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Rebellious Nature

An explosion of color shakes things up in a Los Angeles house that boasts classic modern lines and a wealth of texture-rich organic materials.

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In a yin-and-yang approach to this Los Angeles home's organic architectural materials, interior designer Jennifer Dyer introduced colorful flights of fancy via furnishings in the dining room. Expansive walls of glass make the outdoor color palette an integral part of the interior one.



THIS PHOTO: Open sight lines showcase the subtle threading of colors between spaces. The emerald hue of two custom silk-covered living room chairs is echoed by backsplash tiles in the adjoining kitchen. The teal velvet of the living room's other seating pieces is reflected in the blue stripes on the dining chairs. OPPOSITE: The cantilevered lines of the L-shape home and the lanai form a neat nook for a pool.



You can almost hear the proponents of desert modernism tsk-tsking from on high: The unbridled display of color in this Los Angeles home, decorated by interior designer Jennifer Dyer for a corporate headhunter and her husband, would surely upset their penchant for cool monochromes.

But architect Jeff Soler bucked convention from the outset as he designed this house. His response to a neighborhood of Mediterranean-inspired villas was a Palm Springs-style modern house—a crisp orthogonal structure, sheathed in glass, anthracite zinc, and stucco, that departs from its classic modern antecedents with organic accent materials. Ceilings, for example, are lined with bamboo, and rough-cut Jerusalem stone covers the living room fireplace.

“The owners wanted a neutral background with eye-catchers you could see from the outside,” Soler says. The answer: glass kitchen backsplash tiles that span the spectrum from citrine to olive, a pink-and-brown mod-pattern wallpaper that encases a wall in the master bedroom, and a turquoise vanity in one bath, kiwi in another.

But things really took a colorful turn when the owners met Dyer: “My clients are tons of fun and love vibrant color,” she says. “And I like a real mix of styles.” Bold furniture decisions ensued. The home’s open plan, however, necessitated a cohesive approach. “I kept the colors within the same bright value,” Dyer says. “It would have looked strange to try to soften things with pastels.” Introducing occasional sober, though deeply saturated, tones grounded brighter color choices: The dining room’s charcoal end chairs, for instance, balance the peppy tangerine of the side chairs, and the master bedroom’s raspberry hues are tempered by chocolate-brown accents.

Dyer also threw a few curves at the owners’ existing boxy furnishings to add interest. “I brought in traditional pieces that had some whimsical line or detail to create a juxtaposition to the architecture,” she says. The result is a home with a sophisticated yet spunky personality that exudes dedication to quality: “There were places where the clients could have cut back, but they didn’t,” Soler says. “They always chose the best way to do it.”



LEFT: The kitchen elegantly marries natural materials, such as wood and Jerusalem stone, with engineered elements, such as solid-surfacing countertops and frosted-glass cabinet doors. ABOVE: The lanai's sunken profile fosters a sense of coziness. Built-in bench seating reflects the modern sensibilities of the house's architecture. RIGHT: Attired in a vinyl snakeskin wallcovering, the front door stylishly announces the home's individuality.





THIS PHOTO: Dyer deepened the color intensity of the master bedroom furniture by switching out white draperies for chocolate-brown ones, adding color to plain white linens, and hanging a pendant with fuchsia lining. ABOVE RIGHT: In the monochromatic Zenlike master bath, architect Jeff Soler created privacy with clerestory windows and a translucent glass panel by the tub.



Floor plan

TOTAL SQ. FT: 6,200
 BEDROOMS: 5
 BATHROOMS: 4 full, 1 half

