

"There are only three elements to a room," says Mr Chow, pictured with his wife, Eva. "The ceiling, floors and walls. The roomier a space is, the more luxurious." For mirrors made to order, try Specialist Glasswork (specialistglasswork.com)



Mr Chow knows everyone. He is friends with Mick Jagger, Peter Blake and most of the pop-art set, has been married to the American Vogue fashion supremo Grace Coddington, the supermodel Tina Chow and, now, the Korean fashion designer Eva Chun. It is no surprise, then, that his eponymous LA restaurant is a favourite with celebrities. Life hasn't always been this way for Michael Chow. "When I met him, he had nothing," Coddington says. "He had four chopsticks, two plates, two chairs, a bed, a pot and a frying pan."

At the time, in the 1960s, he was already in with the art set. "I hung out in coffee shops, painting, and I got to know people like Peter Blake," he says. He has used his connections for all they are worth. "From Francis Bacon onwards, they've all done pieces for me in the restaurants — real pieces of work. If an artist came in, I'd give them crayons or watercolours. It was like a temporary studio. I was always pushy."

He now owns one of the most impressive art collections in the world and is one of LA's power players, using his Beverly Hills mansion to host everything from art shows to Gucci-sponsored charity dinners. "The seed of this house was the Madrid's Museo Reina Sofia," says his wife, Eva, gliding around the kitchen in a sheer Lanvin dress. "It is harmoniously proportioned, simple and functional. The luxury is in its space and its proportions." The Chow mansion, built around a galleried atrium in which a Jean-Michel Basquiat portrait of Chow faces a Julian Schnabel one of Eva, is big on volume. Huge, in fact. And more besides. Its interiors have inspired the look of his restaurants — a new branch in Miami has the same gravity-defying slatted ceiling, and where the LA mansion has a gold room, the South Beach restaurant is finished in white gold-leaf panelling.

The Chows are magpies with impeccable taste. "This elevator is identical to the one in Hermès in Beverly Hills," says Chow, pressing the second-floor button in the brass and leather-lined lift. His dressing room holds an impressive shoe collection, including several pairs that belonged to the Duke of Windsor. Next door, his wife's handbags line several cupboards, all stored in their "protective soft-nap drawing bags". "This is me showing off," he says, "but I believe in what Oscar Wilde said, 'I have simple tastes: I am always satisfied by the best.'"

mrchow.com

For great ideas on how to get the Mr Chow interiors look, go to thesundaytimes.co.uk/1style



This picture The tapestry in the study is 16th-century Belgian, and the Mr Chow LA painting is by the pop artist Ed Ruscha. The furniture is mostly original pieces by the French art-deco designer Emile-Jacques Ruhlmann. For similar designs, try [Le Style 25 \(lstyle25.com\)](http://Le Style 25 (lstyle25.com)).

Right The gold room is 'like a beautiful necklace that you don't need, but is lovely to have,' says Eva. The mannequin is customised by the pop artist Peter Blake.

Middle right The Gone artwork is by Ruscha. For similar dressing tables, try [Made \(made.com\)](http://Made (made.com)).

Bottom right A portrait of Eva, in her Vivienne Westwood wedding gown, by Julian Schnabel

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SIMPLY THE BEST

WITH ITS MUSEUM-LIKE PROPORTIONS, GOLD ROOM AND STUNNING ARTWORKS, THE VAST MANSION OF THE COLLECTOR AND RESTAURATEUR MR CHOW IS A MASTERCLASS IN LUXURY LIVING, LA STYLE

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