

InStyle

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Cover Catherine Zeta-Jones photographed in N.Y.C. by Andrew Macpherson for In Style. Hair: Serge Normant; makeup: Dick Page; styling: Freddie Leib; gown: Michael Kors
This page Top: Ralph Lauren Black Label; jeans: Earl Jean; bracelet: H. Stern



"The living room is why we bought the house," says Giannulli. The eclectic furnishings—many of which were culled from New York City antiques dealers—span the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Opposite: Loughlin curls up with a *Summerland* script. "I'm really relaxed at this point in my life," she says. "I feel very comfortable in my skin."

LIFE IS FULL

by JUAN MORALES

photographed by
AMY NEUNSINGER

Sure, living with John Stamos was pretty cool. But former *Full House* star Lori Loughlin has a much sweeter gig in real life: a new TV show with plenty of buzz, a beautiful family (including designer husband Mossimo Giannulli) and a Los Angeles dream home filled with love

It's not unusual to hear actors invoke the maxim "Less is more" where their craft is concerned. But on the subject of houses, "The bigger the better" is more like it. That's what Lori Loughlin, best known as the sensible, occasionally silly Becky Donaldson on the popular nineties sitcom *Full House*, always thought—until she and her husband, clothing designer Mossimo Giannulli, moved into their Santa Monica home. Although the couple (whose most recent residence was a Georgian estate in Bel Air) originally purchased the property as temporary quarters while they renovated yet another Bel Air spread, they discovered unexpected virtues in a smaller space. "I really



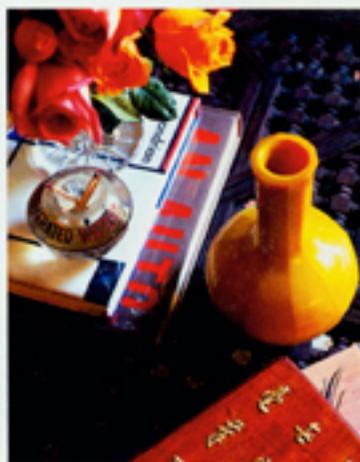


love the intimacy. I just find it very romantic," says Loughlin, whose new home coincides with a new chapter in her life, as star and co-creator of the WB drama *Summerland*. "I always laugh and say, 'Moss and I aren't big people. What do we need a big house for?'"

With a 3,000-square-foot house and an open-air poolside cabana on a half-acre lot, the 1920s Spanish-style residence is far from small. But it's a fraction of what Loughlin, Giannulli and their three children (4-year-old Olivia, 5-year-old Isabella, and 12-year-old Gianni, Giannulli's son from a previous marriage) were accustomed to. "This house has been a lesson in restraint," says Giannulli. "But we've learned that living in a smaller space is kind of nice."

The outlook was less blissful the first time they saw the place. "I

Above: "The kitchen seemed small at first, but we've entertained 40 people here," says Giannulli. Right: International influences in the living room are evident in the Peking glass vase, which rests on a hexagonal Moroccan coffee table. The staircase (below) echoes the style with its Moroccan-motif tiles. "This is a funkier place than they have had in the past," says interior designer Michael Smith. "It's like being at a resort in Marrakech."



loved the neighborhood and the street and the location, but the house was completely falling apart," Loughlin recalls. "Somebody had lived here for a very long time but had never done anything with the house. But Moss walked in and immediately said, 'I can see it!' He had a vision for it. And having gone through several home renovations with him, I know what he can do."

And how. Since 1997, when they eloped on Thanksgiving morning and got married (dressed in ski hats and sweatpants) as the sun rose over a Newport Beach, Calif., hillside, the enterprising couple has owned or overhauled properties in, among other places, Laguna Beach, Bel Air and the Hollywood Hills. "There's just something really exciting about going through the process of building a new house," says Loughlin. "Now I understand why Moss has such a passion for it."

Although Giannulli, the beachwear wunderkind whose Mossimo line of apparel is now sold exclusively at Target stores, takes the lead where design matters are concerned, Loughlin is far from a silent partner. "I have something

valuable—veto power," she says with a laugh. "Moss likes to get into the grind of picking fabric and tile, but he comes to me with options and asks which one I like. Fortunately 99 percent of the time I'll pick his top choice."

Initially, because they weren't sure how long they would be living there, the couple planned to simply paint the house and repair the floors. "But my nature wouldn't allow that," says Giannulli. "Instead we took it down to the studs."

Working with the N.Y.C. architectural firm Ferguson & Shamamian, they arrived at a five-bedroom, four-bathroom design that remained true to the original style but opened up the downstairs to achieve both airiness and intimacy. They also enlisted Los Angeles interior designer Michael Smith, a longtime friend and collaborator, who struck a winning balance of classic, colonial and contemporary styles. "We mixed things up because Moss and Lori are young, and in a Spanish house you don't want it to look like *Sunset Boulevard*," jokes Smith, who counts Steven Spielberg and Cindy Crawford among his clients.

The house is centered in the cavernous living room, dominated by an imposing yellow-tile fireplace, 18th-century mirror above it, matching cotton-linen sofas, and a baroque beaded chandelier suspended from the vaulted two-story ceiling. Pine shelves filled with books on art, poetry and phi-



Asian highlights in the master bedroom: the solid ebony bed, based on an Indian design, and a red-lacquer 19th-century Chinese scroll table.

“OUR LIFE IS ABOUT FAMILY NOW,” SAYS LOUGHLIN.
“HALF THE TIME WE’RE IN BED BY 9 AT NIGHT.”



“THIS IS A GREAT HOUSE FOR ENTERTAINING,”
SAYS LOUGHLIN. “IT JUST HAS A NICE FLOW ABOUT IT.”

The pristine Mediterranean-style backyard took work. Says Giannulli, "I scrapped everything." The chaises were imported from France. Top, right: Isabella and Olivia's storybook playhouse. Bottom: Giannulli and Loughlin keep in the swing among olive trees.

sophy flank the doorway leading into the dining room, which is bordered on one side by built-in cabinets that open onto the bistro-style kitchen, with its bell-shaped hanging lights and an island topped with black granite. From the family room, which is painted in mellow hues and adorned with dozens of photographs, a Moroccan-tile hall leads to the neatly landscaped backyard, where the pool and cabana with its lawn-green curtains are a perfect example of elegant Southern California cool.

Upstairs the master bedroom, with a custom-made four-poster bed and ornately patterned white plaster ceiling, is footsteps from Isabella's and Olivia's rooms. (Gianni's room, tucked into an alcove off the front door, is an adolescent boy's paradise, with skateboards lining the walls, electric guitars and a plasma-screen TV.) "Moss and Lori are very family-oriented," says Smith. "And sometimes, especially when you have kids, less space is cozier."

Until recently Loughlin had scaled back her professional life as well. Career-driven from an early age, the Long Island native began modeling at 11, was a regular on the soap *The Edge of Night* in her teens, and became a star in her early 20s thanks to *Full House*, the cornerstone of ABC's family-friendly TGIF programming block. Although Loughlin admits it's easy to poke fun at the saccharine show, she says, "Now that I have children of my own I really appreciate the values and lessons it taught and how it made people feel good."

When *Full House* ended in 1995 Loughlin continued to work, but after marrying Giannulli and starting a family she slowed down considerably. Things picked up again when the WB expressed interest in building a show around her, and she pitched an idea that came to her while vacationing in Hawaii. "I never thought they'd go for it," she says, "but they liked it."

On *Summerland* Loughlin plays Ava Gregory, a Southern California fashion designer whose idyllic life is upended when her sister and brother-in-law are killed in an accident and she's left to raise their three kids. A melding of drama, romance and comedy, the series is especially satisfying for Loughlin because it allows her to stretch well beyond the narrow range of *Full House*. "We wanted to find a

show blending family and adult relationships," says Jordan Levin, co-CEO of the WB. "And Lori seems to have embraced this dramatic turn as an actress."

One thing is certain: If Loughlin has embraced *Summerland* half as much as she has her home, it's bound to be a hit. "We bought this place as an interim residence, but now I feel torn," she says. "It has been so wonderful living here that part of me never wants to leave." ■

