

MODERN revival

Elizabeth Backup restored the original character of a period home while adding her own contemporary twist

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HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A 1930s Mediterranean Revival detached

ROOMS Sitting room, family room, kitchen-diner, breakfast area, four bedrooms, three bathrooms

LOCATION Los Angeles, California

KITCHEN-DINER

'In merging what was previously three separate rooms, we were able to create a central hub for a young family that loves to cook,' says Elizabeth.

Kitchen units in Cedar Grove Aura eggshell, £108 for 3.79ltr, Benjamin Moore. For bespoke Shaker-style units, try Harvey Jones. Station pendant light, price on request, Ann Morris. Lacanche Classic range cooker, £5,350, Appliance Centre







SITTING ROOM
'Our priority was to enhance the beauty of the beams,' says Elizabeth.

Try the Egerton three-seater sofa, £2,350, Oka. Lounge chairs, £4,250 each, Dagmar. For a similar coffee table, try the Richmond, £430, Settle. Piaf single sconces by Visual Comfort, £227 each, LuxDeco. Walls in White Dove interior flat, £83.50 for 3.79ltr, Benjamin Moore

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT?

Both my fiancé and I are long-time friends of the clients, and we live nearby them in Los Angeles. When they bought this scenic hillside property in the summer of 2020, they kindly called me in to oversee their extensive remodel and decorating project

WHAT WAS YOUR BRIEF? The house was originally built as a Hollywood take on Old Europe, and our shared goal was to restore it to its former glory. In previous years it had undergone a number of renovations that were out of keeping with its original Mediterranean Revival style, so we were tasked with recreating the character of the home, while also making it functional and comfortable for a young family in the 21st century.

DID THIS INVOLVE STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS? Yes – the kitchen, dining and breakfast nook were all separate spaces, so we removed walls to improve flow and function. We also reworked the layout of the primary bathroom and created a guest bathroom adjacent to the family room.

WHAT WERE THE HOMEOWNERS' PRIORITIES? The clients gravitated toward neutral base layers with gentle accents of colour, so we focused on sourcing vintage pieces, drawing inspiration from the exquisite rugs and furniture we found early on in the project. The homeowners were keen to balance beauty with function to create a welcoming home for their young family.

WHICH AREA WAS CONSIDERED MOST IMPORTANT? A great deal of thought was put into how each and every space would be utilised, but for the owners the kitchen took overall priority. Early on we determined that the Lacanche range was a worthy splurge and paired it with a beautifully tiled terracotta splashback.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE COLOUR PALETTE? In accordance with the clients' tastes, we embraced shades of cream and soft colours throughout. The one major departure was in the kitchen, where we went with a cheery green cabinetry paint that echoes the trim on the exterior of the home.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE? This project was under construction in the peak of the pandemic, so we found ourselves adjusting to a new reality featuring masks, delayed materials and entire crews out sick. On top of that, the clients were expecting their second child, so we were doing our best to move things along as quickly as possible and get them settled in on a deadline.

WHAT WAS THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT? Working with wonderful, appreciative clients who genuinely love the outcome is always a delight. That said, being able to transform an old home while restoring and enhancing its original character is something we designers live for.

YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME? Build around elements that inspire you, whatever the size. It can take time for things to click when developing a scheme. Follow your instincts and don't be afraid to sleep on things –or get a second opinion if you can't pinpoint what isn't working. 25 Elizabeth Backup of Backup Design, backup-design.com



DINING AREA
Vintage pieces help form a space relaxed enough for everyday use, yet refined, too, for hosting parties. Oak ladder-back dining chairs, from £360 each, Harmans Home Interiors



BREAKFAST AREA
A custom banquette peppered with pillows made from vintage fabrics creates a cosy nook. Safi round table, £689, Barker and Stonehouse, would work here



NURSERY
A pink ceiling adds a pretty, soft touch. Bloomingville wicker giraffe basket, £95, Nordic Nest, is similar



SON'S BEDROOM
'We focused on items that felt youthful yet sophisticated,' says Elizabeth. For nickel beds, price on request, try Cornish Bed Co

'I ALWAYS ADVISE BUILDING A SCHEME AROUND ELEMENTS THAT INSPIRE YOU, EVEN A SINGLE PIECE - IT'S THE BEST WAY TO A SUCCESSFUL INTERIOR'



MAIN BATHROOM
An arched opening gives this area a fresh new look. Metro Bone tiles, £11.25 for 0.5sq m, Topps Tiles



MAIN BATHROOM
'It's a truly relaxing place to unwind,' says Elizabeth. Try the Burlington Windsor roll-top, £735, Victorian Plumbing



BATHROOM
'The zellige shower tiles and terracotta-toned floor feel contemporary yet true to the house's roots,' says Elizabeth. Zellige wall tiles, price on request, Cle Tile