

SNOOP PATROL

Riding high in 'Hollywood's' shadow

By Elaine Matsushita
TRIBUNE REPORTER

Life is good for designer/TV design show host Kenneth Brown. New baby. New bedding line for QVC. New baby line of crib bedding and decorative accessories that just made its debut in Babies "R" Us stores last week. And, oh, did we mention he's designing Zac Efron's house? Vanessa Anne Hudgens' too.

That's separate houses, the L.A.-based designer notes, for the romantically linked "High School Musical" stars.

And when it comes to their design styles, "they're complete opposites," he shares with us in a recent telephone interview.

"If they ever get married, they'll have to have separate houses. He's very modern and she's very traditional."

And Brown? "I'm smack dab in the middle of them," says the host of HGTV's "reDesign" and TLC's "Over Designed."

His modern-meets-traditional style is just like his home: a warm and modern three-bedroom in a Hollywood landmark at the corner of Hollywood and Vine.

He and his 5-month-old daughter, Harper ("the light of my life"), and two dachshunds, Oliver and Benson, live on the ninth floor—right below Charliz Theron. And from his bedroom window, he can see the HOLLYWOOD sign and the Capital Records sign.

"It is a 180 from my childhood home on the outskirts of Baton Rouge, La.," Brown says. "It was a home home. It was a family home," he says of the Acadian-style house. "It was on a lot of land. And it was a wonderful place to grow up in. We never had the nicest of things. ... but it was the most comfortable home I've ever been in."

Brown attributes that comfort partly to the smell of his dad's cooking, partly to the way it was situated on the land. And the furniture. "It's what I grew up with. They never got new furniture."



The muddy green brown (Sherwin-Williams' Status Bronze) on the walls in Kenneth Brown's dining room is one of his style signatures.



Interior designer/TV design show host Kenneth Brown.

What item in your home shouts "Kenneth Brown lives here!" The wall color. It's a muddy green brown—pretty much in all the main living areas. It's that color that if you looked on a paint-chip chart, you'd say, "Ooh, disgusting."

But when you see it on the wall, you love it. (It's Sherwin-Williams Status Bronze, No. 7034.) The floors are ebony. ... I use a very high-gloss white molding that really gives it definition and really sets it off.

One thing on your nightstand: A clock. It is a non-digital clock. I can't stand digital clocks. I just hate the color that it glows. And it just never seems to work



The Ladybug Paisley set (comforter, bumper pad, sheet and crib skirt, \$159.99) is from Brown's collection for Babies "R" Us.

with the decor. ... [His clock is] sort of art deco. It's cream and has numerals at 12, 3, 6 and 9. It's very simple and classic.

One thing on a wall in your bedroom: Probably the dangerous Curtis Jere-style starburst metal sculpture. (Why dangerous? L.A.'s



Above the bed, Brown's "dangerous" metal sculpture. On his nightstand, a simple and classic non-digital clock.

affinity for earthquakes, he answers.)

One thing you have in your house from your childhood: I have these two old [metal] lion bookends. ... They look more expensive than they are. I think I got them at a garage sale or my mom did. I remember as a kid loving them.

Three things we'd find under your kitchen sink: Old T-shirts, a plant watering can and a bucket.

What is the biggest collection in your home? Books—art books and history books. They're my two favorites. Some are now spilling over and becoming side tables in the house.

What reading material would we find in your

bathroom? I don't have any. I just never understood that.

Biggest surprise we'd find in your closet: That I don't own a winter jacket.

Three things we'd find under your bed? My cell phone charger. A dog ramp. And a flashlight.

Do you do any snooping of your own when visiting friends? No. [But] definitely, I always have the urge to help them tidy up and arrange their accessories.

Do you hang your toilet paper over the front or down the back? However it goes on.

Who would you like us to "snoop" in on? Marc Jacobs. I'd like to see what surprise he has in his closet

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