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FAMILY ROOM

Nathan Turner

A soothing palette of blue and beige sets the stage for relaxation in the Family Room decorated by Nathan Turner. A unique barreled ceiling, an imposing bank of leaded windows and the room's strong moldings influenced the choice of a clean, sophisticated "Belgian aesthetic." Modern paintings hang above a François & Co. mantel. European antiques and ethnic textiles are mixed with a combination of textures. Weighty elements are balanced against lighter ones, establishing a gracious equilibrium.

ABOVE: Sofas, Cocktail Tables: Nathan Turner for Elite Leather. All Fabrics: Claremont Furnishing Fabrics Co. Mantel: François & Co. Gouache Artwork: Vanessa Martin-Langone. Baroque Chest: Leif, 1871; Chair: Spanish, c. 1750. Antique Suzani Fabric, Window Seat, Kilim: Nathan Turner Antiques. SPONSOR: François & Co.

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above: "Bourse," Caramelized Leeks and Teardrop Tomato Tarts; opposite: Greystone's terrace with city views of Los Angeles. Furniture from local prop house; Ikea lamps. Tablecloth and pillows in cotton faille. Faux cherry blossoms. Mums in blanc de chine fishbowl cachepot.

FORTUNE COOKIE, "CHINOISERIE AU JARDIN,"

the provocatively named opening gala for *Veranda's* show house at Historic Greystone Estate, offered glamour and grandeur at one of the most dramatic properties in Beverly Hills. The soirée took place in a chinoiserie-themed garden of delights orchestrated by gala co-chairs Mary McDonald and Nathan Turner, native Californians, talented designers and best friends. Their first task was to transform Greystone's three vast courtyards into a unified, welcoming and elegant setting for a celebration of the show house and the twenty-eight interior designers and landscape architects hand-picked by *Veranda* to decorate the mansion's interiors and immediate grounds.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Nathan Turner and Mary McDonald at the party. Mini Wild Mushroom Risotto Cakes. Chinese vases from McDonald's personal collection accent party decor. Around fountain, faille cushions and striped bolsters in cotton-linen create what Turner calls "pockets of coziness" for guests. Servers pass wines by Kendall-Jackson on sterling silver trays. Tuna Tartare on Wonton Crisps with wasabi caviar.

"The space was definitely our biggest challenge," says Turner, who designs furniture for Elite Leather, as well as furnishings—including chandeliers, lamps and sconces—for his eponymous antiques and interiors shop in Los Angeles. "There is nothing colder than a huge open space in front of a towering limestone house. Talk about austere! We needed to fill the expanse with excitement, and nobody does glamour like Mary."

Glamour began with McDonald's idea for an engaging chinoiserie theme and rippled out into colors, shapes and defining design elements. "The first thing I did was call Richard Sherman, my good friend, who has done production design for many films including *Gods and Monsters* and *Running With Scissors*," says McDonald. "He knows how to create atmosphere in big spaces. He told me that I would never find what I needed with a phone call to the party store. Everything