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# VIVA LASS VEGAS

A STYLE-MINDED COUPLE BETS ON  
GLAMOROUS TAILORED ELEGANCE









**T**hink about fashion in Las Vegas and your head fills with images of showgirls in sequins and feathered headdresses, gamblers in boastful prints, and club-hoppers in lamé cocktail dresses. Excess—and lots of it. But fashion enthusiast Lori Scalleat drew on a different style vision for her suburban dream home: the custom-tailored look. Luxurious but restrained, sophisticated, and comfortable. “Tempered Vegas,” in the words of Tim Clarke, the Santa Monica-based designer who crafted the interiors to suit Lori and her husband, real estate developer Jeff LaPour.

“In Las Vegas, appearance oftentimes trumps comfort, and we didn’t want that,” Lori says. “We are not glitzy people, and wanted a home that was casual, but with richness and authenticity. And it needed to be classic and age well, not trendy.”

Clarke’s first challenge on the project lay in the housing development’s covenants, which required all homes built in the neighborhood to have a Frank Lloyd Wright-style exterior. But the simple, open interiors that usually flow from the Prairie style weren’t a natural fit for the design-oriented couple. Lori, in particular, draws inspiration from fashion books and magazines. Clarke masterfully embedded restrained doses of sparkle and sheen into the stream-

lined architecture with organic, shady undertones for a look that appears natural.

“The dark interior palette was influenced by the climate,” Clarke says. “This house is situated in a desert, where extreme heat is an issue. Instead of big pale rooms, I opted to create shade.”

Finishes played a key role in the rich interiors. Take the mahogany used for the cabinets and bookshelves in the library, as well as for the ceiling there and in the adjoining living room. Finished with lacquer, the wood would have looked shiny and new. Clarke gave it age and depth by having it rubbed with oil, producing the kind of layered look that usually happens over time and that brings

**Family room** The family room adopted a casually chic appearance with formal appointments such as billowing linen draperies, a silvered floor lamp, and pinstriped velvet sofas. **Living room** Designer Tim Clarke steered away from a traditional seating arrangement, placing wing chairs around a Ralph Lauren mahogany cocktail table. **Library** A pleated shade pendant light from Baker’s Jacques Garcia collection hangs over a partners desk. **Preceding pages** The dining room nods to Las Vegas shimmer, but with toned-down references. The chairs were altered from gold leaf to silver leaf, and window panels in silk taffeta from Schumacher hang independently from their linings to mimic a skirt’s petticoat, added to create fullness.









out the grain of the wood. Building on that aged appearance, a vintage limestone fireplace mantel in the living room anchors an unconventional seating arrangement of three club chairs.

The showstopper of Lori and Jeff's home is the dining room. It's glamorous, but also edited in such a way that it doesn't speak the ostentatious vernacular of Las Vegas. Think evening wear.

With French doors that open to the front of the house, it was essential that the dining room look elegant not only by candlelight, but during the day, too, when natural light pours in. Grounded by an antique rug in green and gray, the dining room serves as a transition between darker and lighter spaces of the house. As in the living room and library, the ceiling is mahogany. But the walls are covered in a





**Kitchen** Dark woods were incorporated into the mostly white kitchen so it wouldn't feel like a complete departure from the rest of the house. Wide-plank French oak flooring mimics the old floors of Parisian townhouses. "You wouldn't find pristine, glossy floors there, and we didn't want them here either," Clarke says. **Homeowners** Lori Scalleat and Jeff LaPour. **Outdoor living** This space was intended to be an indoor-style room that just happened to be outside, not another spot for pool furniture. A velvet sofa with nailhead trim and a decorative mirror above the fireplace emphasize Lori and Jeff's commitment to detail in every location throughout the house.







**Master closet** "My love for fashion stems from my mother, who had great taste," says Lori. "She was up early, dressed beautifully, and lived an effortlessly chic life. She loved pretty details and always noticed a stitch, a silhouette, or proportion. I now do the same." In Lori's closet, a lighted shelving unit highlights her collection of shoes. A slipper chair covered in silk stripes makes dressing simple.



Master sitting area In the bedroom, antique armoires flank the fireplace. Club chairs are covered in smoky purple velvet from Gretchen Bellinger, and a settee wears silk of the same color.







**Master bedroom** An antique French bed initially specified was too detailed and frilly. Clarke designed a bed with a simple silhouette that didn't compete with the feminine elements. Its ebonized frame is upholstered in white linen. The patterned window treatment fabric is from Fortuny.

**Master bathroom** Wrapped in silver leaf, the master bath takes on a lounge-inspired environment. A crystal chandelier reflects in a mirror that rests on an antique fireplace surround.



chalky, platinum-color Venetian plaster that nods to the bright appearance of the kitchen and family room. Dining chairs with silver bases are upholstered in gray-green silk. Window treatments are dreamy and feminine, gathering striped silk taffeta to look like the full skirt of a ball gown. A crystal chandelier glows above the dining table like a gem-encrusted statement necklace.

Clarke notes that the kitchen and family room are more about light than design. Their ceilings are also wood, but painted white. The family room invites daytime visitors, but with the formal appointments of a black tuxedo. Sofas with simple forms wear cut-velvet stripes. Antique French chairs were left how they were bought, sporting striking zebra hides. Similarly, the luminous white kitchen has jewel-like frills such as lustrous nickel light fixtures and a banquet table with a hammered-metal base and ebonized mahogany top.

Lori gave her inner fashionista free rein in the master suite. Feminine, with tailored pieces that appeal to Jeff, too, the room indulges in alluring fabrics. Seating pieces are covered in muted purple velvet and silk, while a Fortuny pattern dresses a pair of French doors. A crystal chandelier dangles above a fireplace in the bathroom, and a stunning shelving unit displays Lori's shoe collection in the closet. ■

**Interior designer:** Tim Clarke

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