

SYCAMORES
English Country
HOLMBY HILLS

With East Coast clients who wanted the kind of historically inspired house typically found in Westchester County or Connecticut, Richard Manion used his classical training to create an English estate that captured the understated elegance of Harrie T. Lindeberg and the American classicism of John Russell Pope. "We made sure to give this house a sense of history right from the very beginning," explains Manion of Sycamores, an estate in Holmby Hills.

But he was also mindful to design something that fit into the vernacular of Los Angeles. "I wanted to be sensitive to California so I gave it a lighter touch," he says, pointing out that, for example, rather than predictably covering the façade in mottled tan brick, he selected a handmade brick from Maryland with a natural whitewash finish.

By keeping the exterior motifs formal—a limestone entrance, Doric columns and a big sheltering slate roof—Manion was also able to honor the wife's affinity for the work of British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens and his oft-collaborator Gertrude Jekyll, the renowned English garden designer. To that end, he designed woodland paths to showcase sculptures, a pavilion with stone mosaics, and an outdoor fireplace and seating area that was a specific request from his clients.

Manion also accommodated the husband's love of sports by incorporating a grand back lawn big enough for the husband and his three sons to play football. And all around the property, English-style gardens designed by Mark Beall take

OPPOSITE: Manion's charge was to create a classical yet understated English country home in the spirit of Harrie T. Lindeberg that was at once approachable and never overdone. A whitewashed brick handmade in Maryland gives the façade an East Coast feel and subtle strength. Well-placed windows shed natural light throughout the interiors.

