

LOS ANGELES

# MASTER CHORALE

WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL



FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

DECEMBER 10 & 17

LO, HOW A ROSE

DECEMBER 11

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

DECEMBER 18

CAROLS ON THE PLAZA

DECEMBER 19

MESSIAH SING-ALONG

DECEMBER 19

GRANT GERSHON, KIKI & DAVID GINDLER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

JENNY WONG, ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

REENA ESMAIL, SWAN FAMILY ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE



DECEMBER / JANUARY

# performances

MAGAZINE

## contents

### P1 Program

Cast, performances, who's who, director's notes and donors

### 6 In the Wings

Diverse dance at the Wallis in Beverly Hills; diverse operas by Mozart and Debussy at L.A. Opera downtown; Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra concertos at diverse locations.

### 12 Insider Insights

Students and audiences alike benefit when artists such as L.A. Opera music director James Conlon or dancer-choreographer Ashwini Ramaswamy present master classes.

### 20 Design

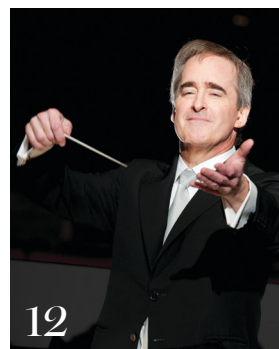
Moderated modernism: Designer Kelly Schandel of Santa Monica's Thinkpure brings warmth to her minimalist aesthetic with nuanced natural materials.

### 24 Dining

Tapas with a view: Humanitarian and Michelin-lauded chef José Andrés channels the flavors of the Iberian Peninsula at his San Laurel in the Conrad Los Angeles hotel.

### 32 Parting Thought

*Performances'* new program platform for shows and concerts can be accessed from any digital device.





# MODERATED MODERNISM

Designer Kelly Schandel brings warmth to her unabashedly minimalist aesthetic with nuanced natural materials.

by ROGER GRODY



INTERIOR DESIGNER KELLY Schandel, creative director and principal at Thinkpure, is an unapologetic modernist who believes that sharp edges and minimalist instincts need not result in austere environments.

A “warm modernism” is the signature of the Santa Monica-based firm, founded by Schandel in 2003; her portfolio demonstrates the designer’s ability to create compelling spaces without overcomplicating them.

Schandel’s design philosophy did not have its genesis in an art-school classroom, but in the fashion industry, when she was working in public relations for Calvin Klein in New York.

The apparel icon had just opened his groundbreaking Madison Avenue flagship, designed by British minimalist John Pawson. That, and Klein’s pared-down home collection, inspired Schandel to immerse herself in modern design and ultimately switch careers.

“What I gleaned from my love of minimalism was a purity of design, that every element is thoughtful, purposeful and has utility,” says Schandel, who doesn’t

DESIGN



In Hidden Hills, Kelly Schandel's minimalist spaces showcase the natural environment and, opposite, the architecture of Wil Carson.

## DESIGN



In Beverlywood, dramatic lighting from Milan's Six Gallery and, below, kitchen with Muuto pendants.

share the penchant of some designers to add layer upon layer for show. She does, however, appreciate traditional architecture, and views her modernism as complementing it, rather than competing with it.

"We work on homes of all different architectural styles, and the

modern interiors we bring to them create an interesting juxtaposition," says Schandel. She believes that balance is particularly well executed by French architect/designer Joseph Dirand, who integrates bold, modern interiors into some of Paris' most classical residential buildings.

"The best way to bring warmth to modernism is through natural stones and woods with interesting veining or graining," says Schandel, adding that metals with unexpected carbon or bronze finishes can also be effective in tempering the aesthetics of a modern space.

Though Schandel prefers white walls, considering them ideal for showcasing art, she also appreciates the subtle infusion of color that plaster-finished walls provide.

Though indoor-outdoor living has always been important in Southern California, Schandel notes, "The pandemic made the focus on the home even greater ... creating that dynamic is even more critical now."

Uniform flooring material indoors and out makes the transition between them even more seamless.

In one Pacific Palisades home,



## DESIGN

Schandel maximizes the indoor-outdoor lifestyle with a floorplan by Warren Wagner of W3 Architects, incorporating the natural materials that bring warmth to her brand of modernism.

In a Beverlywood home designed by celebrated modern architect Hagy Belzberg, Schandel's signature purity of design accommodated an observant Jewish family—even making a kosher kitchen look sexy.

In the Hidden Hills home of a prominent professional athlete and his family, interiors resulting from her sophisticated

but approachable aesthetics enhanced the architecture of modernist Wil Carson of 64North.

The occupants enjoy Schandel's clean-lined kitchen, where a pair of massive quartzite-clad islands complement blonde wire-brushed white oak cabinets; the materiality of blackened bronze pendants also generates interest.

Thinkpure's clientele is very diverse, according to Schandel.

"The concepts of purity of design and the home as a sanctuary resonate with our clients," she says. "Some designers focus on the home as a showplace. Our clients appreciate the



Ochre chandelier and Robert Longo art in the Palisades

sense of calm that our design aesthetic offers."

Conceiving flashy environments is not what drives Schandel, yet her principled approach to minimalism often results in the very wow factor

that preoccupies her more trend-conscious peers.

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