

PATRON

ART / CULTURE / DESIGN

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

THE MODERN DECADE
GET AWAY WITH THE KAFKAS
BEN STEVENSON'S GRANDE PLIÉ
PORTRAIT AND A DREAM: A RARE DISPLAY
LOMBARDI'S 35-YEAR LABOR OF LOVE

PLUS

Barbara Daseke's global warming
Klyde Warren Park: Mark Banta's plein air



BY TERRI PROVENCAL
PHOTOGRAPHS BY NAN COULTER

Nine direct flights a day to and from Dallas and San Diego made the bluffs of La Jolla an appealing choice for Janet and Terry Kafka's second home. "Reconnecting with nature" and a strong desire to share a retreat with family and friends on an unlikely, yet available, 100-foot-wide property with a 180-degree view of the hills and ocean solidified their choice. For the Kafkas love nothing more than time with friends to celebrate art, architecture, culture, and people.

"Collaborating with Janet is very exciting because of her love for Spain and the energy that she puts forth in the process of advancing Dallas-Spain relations," says Dr. Jose E. Gomez, president of the Dallas-Valencia Citizens Committee. Though certainly not pretentious, the Kafkas are influenced by



Janet and Terry Kafka with their beloved pooch Lola.



DINNER WITH THE KAFKAS

TO TREASURED FRIENDS IN DALLAS, AN EVENING WITH THESE FULLY IMMERSED ART ENTHUSIASTS MIGHT MEAN A FORAY TO THEIR PRESTON HOLLOW HOME OR A SHORT FLIGHT TO SAN DIEGO.



From its roost in the kitchen, *Eat Right*, designed by Terry and manufactured in Grand Prairie, serves as a reminder to all. The indoor and outdoor rectilinear fireplaces are fueled by alcohol that burns clean. The sculpture purchased from the Lupe Murchison estate is a piece from the Dallas collection. Painting by Phoenix artist David Dauncey.



Rusty Glenn designed the tablescape using fresh flowers from the Carlsbad market for the summer party.

their frequent international travel, mostly to Spain. Janet owns a global marketing firm specializing in all things Spanish and also serves as Honorary Consul of Spain. Often seen on his Chinese motor scooter tooling around La Jolla in the summer, Terry is an advertising executive with a passion for the ocean and architecture.

Their entertainment lifestyle is greatly Spain-influenced. Guests of either residence, often prominent visiting Spaniards, are almost always treated to Spanish wine, culinary specialties, and great conversations about Spain. Janet leads missions to Spain through her consular work and spearheads the Dallas Spain Citizens Committee, recently in Madrid to extend the partnership and exchange with the Prado and Meadows museums along with the Dallas-Valencia Citizens Committee (that served the Valencian delegation while Santiago Calatrava visited Dallas to inaugurate the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge) and the Joaquin Achucarro Foundation, among many other projects. With their combined passion for art, they attend Art Basel every year with a group of Dallas friends and will travel with that same group to the inaugural Art Basel in Hong Kong this May.

While their spectacular Dallas residence was designed by local architect Lionel Morrison, to conceive their second home Janet and Terry tapped San Diego-based Safdie Rabines—which designed San Diego’s Harbor Drive Pedestrian Bridge and Scripps Forum at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography on the La Jolla beachfront—to create “a simple straightforward home that pays homage to the views and the climate.” The award-winning firm is helmed by husband and wife modernist duo Ricardo Rabines and Taal Safdie.

The delightfully irregular site in a highly desired area on the bluffs considerably influenced Safdie Rabines’ solution to juxtapose two cantilevered boxes on the precipitous hills in deference to the couple’s strong desire to harness the views. “We kept the geometry of the home clean, using a simple rectangular floor plate bisected by a diagonal wall running the length of the house,” architects Safdie and Rabines explain.

Ever the explorers, the Kafkas sought yet-to-be-discovered galleries in San Diego and La Jolla to find local artists and artisans to collaborate with on the development of their home. San Diego sculptor Matt Devine, now represented by Samuel Lynne Galleries, was commissioned for a custom installation piece. The architects designed an entire wall around Devine’s work by crafting niches to showcase the artist’s abstract black steel-constructed sculpture.

And while the architecture and much of the art pays homage to their second home community in La Jolla and San Diego, aside from the plane flight Janet and Terry never really leave Dallas behind. Pieces from their expansive art collection were brought from Dallas to their new home. “So much of our art is representative of chapters in our life and gives us that connective link with our home in Dallas,” Terry and Janet effuse. *Tobacco Rings*, a painting by San Antonio painter and sculptor Larry Graeber, hangs in the living room wall niche adjacent to Devine’s rectangular installation.

Finding Devine resulted in many artisan connections for the Kafkas, who visited Glashaus, Devine’s own artist cooperative in San Diego’s Barrio Logan neighborhood. There they met Surface Furniture’s Jamie Huffman, whom they engaged to design in-





Scribble sculpture: Pencil sketch done by homeowners. Fabricated by MakeFab, San Diego. Water-cut aluminum with black patina.

door and outdoor fireplaces, along with dining and bedside tables. An anonymous sculpture purchased from the Lupe Murchison estate in Dallas seemingly genuflects to the ocean atop one of two rectilinear concrete eco-friendly ethanol fireplaces designed by Huffman.

Terry Dixon, a Glashauss constituent and the owner of MakeFab, created the steel staircase that adjoins the upper and lower level leading to another sitting room; an office nook; and three rarely-vacant guest bedrooms that offer a retreat to Dallas friends, the couple's son Philip, and Janet's lovely mother.

Accented by a skylight above, a two-story wall designed by Taal Safdie is functional and sculptural with its layered composition of sandstone in three different textures: honed, sand-rubbed, and flame. The wall separates the master suite from the main living areas. While shades of gray and white in the sandstone and concrete floor tiles could dominate the coloration of the home, American walnut wood panels (hand-selected after looking through scores of options) envelop the entryway and ceilings along with the cabinetry. The unstained panels are sealed with respect to the home's natural surroundings.

With prime theater-like views, the main floor features an open kitchen that embraces the dining and living rooms and looks out over the deck. Floor-to-ceiling glass sliding doors, nearly invisible when fully opened, bring the ocean, sky, trees (a fabulous Torrey Pine just off the railing), and blissfully fresh air inside, like Maurice Sendak's pages from *Where the Wild Things Are*.

"It is a challenge to make a house that is perched above the earth feel like it is part of the outdoors. We had to compensate for the fact that the house was so far off of the ground. The house's simple rectangular geometry is bisected by a glass diagonal wall that separates the indoor and outdoors. When the doors along this wall are opened completely, the rectangle is complete and the line between interior and exterior truly disappears," the architects describe.

When styling a summer party for 55 Dallas guests and couples reaching all the way to the East Coast, floral artist and renowned Dallas event designer Rusty Glenn took full advantage of the long, narrow outdoor deck with glass railings. Rusty and Janet are longtime friends who share a love for entertainment in stylish yet casual ways. "We were able to go directly to the Carlsbad market and choose from locally grown flowers to keep current with their understated classical though clean and modern style," Glenn expresses. The home is almost entirely furnished with pieces from Spanish companies CasaDesús and Andreu World, though a sliver of French furniture added to the international flair with two Pebble tables by Ligne Roset purchased from the Knox-Henderson showroom.



The staircase, designed by MakeFab's Terry Dixon, features rolled steel steps. The two-story wall is sculptural with its linear alternating layers of stone, created by Taal Safdie.

"So much of our art is representative of chapters in our life and gives us that connective link with our home in Dallas."

-Terry and Janet Kafka

Glenn's own "traditional with an edgy attitude" style enhanced the evening affair, which included Dallasites Dr. Noel Santini, Matt Holley, Kurt Anderson, Barbara Brice, Dr. Jose Gomez, Francis Lutter, Oscar Gomez, and Paul Hale, among many other cultured guests. Delighted to be back for the second summer, Dallas couple Susan Perkins and Kent Wittman feel like the home's architecture itself is a piece of sculpture. "It's like being in a magical treehouse, where the senses compete to be both inside to see the aesthetic modern art and design, and outside to experience the view of La Jolla and the coastline. And in this house you can do both at the same time," says Wittman, who met the Kafkas on the way to Madrid. As artist and spiritual director Perkins expresses,

"The outdoors or natural view is like a large landscape painting, yet the real thing and can never can be reproduced. Art is adoring art."

During the idyllic summer evening as Lola, the hosts' sweet schnauzer, jockeyed through legs enjoying many chances for a warm lap (mostly Terry's), noticeably similar remarks about the homeowners drifted through the room. "They have a sincere genuine interest in life and relationships," describes Wittman. Perkins shares similar sentiments: "For me Janet is life. I love her life-giving energy. She loves the beauty of life, and is fulfilled and grateful. And as an artist I appreciate Terry's knowledge and passion for design and architecture and having fun! Just look at his scooter!" **P**



Walnut panels feature niches for San Antonio artist Larry Greene's *Tobacco Blues* and San Diego sculptor Matt Devine's custom installation piece. The furniture is all from Spain.