## Interiors

MODERN LUXURY



## IN-HOUSE OBSESSION



DIFFERENT STRIPE Ryan White at home in West Hallywood

## Model Rooms

Former catwalker Ryan White makes the switch to interior design by creating picture-perfect spaces.

By Andrew Myers

Photography by Melissa Valladares Don't hate Ryan White because he's beautiful. The Detwer native and erstwhile model—seven years in New York with Ford and Wilhelmina—can't help his mountain-high cheekbones. Nor, it seems, can he keep from becoming an in-demand interior designer. After a two-year acting program in Manhattan combined with commercial success, the 28-year-old came West almost two years ago. "There's simply not the amount of commercial, TV or, obviously, film work in New York that there is in L.A.," White says.

Six months after he'd moved into his Spanish revival-style 1920s house off Melrose, his phone started tinging with offers... for interior design work for the likes of John Marx, senior vice president of contemporary music at William Motris Endeavor, and Watten Cohn, a wealth management director at Barclays. "It started with friends who liked what

I'd done with my place," says White. "And then it continued to build from there."

That sensibility is illustrated in his own home's primary living space, which he wanted to feel like a "family area" as opposed to a family room.— "sophisticated but not uppity." To achieve this balance, he chose the versatility of an L-shaped sofa and knitted pouts that double as footrests and side tables, two club chairs and his favorite piece, the oversized square wood and glass coffee table. "It grounds the room," be says.

White cites his home state as a major influence on his aesthetic. "Nature is never far from my mind the colors, textures and inspiration," he says, adding that while there's "loss of Americana in my work," it's leavened by the years he spent in New York and the Hamptons. "Environment 100 percent affects my design sensibility."



