



Chimorro House

Beverly Hills, 1926
Roy Sheldon Price, architect

Prohibition inadvertently created a niche in the world of design with many a home built between 1919 and 1933 containing a speakeasy. Sometimes, they were elaborate rooms hidden behind faux parlors; sometimes, they were modest nooks hidden beyond a closet; and, in a few cases, the entire house was designed to accommodate such wants. Hidden behind imposing wooden gates, walled and secure, the Chimorro residence is a true prohibition house.

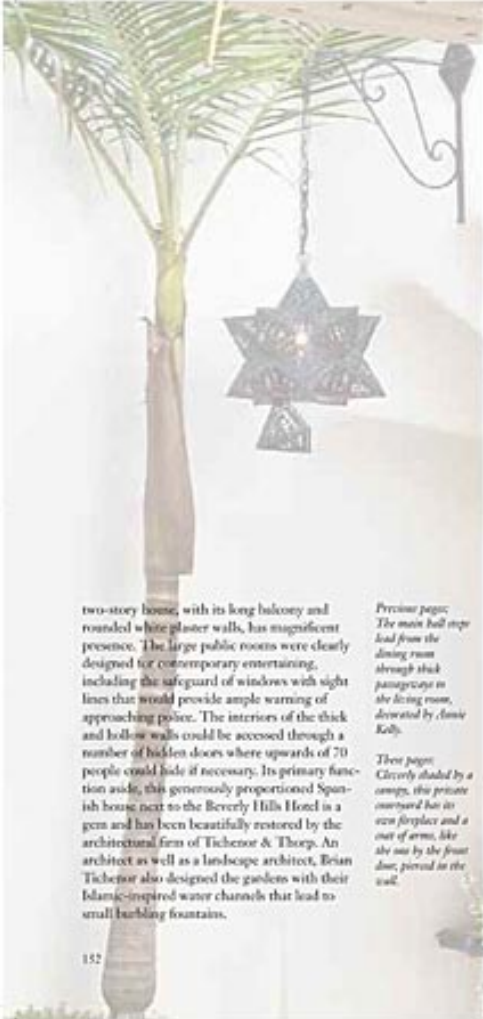
Designed by Roy Sheldon Price, architect of the 1929 Los Angeles landmark built for Charlie Chaplin that now houses the Campanile restaurant and the sadly demolished Din Dorado compound for Thomas Ince, this

Above: The house is viewed sideways as in left.

Right: An arched staircase leads up to a long balcony, later added by architect Brian Tichauer.







two-story house, with its long balcony and rounded white plaster walls, has magnificent presence. The large public rooms were clearly designed for contemporary entertaining, including the safeguard of windows with sight lines that would provide ample warning of approaching police. The interiors of the thick and hollow walls could be accessed through a number of hidden doors where upwards of 70 people could hide if necessary. Its primary function aside, this generously proportioned Spanish house next to the Beverly Hills Hotel is a gem and has been beautifully restored by the architectural firm of Tichenor & Thorp. An architect as well as a landscape architect, Brian Tichenor also designed the gardens with their Islamic-inspired water channels that lead to small bubbling fountains.

Previous page:
The main hall steps lead from the dining room through thick passageways to the living room, decorated by Annie Kelly.

These pages:
Cleverly shaded by a canopy, this private courtyard has its own fireplace and a seat of arms, like the one by the front door, perched in the wall.





Among the garden's water features, added by architect Brian Talbot, are Moroccan-inspired spillways and fountains. Water flows from a separate fountain in the middle of the swimming pool.

