

Heritage site

The English owner of this Californian home asked designer Sara Arntz to incorporate characterful British style into every room

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DINING ROOM

'We planned the whole scheme around the wallpaper,' says Sara. Elizabeth Eakins Commandal wallpaper in

Rose Indigo, Holland & Sherry at the Design Centre Chelsea Harbour. Isabella fabric dining chair in Natural, Oak Furniture Superstore, has a similar look.

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
A 1950s detached house

ROOMS

Sitting room, kitchen, dining room, family room, cloakroom, four bedrooms, three bathrooms

LOCATION
California



KITCHEN
'We repainted the cabinets and added new handles and a quartzite worktop, while the decorative window pelmet brings

a touch of English flair,' says Sara. Cupboards in Simply White, Benjamin Moore. Pelmet in Samode linen in Indigo/Natural, Lisa Fine Textiles

KITCHEN
‘The new island created a central gathering space and is the client’s favourite feature,’ says Sara. ‘We pulled the green thread through from the sitting room.’

Vintage stools painted in Green Blue; island painted in Calke Green, both Farrow & Ball. Grantchester pendant light, Jim Lawrence, is similar. The Indigo Rosehip lampshade, Pooky, is an alternative



‘The kitchen island has a substantial overhang so it acts as a proper table and provides comfortable seating when entertaining’

SITTING ROOM
The limestone fireplace is now a key feature in the new room where there’s space for additional seating, too. A moss green armchair reflects the beautiful natural surroundings, with neutral curtains and a botanical cushion adding warm tones.

Similar limestone fire surrounds are available at Pisa Stone. Walls in Dove Wing, Benjamin Moore. Daphnis Fern Green armchair, Daals, has a similar look. Sambourne Tana Lawn, Liberty, is a good alternative cushion fabric. Laura Ashley’s Elizabeth ceramic table lamp, John Lewis, would work

HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT? I’m known for my traditional aesthetics and I’m especially inspired by English design because of my dual citizenship – my mother is from England – and my frequent trips there. A former colleague introduced me to the clients as the wife is from the Cotswolds and they thought my heritage and fresh spin on traditional ideas would be a good fit for this project, which it was!

WHAT CHANGES WERE THE CLIENTS MAKING TO THEIR PROPERTY? Their 1950s house was remodelled in 2000 and they’ve lived here for a while. But with both children at university now, they decided it was time to give their home a complete refresh. A top priority was to open up the kitchen to the family room and add an island unit. The husband owns a construction business and he managed the minor build elements, such as new kitchen cabinetry, worktops, tiling and plumbing.

WHAT WAS THEIR INTERIORS BRIEF? The clients liked the way I combined traditional motifs with clean lines and modern materials. They asked for guidance on paint colours, wallpaper, lighting, furniture and window treatments. As part of their brief, they were keen for their home to weave in her English roots growing up near the Cotswolds and the property’s woodland Californian location. Their home needed to feel



'I love English interiors and textiles and drew a lot of inspiration from houses and cottages in the Cotswolds'

DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM

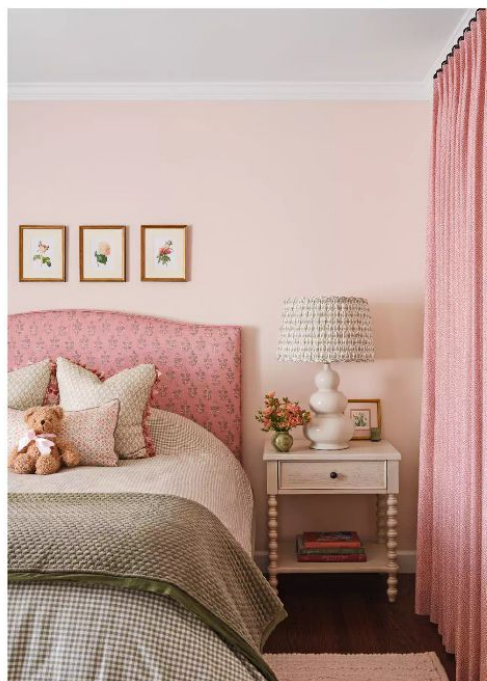
The sculptural lamp and bobbin table legs add interest to the pretty scheme.

Headboard in Poppy Sprig fabric; rectangle cushion in Grantly in Red/Green, both GP & J Baker. Small Wobster table lamp, Pooky, is similar. Cleveland side table, La Residence Interiors. Walls in Beautiful In My Eyes, Benjamin Moore

BATHROOM

A delicate floral wallpaper has a traditional English feel, while cool blues and greens reflect the Californian aesthetic. The smart grey flooring adds a contemporary edge to the room.

Sweet Pea wallpaper in Cerulean & Sky on White by Cole & Son, John Lewis. Roman blind in Tansy fabric in Blue by GP & J Baker, Jane Clayton



comfortable and approachable yet elevated and layered with patterns, texture and colour that reflected their style.

HOW DID YOU BLEND THE COTSWOLDS AND CALIFORNIAN STYLES?

We looked at pieces the clients already had – they own some great antiques and art. They also have lovely watercolours of the English countryside and delicate art featuring fruits and botanicals. Cotswold limestone, used for the fireplaces, combined with wood was another bridge between the two aesthetics as it is what we see in Californian homes, too. Furniture mostly came from American companies but we upholstered pieces in English fabrics.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE FABRICS AND COLOURS?

My client loves greens and blues, which are light and fresh and play homage to both the Cotswolds countryside and the Californian woodland setting. We paired traditional patterns with an earthy, jewel tone palette to breathe life and bring personality back into their home. The mix of colour, pattern and texture feels simultaneously bold and subtle so the clients feel at home.

WHAT'S BEEN MOST SUCCESSFUL?

We're so happy that the client says the hybrid Californian-English interiors have revitalised their home but it still feels like their own. We enjoyed working with them – they're a lovely, down-to-earth couple and also motivated and organised, which made the process a delight. 25

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MAIN BEDROOM
A decorative chinoiserie wallpaper is balanced with dark Tudor-style furniture. Galerie Palazzo floral

wallpaper, UK Wallpaper, is a similar design. Try Barley Twist mahogany four-poster bed, Wayfair. Cushions in Schumacher's Brunel fabric in Sky