

THE TEMPTATION OF TROUSDALE

BY JAYMI NACIRI



Sexy. Official dictionary definition: “excitingly appealing; glamorous.” It provokes a feeling. It’s visceral. It’s natural. It’s seductive. And it’s epitomized in every detail of Hillcrest, Trousdale’s most alluring view property.

“It is a sexy house. That’s the word people most often use to describe it,” says Izzet Uzyel, the seller and builder, whose boutique company DIJ Group collaborated with Austin Kelly of XTEN Architecture on the complete, to-the-studs, 18-month renovation of the home. Uzyel’s sister Joelle Hancerli is also a managing partner at DIJ Group and worked closely with Kelly on many of the home’s unique features.

In that year and a half, the former white brick mid-century on one of Trousdale’s best streets was transformed into a sleek, modern stunner that didn’t just bring sexy back; it redefined it.

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Case in point: Kelly's stacked, laser-cut, LED-lit aluminum screens that provide stylish separation between the foyer and living room while directing the eye outward to the home's signature views. Or the placement of the saltwater infinity pool, which allows you to "dive right in from the master shower," says Uzyel. "People love that feature."

Or the walls of pocketing Fleetwood windows that wrap the broad expanse of the living room, as well as the gourmet kitchen and luxe master bedroom, revealing expansive views of lush greenery, twinkling city lights, the Los Angeles skyline and the Pacific Ocean beyond.

"This type of architecture is in very high demand in Los Angeles right now," says Jade Mills, the home's listing agent and herself a Trousdale resident. "Many luxury buyers want modern spaces that have state-of-the-art finishes, smart automation and that true indoor/outdoor feel. The walls of glass open onto the pool so your yard and the beauty of the city all become a part of the interior of your life in this home. It's stunning."

The view offered from this approximately 4,700-square-foot home is not incidental. Yes, Hillcrest's fortunate location in the heart of Trousdale, where breathtaking vistas quite literally come with the territory, provided the proper canvas. The architect and design team provided the most exquisite of paintbrushes, orienting the home in such a way as to make the views of most of L.A. not just an extension of the home, but an integral element.

"We reframed the house and recreated a layout that maximized views from every room," says Uzyel.

Clean lines and exquisite materials complement the views, and a natural palette plays against the bright-blue pool, deep-green trees and pastel skies. In the kitchen, sleek countertops, custom cabinets, a double-sided fireplace and sunset views combine to create a sophisticated chef's space. Each of the home's four bedrooms conveniently includes an en-suite, including the luxury-spa master bath, which features Calacatta slabs, Gessi fixtures and a view toward the pool to complete the resort feel. The formal dining room faces out to the front of the home, where a carefully placed circular window offers a peek-a-boo view onto a garden oasis—just one of the many elements that speaks to the meticulous attention to detail of this home, both inside and out.

Perhaps nowhere is that detail more obvious, or more celebrated, than in the architectural style itself. This was a goal of Uzyel, Hancerli and Kelly—to rebuild Hillcrest and create a singular residence while respecting Trousdale's prevailing aesthetic.

"Great consideration was given to the exterior architecture and making sure that it blended with the existing mid-century modern architecture in the neighborhood," says Uzyel. "Trousdale has a revitalization of mid-century homes, and it's very important for us to fit that mold and present a new generation of homes that fit into the neighborhood."

The allure of Trousdale, especially among celebrities such as Jennifer Anniston, Ellen DeGeneres and Elton John, and dating back to Howard Hughes and Elvis Presley, is largely due to its distinctive architecture, remarkable views and prime Westside location affording both privacy and convenience.

"Trousdale is one of the most desirable areas right now," says Mills. "Everyone wants to be in Trousdale. You can drive one mile up the hill and feel like you are out of town, with spectacular views overlooking the city. At the same time, you're just half a mile from Sunset Boulevard and all of the amenities of Beverly Hills."

What could be more tempting?

For a complete inside look at what makes Trousdale so seductive, visit www.previewsinsideout.com/trousdale.