



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
A 1920s Spanish Revival house

ROOMS Kitchen and breakfast/living area, butler's pantry, dining room, sitting room, library/office, two bedrooms, three bathrooms

LOCATION
Los Angeles

Outside interests

A priority for Noel Pittman when she bought this home in LA was the garden, but she brought the beauty of the great outdoors inside too

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EXTERIOR
'My biggest project was building the Mediterranean-style outdoor fireplace and patio to enjoy the southern Californian climate all year around,' says Noel.
For a similar dining set (left), try Cheltenham carver chair and Cheltenham table, Neptune





SITTING ROOM
 'With a passion for ceramics – particularly antique Spanish lebrillos – I was thrilled to move into a house where they blend so well with the architectural interiors,' says Noel. Similar lebrillo bowl, Chris Holmes Antiques. Green cushions in Naboika, Décors Barbares

DINING ROOM
 'I wanted this to feel informal enough to use throughout the day,' says Noel. 'This inspired the pretty florals and casual wicker furniture.' Malu rattan chair, La Redoute, is similar. Original globe with bronze mouldings, Jamb



LIVING AREA
 'I was encouraged by designer Mario Buatta's use of chintz to be brave with fabric,' says Noel. Sofa and cushions in Lee Jofa's Sameera from Oscar de la Renta III, TM Interiors. Grasscloth wallcovering, Gregorius Pineo



'My vision was to create timeless spaces grounded in tradition to honour the Spanish Revival architecture yet still feel current'

Noel Pittman has always loved the look of Mediterranean houses, especially those built in the 1920s. So when she came across this beautiful Spanish Revival property in California, she was smitten from the start.

'I love a home with history, and this house fit the bill perfectly with its preserved traditional architectural elements like Saltillo tile floors, white stucco walls and a terracotta tile roof,' explains Noel. 'As I stepped through the front door of the property into the entry hall, a stained-glass window cast a beautiful, coloured light and

I could hear the peaceful sound of water from a fountain from the courtyard – I fell in love.'

Noel, an interior designer, decided to move to Los Angeles to be closer to her mum, sister and nephews and was on the hunt for somewhere she could decorate and make her own. As well as the wonderful architecture, the house had a good layout so she began by focusing on landscaping outside to create a lush Mediterranean oasis.

'The primary renovation works were building the outdoor fireplace and patio to enjoy the Californian climate and adding a terrace off the kitchen for outdoor



OFFICE
‘I sourced an antique Spanish table and the rug is a traditional Moroccan Tuareg,’ says Noel. Similar rug, Soufiane Zarib. Gregory lamp by Christopher Spitzmuller; try Kalinda lamp, Oka. Vaughan’s Alhambra lantern is an alternative



PANTRY
Cabinetry echoes the kitchen and the flower-shaped wicker chair and cotton rug blend beautifully with the outside. Rattan Petal chair, The Rattan Company, is similar. Try the Jolin rug, Rugviva



KITCHEN
‘Cabinet doors are painted in a custom mix I developed with decorators to achieve the right grey-blue tone,’ says Noel. ‘I was drawn to warm raspberry accents.’ Blue 01 by Lick is a similar blue with cool grey undertones. Knurl Linen Thimble lampshade, Howe. Similar Pablo Picasso plates, Christie’s

‘The two lights on the wall of bookshelves in the office is a lovely decorative touch – simple but it brings another layer of interest’

dining,’ says Noel. ‘I also designed an Andalusian-style stucco fireplace in the sitting room with dark green, antique Moroccan mosaic tiles to speak to the Moorish elements in the property’s architecture.’

Honouring the characteristics of the property lies at the heart of Noel’s interior design concept since she’s a firm believer that interiors and architecture should relate and she wanted the room schemes to complement the building’s Spanish Revival heritage. ‘The house needed to inform design decisions to create harmonious, cohesive spaces,’ she explains. ‘I put aside my love of

French antiques and toile because pieces from Morocco, Portugal and Spain were more appropriate here.’

The home office features an antique Moroccan dhurrie rug sits in the dining room. Decorative Spanish lebrillos – ceramic bowls – adorn the walls in the sitting room, a nod to the aesthetic in designer Vcerc Grenney’s home in Morocco.

Noel loves a warm, layered aesthetic and was also inspired by American designers, Mario Buatta for his notable use of chintz and Sister Parish for her

BEDROOM

'The raffia headboard adds texture and the Moorish shape is emphasised with the decorative nail heads,' says Noel. Gothic bed, Sofas & Stuff, is similar. Try Motley Art Design on Etsy for a Monkey print



BATHROOM

Neutral hues give a feeling of openness, while decorative tiles inject a touch of pattern. Avant Ruby traditional floor tiles, Mayfield Porcelain & Stone, are similar. Paintbox Sage gloss cornice tiles, Mandarin Stone, have this look



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sophisticated, relaxed style. 'Both crafted traditional, timeless rooms, which are comfortable and inviting, and also elegant with personal touches,' says Noel. 'These ideas became integrated into my design vision.'

Noel has some signature elements she often incorporates into client designs that she's used here as well. Natural fibre rugs for warmth, mixed patterns for visual interest and antique finds to enrich the space. 'It's a semi-structured approach, leaving room for each project I work on to have a unique and personal outcome,' she explains. With several rooms in her home

having doors opening onto the garden oasis, Noel chose a complementing interiors palette of greens and blues to seamlessly integrate with nature. The resulting house is a tranquil slice of the Mediterranean in the heart of busy Los Angeles.

'Now the interiors enhance the heritage of the house as well as capturing the essence of indoor/outdoor southern California living,' says Noel. 'I love having the French doors open to the courtyard to allow the sound of the fountain to flow inside.' 25

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