

Closer
TO
HOME

closer
TO THE STARS YOU LOVE

EXCLUSIVE

DANCING QUEEN

MARY MURPHY

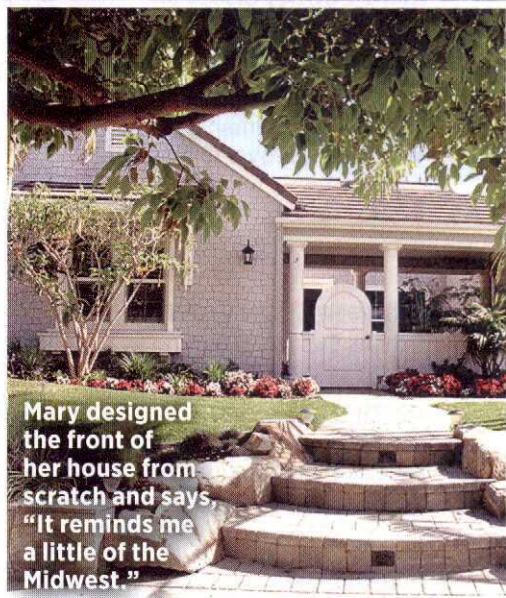
Makes all the right moves in San Diego BY GREGG GOLDSTEIN

So you think you can find the perfect home? TV host and choreographer Mary Murphy did in San Diego — but it wasn't easy.

"I always wanted a ranch home and I've never been able to have one. I was searching for months and driving my real estate agent nuts!" the *So You Think You Can Dance* judge shares with *Closer*. "I'd circled around to this house three times over a six-month period, and finally it came down to a price range I was happy with." But, she adds, "It came bare — no shutters, no gutters, no grass, sitting on dirt, but I knew it had potential."

Leading up to the gate of her front courtyard, the 56-year-old started by creating the stone pathway and the little rolling hills to give the place "a storybook feel." It reminds her of the "quaint" Ohio town where she grew up building rafts on the Tuscarawas River. "My friends say I was like Huckleberry Mary!" she laughs, admitting her love of water also drew her to the beach-adjacent locale.

Walking up and through the white courtyard gates, one can see more of Mary's handiwork as the front door opens into the living room of her five-bedroom, five-and-a-half bath,



Mary designed the front of her house from scratch and says, "It reminds me a little of the Midwest."

HAIR/STYLING: MIKEY LORENZANO, MAKEUP: ZENA SHTEYSEL

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAROLINE GREYSHOCK/CORBIS OUTLINE

"I like to come home to a sanctuary. That's what I wanted to build."



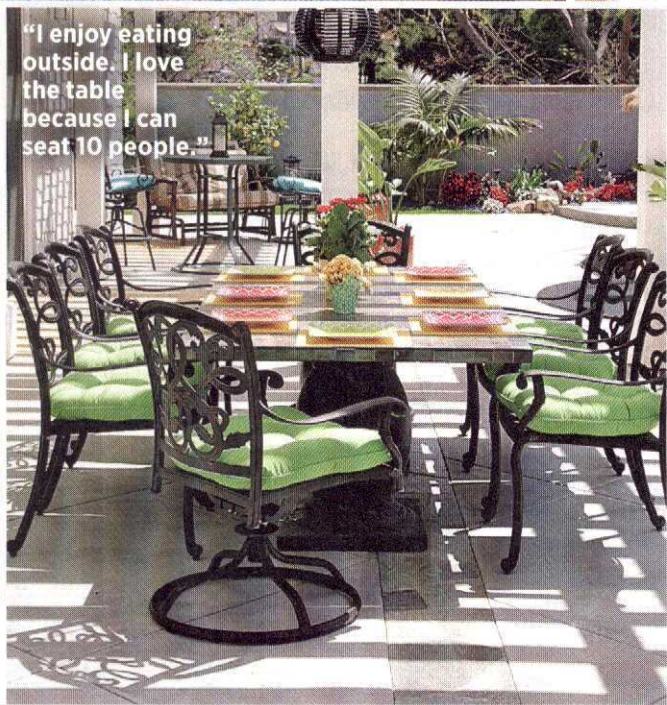
TUNE IN! Catch Mary with Nigel Lythgoe and Cat Deeley on *So You Think You Can Dance*, premiering May 28 at 8 p.m. ET on Fox

"I prefer dancing and exercising outside," Mary says — and she does it poolside!



Mary attributes her recent 25-pound weight loss to the Tisanoreica (Italian health food) regimen she follows: "This is the best I have felt in years!"

"I enjoy eating outside. I love the table because I can seat 10 people."





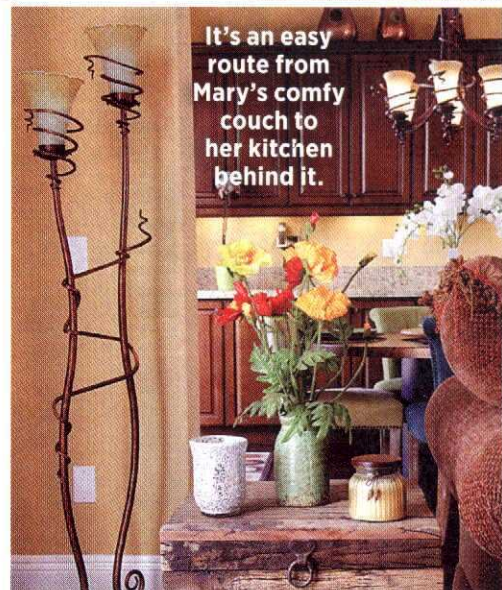
"I do spend a lot of time in the kitchen and cook a lot."

3,700-square-foot beauty, which Mary likes to feel "very lived-in and comfortable."


Burning candles emit a floral scent that drifts through the living room, kitchen and dining room. All flow from one to the next — colored in a golden-beige hue she "fell in love with at the paint store," and accentuated by the California sunshine cascading through the glass patio doors. Yet from the living room's comfy furniture to the kitchen's exquisite granite-top counters to the chande-

lier in the informal dining room, it's a style Mary describes as "a hodgepodge." While she notes that some spots have a Spanish Mediterranean vibe — which, she says, "has a lot to do with her dancing," especially Spain's Paso Doble — "it's quite different from room to room. But it all seems to blend."

As cozy as it is, Mary often heads out to her "retreat space" — a back patio with lounge chairs, a TV viewing area and a grill beside a long pool and connected spa. "I get the ocean



It's an easy route from Mary's comfy couch to her kitchen behind it.




“The dining table is extremely heavy, and if you don’t set it up correctly, it will snap in half,” as Mary discovered when she first bought it.



Fun Facts

- Richard Dreyfuss, Marion Ross, Juice Newton and diet guru Jenny Craig don't live far from Mary's place.
- The nearby Del Mar Racetrack was co-founded by Bing Crosby, Jimmy Durante and Oliver Hardy.
- Cameron Diaz, John Wayne and Fred Astaire have called San Diego home!

“I love the home’s openness and I loved bringing the outdoors in and the indoors out.”



“My couch is so comfortable,” she says of her \$2,500 find. “It hugs you and doesn’t want to let go.”



"I thought he was a Tango," she says of her dog. "He was macho and a little love bucket at the same time."



breeze and I'll sleep out there sometimes," she reveals. "I'll turn on the fountain; the noise of it is so serene and relaxing."

But she doesn't sleep there all night. Eventually, she'll head to her bedroom. For most people, that would mean a climb up the staircase near her front door, leading to the large upstairs room with an expansive patio and a huge walk-in closet. But avoiding that climb was one reason she bought the home. "At my last house," she explains, "the bedroom was on the second floor, so to lug suitcases up the steps all the time, living by myself, is hor-

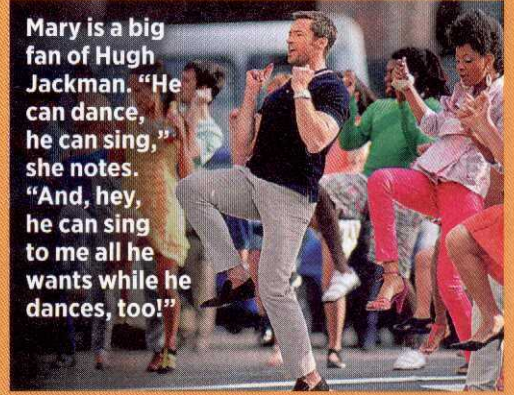
rendous." Instead, she'll open the double doors from her backyard straight into the master bedroom — her favorite spot. "I love the colors in there, the purples, the whole Egyptian motif," she shares. "Maybe I was an Egyptian queen in another life!"

Now, as she begins the 11th season as judge on her hit dance show and celebrates her second anniversary in the home of her dreams, Mary admits this life is a pretty good one, too. "I could not be happier!"

—Reporting by Steve Gidlow

MARY'S DANCING INSPIRATIONS!

Mary is a big fan of Hugh Jackman. "He can dance, he can sing," she notes. "And, hey, he can sing to me all he wants while he dances, too!"



"Nobody dances as much and hard as Janet Jackson does when she's on tour," Mary tells *Closer*. "It's really something to see."



"Cyd Charisse is one of my favorites," says Mary of the star, who was a dream partner of Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire.



MARY DISHES ON DEBBIE!



"It's great that we had Debbie Reynolds on the show [in 2011] and that we're including these dance legends," Mary says of *SYTYCD*. "Let me tell you, they watch it!"



"My eye is immediately drawn to something that looks Egyptian," Mary says of her bedroom statues.



"I don't take vacations. I take staycations in my home."

Mary's sculptures complete her bedroom's "King Tut" style.

"I love the openness of the master bath, and the tub is huge!"



FROM TOP: GETTY (3); R/R; FOX