





MODERN CLASSIC

A LOS ANGELES RESIDENCE REFLECTS THE TRADITIONAL SENSIBILITY OF ITS NEIGHBORHOOD WHILE REVEALING A CONTEMPORARY AND INVITING INTERIOR.

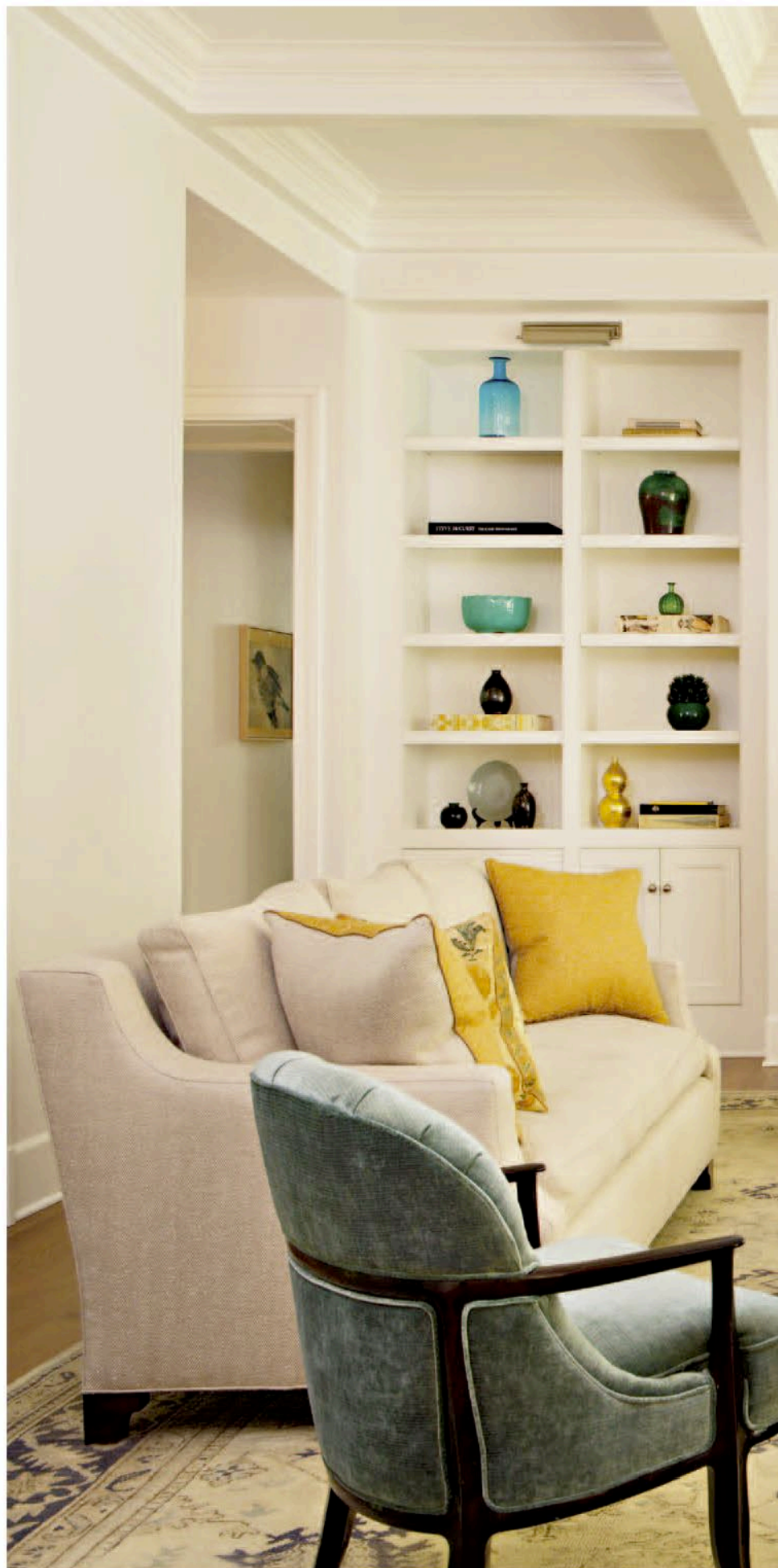
WRITTEN BY LIZ ARNOLD PHOTOGRAPHY BY KARYN MILLET

INTERIOR DESIGN Elizabeth Dinkel, Elizabeth Dinkel Design Associates, Inc.

ARCHITECTURE Karen Putman, P2 Design

HOME BUILDER Mark Sapiro and Robert Kleiman, Structure Home

BEDROOMS 4 | BATHROOMS 7 | SQUARE FEET 6,000



Although a couple's newly built house might look right at home alongside the traditional 1930s and '40s homes of its Little Holmby neighborhood in Los Angeles, it was designed decisively with a modern-day lifestyle in mind. "The clients have a large extended family, and they didn't want the house to feel too formal," says designer Elizabeth Dinkel. "They wanted a classic-style house befitting the neighborhood, but with updated modern interiors and the ability to entertain a large family both inside and out."

To address those wishes, residential designer Karen Putman created a structure informed by the elegant houses of architect Paul R. Williams, which are common in the area. "The owners wanted to accomplish an authentic Williams-style feel, and that was an inspiration to the entire design and build team," says Robert Kleiman. Mark Sapiro, who cofounded Structure Home with Kleiman, led the construction effort.



For the living room of a Little Holmby house, designer Elizabeth Dinkel covered custom sofas with a Rogers & Goffigon textile. Residential designer Karen Putman centered the floor plan on the space. Left: A custom midcentury-style leather bench from Orange stands in the foyer.



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Starting with the exterior massing and proportions reminiscent of a Williams-designed home, Putman turned to a more modern “open floor plan with large spaces creating an ideal flow for entertaining, with an emphasis on the indoor-outdoor relationship,” she explains. She centered the plan on the living room, which connects to the foyer, dining room, kitchen—through an 8-foot-wide cased opening with pocket doors—and a comfortable loggia. “In order to utilize the entire beautiful site,” Putman says of the grounds, which were designed with new gardens and hardscaping by landscape designer Patricia A. Benner of Patricia Benner Landscape Design, “we oriented the dining room toward the front with a private courtyard and the living room toward the rear yard so the house would have a seamless flow both visually and functionally.”

In the dining room, Dinkel upholstered clean-lined custom chairs with material by Innovations and refinished the clients’ 1950s cabinet. Draperies made with Ferrick Mason’s Crown Derby fabric from Thomas Lavin softly punctuate the space.



Dinkel hung an Oyster chandelier by Emily Todhunter for Best & Lloyd, purchased at George Smith, as a sparkling complement to Michael Berman Limited's Trousdale dining table. The pieces play off the classic style of the room's paneling, which was fabricated by Smith Brothers Finish Carpentry.



Dinkel created a casual atmosphere in the light-filled family room with a Ray sectional by B&B Italia, sourced at Diva Group, and a custom sisal rug by Design Spec Floor Coverings. The sleek floor lamp, purchased at Design Within Reach, is by Artemide.



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Architectural elements, such as a sweeping elliptical stair and ceiling coffers, underscore the home's classic sensibility while playing off more contemporary furnishings. "I love the juxtaposition of more classically inspired architecture with modern amenities," Dinkel says. "It's so much more interesting to design with more than one period or one style." Hence, the pairing of a sleek Michael Berman Limited table with custom chairs in the dining room plays off the space's crown moldings and wood paneling, which Dinkel designed. In the living room, the designer upholstered vintage Edward Wormley chairs with velvet and paired them with a bronze-and-glass 1960s coffee table and custom contemporary sofas—an eclectic mix quieted by a subtle palette. Her thoughtful selections here and throughout came together with the goal of providing "a timeless backdrop for a young family who would undoubtedly collect and curate over the coming years," says Dinkel.

The flow of spaces from one to the next influenced Dinkel's palette in that "it had to be seamless in terms of a color story," she says of the adjoining rooms. But the copious amounts of light in the spaces, aided by French doors and transom windows, played a role as well. "We took advantage of the light by not using heavy window treatments," says Dinkel, "and it helped inform our color decisions. We didn't want shocking color, but more earthy tones from the natural world."



WhiteKartell side chairs surround the Janus et Cie Mistra dining table on the loggia, while classic lantern fixtures add a formal touch. The pendant is by Charles Edwards, and the Vaughan Designs sconces above the fireplace are from Jasper Showroom.

*"I LOVE THE JUXTAPOSITION OF MORE CLASSICALLY
INSPIRED ARCHITECTURE WITH MODERN AMENITIES."*





Plush furnishings resonate with the quiet palette in the master bedroom, where a custom headboard fabricated by Lloyd's Custom Furniture is covered with Osborne & Little's Kediri Silk. A silvery Cowtan & Tout drapery fabric plays off the smoke-hued rug by Design Spec Floor Coverings.



The master bath's Empire tub is appointed with the Astoria tub filler, both by Waterworks. A 19th-century French silver-plated chandelier from Tod Carson illuminates the space. The basket-weave flooring is also by Waterworks.

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The upstairs master bedroom follows suit, with its plush furnishings dressed with fabrics in soft cream, gray and taupe hues, as does the spacious family room, where a creamy linen-covered sectional is coupled with a custom sisal rug.

The family room, part of a large great room space containing the kitchen—which is anchored by a massive 8-by-10-foot island—opens onto the loggia. Outside, Dinkel picked up the stylish thread and furnished the alfresco space with classic lantern lighting, a clean Janus et Cie table and stackable outdoor chairs by Kartell. “I love that you can hose them down if you want,” says Dinkel, noting the carefree attitude the space evokes and her design throughout encourages. “I didn’t want anything too precious or intimidating,” she says. “Just a comfortable and easy design for a young family.” **L**