



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY A Colonial Revival house built in 1938

ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, library, cloakroom, sunroom, four bedrooms, four bathrooms

LOCATION Oakland, California

DINING ROOM

'This area carries the same elegance as the kitchen, but with a much moodier vibe,' says Jeneffer.

'The beautiful blue-grey wallpaper coordinates with the paint colour.' Panelling in Boothbay Gray, Benjamin Moore. Try Rasch Garden Leaf Plant wallpaper. 'I Want Wallpaper. The Black Austin chandelier, Next, is similar

SUNROOM Replacement windows and doors open up to the garden beyond. 'New wood flooring and a neutral scheme coordinate with the

rest of the house,' says Jeneffer.

Walls in White Dove, Benjamin Moore. Try Jaipur Rugs for a similar design

KITCHEN

'An off-white with subtle grey-blue undertones for the cabinetry pairs beautifully with the grey veining in the marble on the island, which is treated with a UV coating to prevent staining,' says Jeneffer.

Cupboards in Cloud Cover, Benjamin Moore. Retro Metro South Kensington tiles, Fired Earth, are similar. Try Calacatta S594 marble, Solidstone Worktops



History LESSON

Under the guidance of designer Jeneffer Jones Punjani, a Colonial Revival house learned how to embrace the past and present

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HALLWAY
The beautiful original staircase was carefully preserved and updated with fresh white paint and a stair runner that can withstand heavy foot traffic. Vichy Midnight stair runner, Runrug, has this look. Try 1stDibs for a similar round table

LIBRARY
'Colour drenching dark spaces with deep tones gives a calming, moody vibe that pairs beautifully with the golden hues and warm wood,' says Jeneffer. Panelling and shelving in Steep Cliff Gray, Benjamin Moore. For a similar chair, try the Cezanne in Mustard Velvet, Home Origins. Ruggable's tartan rugs would work here

SITTING ROOM
'Furniture is scaled to fill the large space and make the room feel more inviting, while a marble fireplace surround adds a new level of elegance,' says Jeneffer. A blue velvet armchair in the corner offers a cosy space to relax and read, and gives a hit of colour to the neutral scheme. Walls in Pale Oak, Benjamin Moore. Similar black solid-wood display cabinet with glass door, Litfad. Try Bailey chair in Lusso Aquamarine velvet, Warner House. Calacatta Vagli marble surround, Da Vinci Marble. Graydon round coffee table in Mocha Shagreen Bronze, RH. Try Jaipur Rugs for a similar design



WHAT DREW THE OWNERS TO THE PROPERTY? When my clients went looking for a bigger house, they instantly fell for the Colonial Revival architectural style of this property, which reminded me the wife of the married couple of the neighbourhood she had grown up in, in southern USA. Although the 1930s-built house had beautiful architectural details, its small kitchen and formal finishes didn't suit relaxed family living for the couple and their three children. **HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED?** The owners decided to live in the house for a few

years to work out the changes they wanted to make. At a dinner party, friends recommended MN Builders and they met with designer Anita Howland, who drew up plans to modernise the house, while remaining sympathetic to the period features. I came on board soon afterwards, adding to the design with a full interior scheme for furnishings and finishes. **HOW DID YOUR CLIENTS WANT THEIR HOME TO LOOK AND FEEL?** They wanted a bigger kitchen and more seating in the main living spaces. As the floor plan mostly retains its traditional layout, it

was an opportunity to design each room to have its own personality. Our goal was to strike a balance between stylish and elevated for hosting friends and family, with a practical home for every day, where nothing is too precious to use. **WHAT WAS YOUR APPROACH?** At El Nido Interiors, we're guided by a property's architecture and lean into a simple and elegant design aesthetic. Homes for busy families with children and pets, like this one, will experience wear and tear over time, so we selected high-performance fabrics for furniture, surfaces that are more forgiving and patterned rugs in



MAIN BEDROOM
 'The scheme is a serene, layered palette of whites, greys and beiges,' says Jeneffer. A mixture of fabrics and finishes gives texture to the space. Walls in Simply White, Benjamin Moore. Etruscan urn table lamp, Lamp24, is similar. Canova side table, House of Isabella, has this look. Try the Antique rustic wooden bench, Home Barn

SON'S EN SUITE
 'We ran the shower tiles vertically for a modern, fresh feel,' says Jeneffer. Dandy rectangular ceramic wall tiles, The Online Tile Shop, are similar. Equipe Carrara hexagon floor tiles, Tiles Direct, have this look. Try the Tasca floating walnut vanity unit, 34 St John

EN SUITE
 Reconfiguring the layout allowed space for a free-standing roll-top bath without disturbing the original window. The Chatsworth bath, Victorian Plumbing, has a similar look. Calacatta Borghini marble, Purple Granite. Try the Bryant wall sconce, Visual Comfort & Co

CLOAKROOM
 Elongated wall sconces frame the oval mirror, while dark tiles create a cocooning space. Selene wall sconces, Artemest, have a similar look. Try the Fine edge oval mirror, Heal's. Trama d'Autore in Nero wall tiles, Tile Expert, are similar



'IN THE CLOAKROOM, THE ELONGATED MIRROR GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT THE CEILING IS TALLER AS IT DRAWS THE EYE UP'

high-traffic areas. We incorporated clean lines to juxtapose some of the ornate curves and panelling, while the clients weren't afraid to go bold with decoration in the dining room and library. They like blue, so we saturated the walls in tones of blue-grey to create a cosy atmosphere and encourage lingering. **WHICH ROOM WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT TO THEM?** The kitchen. Designer Anita

Howland, along with MN Builders, reconfigured the existing breakfast room and a small service kitchen to create a more expansive open space complete with a new walk-in pantry. The builder's team built the cabinets, and to keep the feel light and airy, we selected a warm, neutral palette, brass fittings and marble on the island, which also features in the splashback on the wall behind the cooker.

WHAT'S MADE THIS HOUSE SO SUCCESSFUL? What started out as a partial remodel morphed into a fully fledged renovation with a modern, harmonious flow, and it's now a stylish space from top to bottom. The project couldn't have been achieved without the teamwork between the client, us, Anita Howland and MN Builders – everyone is very happy with the outcome. **25** elmidinteriors.com