

VOGUE

VIEW

California Dreaming



LIFE AQUATIC
LEFT: NEUWIRTH'S NEW HOME WAS BUILT IN 1958. THE RED CEDAR CANOE WAS A GIFT FROM HER BOYFRIEND. ABOVE: THE JEWELRY DESIGNER IN HER KITCHEN IN A STELLA JEAN DRESS AND NICHOLAS KIRKWOOD HEELS. A PORTRAIT BY LOCAL ARTIST KIM McCARTY HANGS BEHIND HER IN THE LIVING ROOM.

portrait hanging in the kitchen inscribed with the name "Irene." "When they accepted my offer, this was delivered to my office," Neuwirth says, looking over to the painting that now hangs in the stairway alongside family photos and colorful artworks transplanted from her mother's studio. Through the bedroom window she can see her neighbor's youngest son napping on a garage roof, a carton of OJ in one hand and a teddy bear in the other. "I love waking up to this," she says, smiling. "I still don't believe that I really live here."

In many ways this charming Californian enclave, where ultrasleek Cubist structures sit next to bohemian cottages, is an anti-

dote to the congested urban sprawl of L.A. Here the waterway takes the place of the highway, and there's a village-like atmosphere. The canals seem to have all the allure of their Italian namesake, with none of the crumbling edifices and decaying odors. Neuwirth's life, meanwhile, is centered on simple pleasures: early-morning strolls along the beach, dinners of corn ravioli made from scratch (she entertains at least four times each week), or lazy afternoons spent with her filmmaker boyfriend, Phil Lord. "We paint each other—and Teddy," she says, showing off a picture of grinning, life-size his-and-hers portraits. She enjoys the luxury of walking to her studio on nearby Abbot Kinney Boulevard every morning and falling [view >104](#)



INNER CALM
A PEACE SIGN FROM LOCAL INTERIORS BOUTIQUE NICKY KEHOE HANGS IN THE LIVING ROOM AMONG COLORFUL TEXTILES, INCLUDING AN ANTIQUE MOROCCAN RUG AND A SEA-BLUE CASHMERE THROW BY THE ELDER STATESMAN.