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Home Garden Tour

newport harbor high school | May 11, 2023



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SHOWCASE HOME





Horse & Hound

ARCHITECT : Eric Aust Architect BUILDER: Matt White Custom Homes INTERIOR DESIGN: Flairbnb Design House LANDSCAPE DESIGN: Carmel Associates Landscape Design CUSTOM CABINETRY: Thoemmes Cabinet Makers, Inc. FINISH CARPENTRY: Murray Scott Construction ARTISTRY/SIGNAGE: Christopher Lord Designs AV/PROGRAMMING: 3G Automation FLORAL DESIGN: Megan Williams Design INTERIOR PLANTINGS: Cactus & Fern by Whitney Ellen Design HOME SCENT COLLECTION: backhouse fragrances

A conversation with **Danielle Slutzky**

BACKGROUND | PROCESS

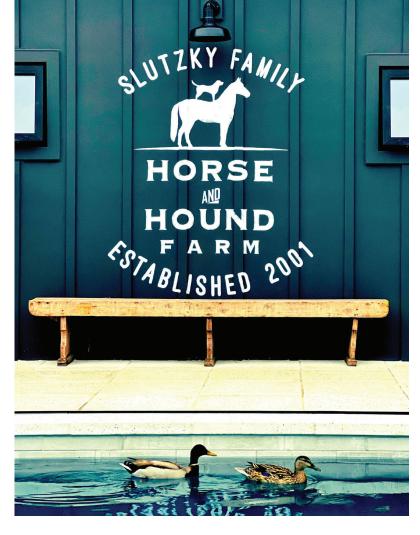
Interior Design has been such an evolution for me over many years, it quite simply grew on me as I found myself flipping through the pages of Architectural Digest, Elle Decor and Assouline coffee table books in my free time. With this newfound interest, I attended the Interior Designers Institute, and was able to add a bit of formal training to my natural inclination towards design.

While it may seem daunting to some, the start of my design process is quite simple, and I have found the right formula that works for me. I discover the one element, product, color, material, etc. that I can't live without, and that becomes the center of my design/ story board. From there, all material choices, textile preferences, paint color selections, textural layers and grounding elements start to flow and find their way to the project. Spoiler alert...the "one thing" for me at the very beginning of the build was the show stopping True Refrigeration emerald green and brass refrigerator/freezer...it was the first "I must have it" item that captivated me!

INTERIOR | STYLE

I am always inspired by the things that I love most in my life. For the Horse & Hound build, I managed to fold in all my favorite themes and personal motifs to make our home supremely unique and one of a kind. From my passion for horses and an equestrian chic lifestyle, to a fondness for Africa and its intrinsic tribal notions, as well as an attachment to bohemian, earthy, western ranch vibes...somehow all these meaningful pieces came together and helped to create our very special, very personal home.

Nature has always had a big influence on me, so I tend to gravitate toward organic materials, colors and textures. The color palette I chose for our home weaves in dark, moody greens, rich terracottas, tobacco browns, with muted black and white accompaniments. The









warm European White Oak flooring, cabinetry, interior doors and interior woodwork, along with the Fresh Concrete Caesarstone Quartz countertops, all work together to lay the core foundation throughout the house, welcoming the lively color pops, patterns, textures and bold design statements which inhabit every room therein.

EXTERIOR | AESTHETIC

The architectural style of the Horse & Hound is Modern Farmhouse. Painting the board and batten siding on the house a dark charcoal for drama and curb appeal was a hard yes, so I knew we had to soften all the darkness with some texture and lighter elements. The light-colored stonework and warm vintage barn wood together serve as the perfect complements to the siding. We finished the exterior look with two olive trees framing the magnificent stable style entry door and lovely California native plants and grasses in a bed of decomposed granite, resulting in a minimal effort, low maintenance landscape design approach.

CHALLENGE | SOLUTION

The biggest challenge during this build was that it all took place during the Covid pandemic. Retail stores and showrooms were closed, there was no touching, no feeling, no trying, no sampling, no comparing in person and that made the already demanding home design experience a bit more complicated. The only option was to scour, search, scout and shop online for all the ideas I had conceived during the design process. This turned out to be a blessing, as I learned about a larger-than-life online design world, and about sourcing distinctive and notable products from around the globe right from the comforts of home.

HOUSE | FAVORITES

So many favorites in this dream house, but my Top 5 would have to be:

I - The Horse & Hound House Name -Your home is the carrier of your good energy, so it deserves a meaningful and memorable name. Visiting friends comment all the time that the Horse & Hound is more than just a house, it's an experience!

2 - The Bar - Like the kitchen, the bar is a prime gathering spot in our home. Outfitted with all the essentials and personal touches, our guests always want to cozy right up. We named our bar ZeBAR...after the fabulous Scalamandré classic Zebra print wallpaper



in Serengeti Green that is featured behind it. Add some ZeBAR logo cocktail napkins, and let the party begin!

3 - Vintage Finds - Vintage, timeworn and original pieces add so much charm to our home, so I make sure to scatter them all over. Sourcing these treasures from prior travels, antique shops, flea markets, and late-night internet searches is as much a part of the fun as bringing them home!

4 - Statement Pieces and Art - Varied choices in art...framed art, sculptural art, wall murals with unifying elements of color, style, theme, scale...can really tie together a room or a series of rooms in a house. Bold wall coverings, furniture, appliances and accessories serve to start the conversation and give your home that WOW factor. Cue the green refrigerator!

5 - Entry Barn Door and Personalized Brass Threshold - This pairing is definitely the most pleasant surprise to come out of the build. I worked closely with our architect, finish carpenter and metalsmith to design a door that would make me feel like I never left the barn, since that is my happy place. With the classic barn door X pattern, warm reclaimed barn wood, and braided brown leather oversized handle, our team nailed the look. Paired with the personalized "Horse & Hound" brass threshold, it gives me all the feels every time I open it!

DESIGN | TIPS

There are so many facets to great design, but here are a few that I rely on.

Cohesion, Consistency, Connection -Keep your design theory connected, consistent and cohesive. One room should naturally flow into the next, and so on. Wall coverings, textiles, color choices, and home decor all love a dose of unification and continuity.

Personal Touches and Treasures - Display your treasures from near and far, from days past to the present time...these important personal artifacts add special meaning and an intimate layer of warmth to your space.

Grounding Element - Create a grounding element in your design plan...flooring, walls, cabinetry, countertops...so you can go wild (or at least push your own personal envelope) with color, pattern, texture and art elsewhere in your home.

Inject Fun - Welcome a dose of fun and whimsy into your home. From the smallest accessory to an extra-large statement wall mural, there are so many ways to inject fun into your living space!









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