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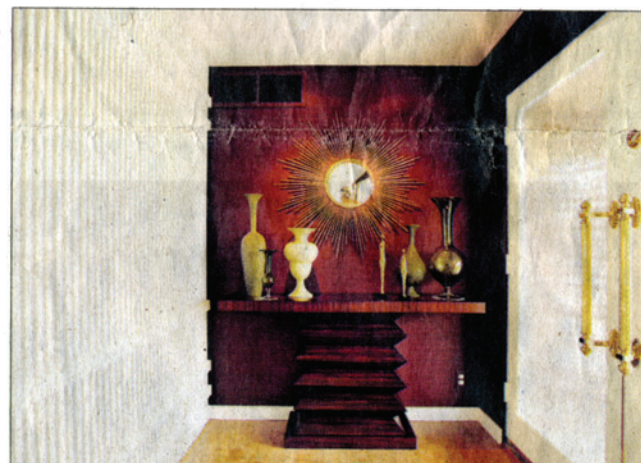
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Photographs by RICARDO DEARATANHA Los Angeles Times

Redux, not rerun

As Palm Springs Modernism Week prepares to open, we head to the desert and peek inside the "Dragnet" house, the 1960 ranch built by star Jack Webb. New owners wanted to respect the architecture but update its look. Their goal: Midcentury minus the clichés. **PAGE E3**



HOT CASE: Contemporary furniture blends with the original lava-rock fireplace and unusual accordion shades in the living room, top. In the foyer, a new walnut table and vases mix with an old wood-slat room divider.

DESIGN



NEW AND OLD: The new dining table sits on brass legs; the new light fixture is made of hand-blown glass globes. The living room's lava-rock fireplace is original.

HOME OF THE TIMES

The right to update

New owners wanted to respect the 'Dragnet' home's roots without living in the past.

BARBARA THORNBURG

The first time Robin Mininni saw the 1960s Palm Springs home, she hated the décor: the black-and-white giant floral prints on curtains and bedspreads, uncomfortable-looking '50s furniture set against turquoise living room walls, and bedrooms painted in a sunshine-yellow "so bright it hurt your eyes," she recalls with a laugh. "It was anything but calm and sleep-inducing."

But the layout of the low-slung house was ideal for Mininni and her husband, Michael. Snowbirds from Illinois, they were looking for a Palm Springs home large enough not only for them but also for family and friends looking to escape Midwestern winters too.

The four-bedroom, four-bath, U-shaped home opened onto a beautiful saltwater pool and a backyard garden studded with towering palm trees. The couple also loved the neighborhood of Deepwell, where, according to local real estate agent Patrick Jordan, William Holden had owned a home at 1323 Driftwood Drive complete with a pet python that swam in the pool and periodically joined in at parties. Loretta Young lived on the corner nearby, and Elizabeth Taylor and Eddie Fisher once leased a house two doors down from the Mininnis, Jordan says.

Perhaps the most exciting selling point for the couple: The late American actor, television producer and director Jack Webb — most famous for his role as Sgt. Joe Friday in the TV series "Dragnet" — had built the home in 1960 right after the NBC crime show's eight-season run. According to former Deepwell resident-turned-local historian Ron Root, author of "The Unofficial History of Deepwell," Webb constructed the



JUST RIGHT: When Michael and Robin Mininni found the Palm Springs house, they knew it had all the right elements: an interesting history, update potential and — perhaps most important — a location that offered a break from Midwestern winters.



THE GLOW: The Mininnis kept the previous owner's mirrored cabinetry in the master bath to retain that Old Hollywood glamour. In the master bedroom, below, the headboard is upholstered; Murano glass table lamps sit on ebony bachelors chests; and an upholstered bench in gray silk is at the end of the bed.

