

Los Angeles Times

HOME OF THE WEEK

An Old L.A. Feel Inside and Out



This Hollywood Hills home north of the Cahuenga Pass was built in 1924, the same year that Frank Lloyd Wright finished the Ennis House in Los Feliz. Whereas Wright's concrete-block wonder pointed to the future, this home remained faithful to the city's Spanish Mediterranean style, a paradise-centric design that would come to define Los Angeles.

The single-level house sits midway up the hills in a leafy canyon. There have been changes to its footprint over the years, although it's hard to tell what was added when. The current owner built a large en suite bedroom now used as an office on the west side, and the previous owner added a bathroom onto a room on the east side. Still, the house retains an old Los Angeles feel inside and out.

From the front door, a small room (entryway sounds too inconsequential for the size) leads to an ornate wrought-iron gate that seems to grandly announce the main living space. Inside, thick wooden beams frame the vaulted ceiling over the living room and adjoining dining area. An original fireplace and low-hanging metal chandelier are among the Spanish details.

On the other end of the room is a large arched window flanked by twin custom-made cabinets. The circular motif in its leaded glass repeats throughout the house, most notably in small inset windows and outside gates.

From one room to the next, the outside is never far away. Floor-to-ceiling doors from the kitchen lead to a front patio with an outdoor barbecue grill; double doors in the living room access the walkway to the front door; and doorways in bedrooms swing out to a tiled courtyard with a seating area.

The master bedroom breaks with the prevailing design and feels more formal than the rest of the house. The room has walls trimmed with contrasting molding, recessed lighting and a walk-in closet that was added by the current owner. Three more rooms -- a music room and two bedrooms currently outfitted for children -- complete the original floor plan.

Outside, a terraced area with native grasses and plants makes good use of a steep hillside at the back of the property. A centuries-old sycamore tree in the front yard has a somewhat infamous past. According to one local history book, "Hollywood Haunted" by Laurie Jacobson and Marc Wanamaker, the tree was a meeting place and then a "hanging tree" for banditos and outlaws in L.A.'s early days.

Owner Barbara Maynard loves the tree, but it's not what sold her on the house 11 years ago.

"I felt like great things had happened here, and there was lots of love in this house," said Maynard, who runs a consulting firm specializing in labor unions and community groups.

That feeling turned out to be prophetic: Maynard is selling because she's getting married and needs more space for her new blended family of five.

To submit a candidate for Home of the Week, send high-resolution, un-retouched color photos on a CD, written permission from the photographer to publish the images and a description of the house to Lauren Beale, Business, Los Angeles Times, 202 W. 1st St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. Send questions to homeoftheweek@latimes.com

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Hollywood Hills home

Location: 3138 Oakshire Drive, Los Angeles 90068

Asking price: \$1,209,000

Previously sold for: \$590,000 in 2000

House size: The house has four bedrooms and 3 1/2 bathrooms in 2,276 square feet.

Lot size: 9,610 square feet

Additional features: Renovated kitchen with added wine bar cabinets, spa, two-car garage with a workbench and cabinetry, hillside irrigation system and customized landscaping in the backyard.

Around the neighborhood: In 2010, 233 single-family homes sold in the 90068 ZIP Code at a median price of \$900,000, according to DataQuick Information Systems. That was a 4% decrease from the 2009 median.

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