

Inside Justin Tranter's Hancock Park Home, the Songwriter's Dream Come True

The creative talent behind hits like Justin Bieber's "Sorry" infused their queer spirit into the historic LA property

By Rachel Davies

Photography by Jenna Peffley

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Art: Gabrielle McKenna Elliot



“I always imagined myself living in an old Hancock Park house, and now I am,” prolific musician and songwriter Justin Tranter says via Zoom. Overjoyed but not at all intimidated by the 12,000-square-foot Los Angeles home, Tranter sees the property as the ultimate symbol of their years spent dreaming big. “As someone who was dropped from four record deals, I do not take my success lightly,” they say. “I do not take it for granted at all.”

Tranter has been in the music business for nearly 20 years, first as the vocalist for the alt-rock band Semi Precious Weapons, then as a songwriter for a variety of A-list pop stars including Selena Gomez, John Legend, and Justin Bieber (for whom Tranter cowrote the diamond-certified smash “Sorry,” among other famous tracks). It’s been a winding road to the top, but now they’ve arrived where they always knew they deserved to be. “I basically was at a very lucky, grateful, magical point in my life where my business management [team] said to me, ‘If you ever wanted a crazy house, right now is probably the time to go look,’” Tranter explains. “I was like, Let me go have a fun couple days to look at some insane houses. This was the second house I walked into and I [thought], Oh, I’m moving.”

The house as Tranter saw it that day looks much like it does now. The grand structure had just recently undergone a renovation and redesign by Brian Little and Natalie Zudin, who brought the home back to its original grandeur. Built in 1914, the dwelling is classic Hancock Park, which is to say, it’s heavily detailed, opulent, and yet somehow welcoming. “The neighborhood feels kind of majestic and a little transportive,” explains Zudin, who adds of the property itself: “It’s just spectacular. The crown molding is about 18 inches deep. You could feel the richness and the history.”

Little and Zudin worked diligently on retrofitting the space inside and out—stripping much of the millwork to reveal historical banisters, doorways, and wainscoting, while redoing the windows and adjusting the landscaping. The furniture, which Tranter purchased with the home, was either vintage or custom-crafted. “We tried to make big comfy sofas where they’re deep and cozy, but instead of doing what people do today [when they] are big and boxy, we would add a beautiful arm, wood frame, or curved back,” Zudin says. “We tried to give it something that felt a little bit timeless and had some history to it.” Along with the furnishings, Zudin and Little employed muralists to hand-paint wallpaper in select areas of the home.

After moving in, Tranter wanted to make sure that their personality, and their queer identity, stood out amongst the early 20th-century dramatics. “It was about taking this gorgeous home and making it a lot more queer, both in some ways that are obvious, and also [in those that are less so], like this chandelier that’s a little more fabulous than the chandelier that was [previously] in the dining room. This gives a little more glitz,” Tranter explains of the Foundry chandelier.



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The house is pure Hancock Park inside and out, capturing the elite LA neighborhood's historic charm and drama.

Throughout the home, delightfully idiosyncratic touches were added, like the '70s Barbra Streisand mask used as a decor accent in the TV room. ("I became a late-in-life Barbra-obsessed person," Tranter explains.) Overall, despite the fact that they purchased the home furnished, it successfully captures their spirit—their prior pad "was a mini version of this," they say.

One area in the home that's a major departure stylistically is the top floor, where Tranter's best friend, makeup designer Darian Darling, lives. While Tranter's space is all about '20s-inspired glamour, Darling's space is committed to an '80s Deco aesthetic. Patrick Nagle prints, lucite furniture, and neon lights abound, while a calming shade of mauve coats the space. Darling's infatuation with glammed-up pink extends back prior to Barbie-core mania. "I always believe that your aesthetic should carry over from the way you dress to how your interiors look," Darling reflects. Tranter and Darling always envisioned living together in a big glamorous house, and now that fantasy has finally come to life. "Not only is it great living with my best friend, but also I just knew [walking] into this other universe would be such a fun experience for guests," Tranter notes.

As Tranter's and Darling's careers both continue to evolve, they both feel confident about how their living spaces speak to their respective places in life. Recently Tranter was working on songwriting for Peacock's *Grease: The Rise of the Pink Ladies*, which they admit was "the hardest thing" they've ever done. Having a house that reinforces everything they've worked so hard to achieve was a major source of reassurance and encouragement. "I can remember one call very specifically that I was scared to make, and being in this house...I felt like, Yeah, I can say this. I've proven that I know what I'm doing."



Art: SiiGii

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"I added a little bit more queerness to everything," Tranter states. The sculpture by trans artist SiiGii in the foyer is a key piece.



Art: Gabrielle McKenna Elliot

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Justin Tranter perches in the salon. The murals were hand-painted by [Gabrielle McKenna Elliot](#). The furniture was designed by Brian Little and Natalie Zudin and fabricated by [Underground Artistic Loft](#). The rug was sourced from Caravan Rugs, and the drapery fabric is by [Donghia](#).



Art: Gabrielle McKenna Elliot

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Tranter's dog is welcome to get comfortable on the home's glam furniture.



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The ceiling wallpaper is by Maya Romanoff for Thomas Lavin.



Art: Gabrielle McKenna Elliot

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Hand-painted koi wallpaper by Janet Yonaty envelops the dining room. The dining table and chairs were custom-designed by Little and fabricated by Houtman and Underground Artistic Loft, respectively.



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Naturally the large kitchen is a space in which Tranter, their housemate and best friend of 10 years Darian Darling, and guests will often congregate.



Art: Gabrielle McKenna Elliot

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The powder room mural was hand-painted by [Gabrielle McKenna Elliot](#).



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In the den, Amazonia wallpaper by Witch and Watchman sets the mood. A custom sectional by Little and Zudin, with Osborne & Little fabric, offers somewhere comfortable to watch television. The Mastercraft table, as altered by Little and Zudin with a marble top, and all other elements, including the Barbra Streisand mask at center, are vintage.



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The cocktail lounge is surrounded by custom chrome vertical blinds from [BlindsOnline](#) and topped by a Murano lotus chandelier procured on Chairish. The [Dorothy Thorpe lucite champagne bucket](#) was found on eBay, and the custom cushions were made with '80s deadstock fabric.



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A selection of vintage mirrors bounce light around the richly textured primary bedroom.



12/21

Little and Zudin reworked a sunroom and adjacent small bathroom into a spacious and gorgeously lit primary bath. The custom vanities are by Ronald Wright of Houtman, and the monkey statuette, added by Tranter, is by [Seletti](#).



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The guest bedroom was designed to resemble a bedroom in Tranter and Darling's previous home, right down to the wallpaper.



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Tranter and Darling sit in Darling's space, which spreads across the home's third floor. The rug is vintage from [80s Deco Hunter](#), the sofa is from [Sunbeam Vintage](#), the chair is custom from [Mi Deco](#), and the mirrored pillars are from Wayfair.



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"The hair salon in my hometown, where I was bleached blonde for the first time, was all decorated with Patrick Nagle, so that is kind of a theme for the space. It's like I live in a nail salon or a beauty shop," Darling explains.



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Patrick Nagle prints and neon lighting appears throughout Darling's floor.



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The Darling sign was made by [Custom Neon](#), and the console table is from [Pickin' Through Time](#).



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The vintage étagère also came from [Pickin' Through Time](#).



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Little and Zudin fleshed out a speakeasy space in the basement. They designed the stools and had them fabricated by Forge Shop.



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The backyard is yet another glorious space to entertain, with plenty of mature trees adding privacy.



21/21

Darling's pops of pink infiltrate the backyard in the form of flamingos and bright pink tennis balls.

