

# V I E W



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# Star Power

BY ALYSON PITARRE

Architect Richard Landry continues to make his mark on Hollywood with his American eclecticism.

**K**nown as the “architect to the stars,” Richard Landry has mastered American eclecticism — a design tradition that yields residences that stand the test of time. It is perhaps the reason why his work has drawn the praise of so many elite and celebrity clients over the years, including Tom Brady and Gisele Bündchen, Mark Wahlberg, Sylvester Stallone and Dr. Dre. Their desires are the same as those of any other homeowner. They want homes that are private. They want homes that are comfortable and timeless. And they want homes in which to entertain their family and friends. “Their homes are their refuge,” Landry says.

After 30 years and 500 residences, Landry still has star — and staying — power. The award-winning, West Los Angeles-based architect is a regular fixture on the AD100 list, and his residences have been selected as Robb Report’s “Ultimate Home” five out of the last six years. We asked Landry about the things that matter most to his clients.

## What is inspiring you right now?

Over the last few years, we’ve seen more demand for contemporary houses. And yet, a lot of our clients are concerned that modern homes will become dated very quickly. So, we’re playing with hybrid concepts, where perhaps the bones of the house are traditional, yet we’ll infuse contemporary elements for contrast. You see hybrid concepts in Europe quite often — especially in the hotel and institutional sectors — since many historic buildings are protected by landmark status. The exteriors are traditional, yet the interiors are very modern. The juxtaposition of opposing styles can be very interesting. We are starting to see these ideas being applied to the residential sector here in Los Angeles. Bringing the traditional and modern together is a fresh way to look at residential architecture.

## Which features are a lot of your clients asking for right now?

The wellness approach is becoming more prevalent in the homes we are designing right now. We are seeing a lot of requests for in-home spas, massage rooms, steam rooms and gyms. The idea is that the homeowner can do everything from exercising to relaxing without leaving the house. We’re also seeing a lot of requests for beauty salons. Homeowners like the idea of getting their hair or nails done in the privacy of their homes.

## Why do you think your work has appealed to so many celebrities over the years?

I’m very discreet. Privacy is everything to me. They also appreciate quality and the creative process, since many of them work in a creative arena themselves.

## How has your concept of “American eclecticism” evolved over the years?

We are inspired by every style, whether it is modern or traditional. I never tell a client that we are going to create a pure Italian villa or a pure French château. We make each home our own. We research each style within the context of the neighborhood or region, and we keep making it evolve.

## You have mastered the art of making 14,000-square foot mansions seem understated and unpretentious. How do you accomplish that?

Proportions and details. This combination is what makes a project successful.