Hancock Park/Windsor Square house should be dressed on the inside—Anglophilia reigns. Patricia Benner (323-464-1292) is a neighborhood favorite for landscape design.

HIGH STREET Larchmont Boulevard is to Hancock Park what Rodeo Drive is to Beverly Hills, only more quaint and functional, with hardware stores and Italian restaurants.

SHOP OF THE MOMENT Larchmont's Hollyhock—a design store whose English-oriented antiques, crystal, pottery and silver frames typify the local look. Suzanne Rheinstein and Joe Nye run it.

SPLURGE FOR THE HOUSE For the more traditionally minded, an antique Georgian sideboard; for the Hollywood crowd; a state-of-the-art screening room (which was paid for, of course, by the studio).

OUT TO EAT Girasole on Larchmont for real Italian. Tiny, family-run, with excellent food.

ON THE SPEED DIAL Daryl Trainor Tverdahl of Village Catering (323-465-6175), whose specialty is southern cuisine.

Hollywood BY ALEXA YABLONSKI

CHIEF APPEAL Geographically, Hollywood is just a hop from the studios over in the valley and twenty minutes north of downtown; psychically, it's a world away from both. In short, Hollywood is as darkly fabulous as it gets in the Golden State (remember, Bela Lugosi once called the Hills home, and Brad Pitt and Kevin Costner still do).