

# Angeleno Interiors

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In a profession where calling-card projects are everything, **Mae Brunken** has already arrived in the form of her super-sexy take on Seven. The downtown nightclub has the kind of glam-slamming details that not only make everyone contained within its bronze, tufted walls look like someone, it also showcases Brunken's sultry style to a T. Cue the mood lighting, the can't-miss color combinations and the play on graphic patterns that place it firmly in the now. In addition to the nightclub, Brunken has had no shortage of residential projects spanning L.A. lofts to Santa Monica cottages. But her latest project may end up being closest to her heart: It's her own house perched high in the hills, and one that comes loaded with enough Hollywood history—it was Barbara Stanwyck's spread in *Double Indemnity*—to scare a lesser decorator into pure homage. Not Brunken. Instead, she's taking the slow and steady approach to carefully updating and honoring the 3,000-square-foot, 1920s Spanish-style house. So far, she's into year eight of the project, and still making design decisions that involve everything from wall color to drapery to, yes, undoing some not-so-stylish

renovations made by previous owners. "I've had to peel back some stuff from the 1970s, but this house has such good bones, it's mostly been about figuring out ways to make them stand out," says Brunken. And while the designer admits to falling for too much of what she sees ("I let too many products into my house"), she always steers clear of the trends. "You don't want to carbonate a house so that it looks like it was done in 2008. If you've got to have something like pink and chocolate, stick to smaller elements like pillows," opines the designer. And with drop-dead projects like hers, who are we to argue? [www.maebrunkendesign.com](http://www.maebrunkendesign.com). ■



**GILDED STAGE:** 1. Lightbox art by Jordan Carlyle at Seven nightclub. 2. An L.A. loft project. 3. The aquamarine library in Brunken's house.