

ELLE DECOR

THE FUTURE *of* DESIGN

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SHAPING
OUR WORLD**

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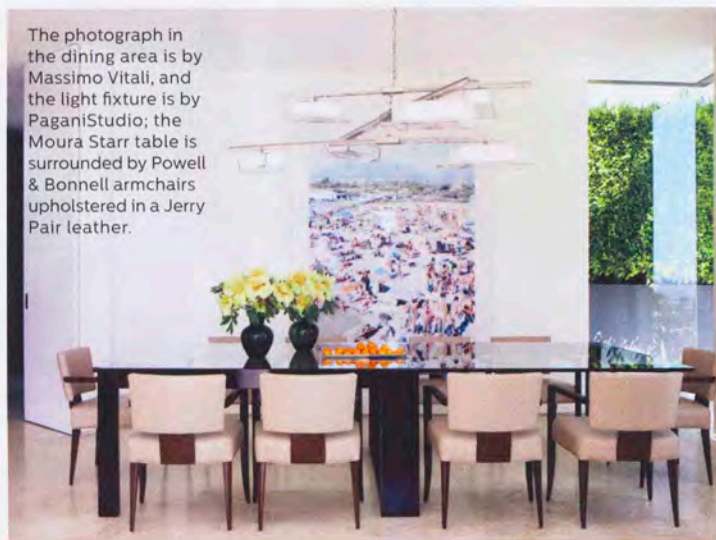
**THOM FILICIA'S
MUST-HAVES**



Pieces by Summit Furniture on the terrace; the cushions and pillows are covered in Perennials fabrics, and the shade is by Brown Jordan.

WHAT THE PROS KNOW

- Don't assume you can't afford special pieces. "Custom-made furniture sounds expensive," Eisner says, "but there are times when you can make a piece for less than it would cost to buy something similar from a showroom."
- Furniture placement can be tricky in a room without much wall space. In the family room, Eisner pulled the furniture into the middle of the room and designed a screen that "wraps" the sofa and anchors a desk behind it.
- Don't always follow the plan: The upholstered wall in the guest room was to be outlined in nailhead trim, but once the panels were hung, Eisner decided the wall didn't need further embellishment.



The photograph in the dining area is by Massimo Vitali, and the light fixture is by PaganiStudio; the Moura Starr table is surrounded by Powell & Bonnell armchairs upholstered in a Jerry Pair leather.

CE: No. In fact, we had the opposite problem. There's a downside to all that light and openness—a certain loss of privacy and the exposure of the art and antiques to potentially harmful light. We actually installed some sliding doors to create the option of closing off the dining area.

ED: If light was an issue, why did you choose bright white for the walls?

CE: My clients entertain a lot, mostly at night. They bought the house because it works so well for entertaining, and for the view, of course. I chose Benjamin Moore's Super White because I wanted the walls to look crisp and fresh even in low light.

ED: What was the look you were going for?

CE: Well, we wanted it modern, certainly, but I didn't want to lose sight of the past, of the source of what we call "modern" now, and in particular Art Deco. I like to think there's a certain prewar French salon feeling to the place—it's meant to be romantic and sexy. And the homeowners have a particular affection for Africa, so there are some references to that, too, like the animal-print rug in the master bedroom and the living-room rug, which is a contemporary take on zebra skin.



The custom-made sofa in the family room is upholstered in a Manuel Canovas velvet, and the 1950s chairs are covered in an Edelman leather; the rug is by Mansour Modern, and the flooring is travertine. **RIGHT:** The floor plan.

