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RENOVATION

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READY FOR
PRIME TIME

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THE FRESHEST
LUNCH IN TOWN

Designer Ryan Brown
of Bravo's *Flipping Out*
brings a historic home
back to life, p. 108

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ON THE COVER
Los Angeles photographer Jonn Coolidge wasn't the only one to capture the Spanish Revival house designed by Ryan Brown—the home starred in an episode of Bravo's reality television show *Flipping Out*.

DAVID DUNCAN LIVINGSTON



The partners enlarged the kitchen by knocking out an unnecessary wall, and installed a richly variegated tile floor using San Felipe concrete pavers from Arto Brick. "They're an amazing source," Brown says. "I ordered the tiles in seven different shades of terracotta, to avoid the uniform look of a new floor. I'm such a control freak that I had to be on site when they laid the tiles so I could make sure they did it randomly and not in any sort of a pattern."

Brown adhered to the Spanish Revival theme in the kitchen, installing dark-stained, reclaimed (or "predistressed," as Brown says) Douglas fir cabinetry and a white subway-tile backsplash enlivened with a band of intricate mosaic tile. Oil-rubbed bronze faucets and a Mediterranean-style iron-and-glass lantern from L.A.'s Foundry complete the period look. Because the kitchen features a butler's pantry and ample under-counter storage, Brown did away with upper cabinets. "I'm a big fan of open shelving," he says. "Cabinets can close a kitchen off. I like everything at arm's reach and easily accessible."

In the dining room, Brown commissioned a massive, eight-foot round table with a distressed walnut top. He also called on decorative painter Michael Sullivan

The master bath features new materials that look old: Moorish floor tiles and a double vanity made of reclaimed Douglas fir, topped with a slab of Carrara marble.



In the master bedroom, Brown mixed traditional and contemporary pieces, reupholstering a pair of vintage chairs in Kelly Wearstler's Imperial Trellis fabric and placing a cowhide bench at the foot of the bed.



Brown and Lewis were initially attracted to the house's vintage architectural details, like the wrought-iron balconies and the oculus window.

to create a discreet medallion on the ceiling, from which a wrought-iron chandelier from Arte de Mexico is suspended. "I had him paint the design on the ceiling and then sand it to look as if it had aged naturally," Brown says. In the living room, Brown restored the fireplace using more stained, distressed Douglas fir for the mantel and Mediterranean-style mosaic tiles for the hearth. A sleek B&B Italia sectional sofa adds a note of modernity, while a vintage cart from Cleveland Art, repurposed as a coffee table, offers a nod to the past. "I like a good mix of periods," Brown says. "None of my work is super-traditional."

Even before the paint was dry on the project, the house had a new inhabitant: Brown himself. Watchers of *Flipping Out* may remember that Brown and Lewis made a bet that whoever sold his house first would move into Nottingham (as the house was referred to in the series). As fate would have it, Brown's house sold mere hours before Lewis' did. Hilarity ensued. In the last episode of the season, Brown moved into Nottingham—but not before a psychic blessed the space. When the second season resumes this summer, viewers will discover that, despite the house's cosmic potential, Brown sold it and moved on to bigger and better projects. ■

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