

help but be influenced by the magic and romance of California living.”

If we were on a tour bus, we would now turn away from the sparkling waters of Malibu and head straight to Beverly Hills, where the elegant, hip designs of Windsor Smith feel at home. Smith, an LA designer who counts Gwyneth Paltrow and other celebrities among her clients, has named her new collection with Century “Alchemy,” and her designs reveal a magical transformation. “For this collection, I took more of a Parisian-salon approach,” says Smith. “I’m moving away from four chairs and a sofa in the center of a room placed around a fireplace. I wanted to explore using the corners of a room, having furniture that looks as good from the back and the sides as it does from the front.” Among Smith’s collection, the seating stands out—curvy, low-slung sofas and chaises with a sweeping sense of movement that invite spontaneous conversation in what Smith calls “tête-à-tête lounging.” “California design is always optimistic,” she notes. And what incites more optimism than the promise of a great, impromptu conversation?

While stepping into a Windsor Smith room may feel like walking into a soirée of Rodeo Drive fashionistas, a walk through the warm, handsome interiors of LA designer David Phoenix feels like sneaking into an at-home screening party of a movie executive.



Phoenix’s inaugural collection with Hickory Chair showcases the designer’s influential style of relaxed California luxury. The details of his pieces are fine, full of haberdashery accents like decorative inlays, rich leather, and sensual fabrics that beg to be touched.

But the primary focus remains accessible livability. “I love classic, meaningful design,” he says. “Being surrounded by those considered choices inspires us to live our best—comfortably, graciously and gratefully every day.” The highly sought-after designer now travels the world creating rooms in his signature style, but the well

of inspiration remains in California, as it does for each of these talented designers. In a state with such a wealth of beauty and possibility, that well runs deep. ❖



ABOVE: Editing elegant, antique designs with dramatic lines is the hallmark of Windsor Smith’s Alchemy collection for Century. In the Firestone sofa, she modernized a rare, 19th-century Federal canapé she found for a client and wished she could find again. LEFT: “[David Phoenix’s] designs mirror his own personal demeanor and innate sense of style—equally generous, thoughtful, and welcoming,” says Skip Rumley, Hickory Chair’s vice president and creative director.



PHOTOS (TOP) COURTESY OF CENTURY; PORTRAIT COURTESY OF WINDSOR SMITH; PHOTOS (LEFT) COURTESY OF HICKORY CHAIR