

# SPECTRUM PAINT AT HOME

Fun With

# COLOR!

BRING  
ON THE  
*Drama:*  
OUR FAVORITE  
MOODY LOOKS

TONIGHT AND  
TOMMORROW:  
GREAT EATS FOR  
ENTERTAINING  
.....

TOUR FOUR  
HOMES WITH  
STYLISH  
STAYING POWER  
.....

ANNIE SELKE  
ON HER RUGS,  
RUNNING AN  
EMPIRE, AND  
STAYING  
RELEVANT IN  
THE DIGITAL  
WORLD

SOJOURN  
TO SALEM

HARDWARE  
FOR THE HEARTY



# THE NEW CRAFTSMAN CLASSIC

*Modern design enlivens this traditionally-inspired structure with a refreshing remix of sleek interior lines, dynamic finishes, and unique materials.*

Design: Melanie Love, Love & Interiors

Builder: Peter Rosenthal, Buzzer 9 Development Inc.

Architect: Jarvis Architects

Text: Carlee Baigrie

Photography: Meghan Caudill

A bright and airy kitchen sporting more than its fair share of natural light lets its white herringbone backsplash soar to its ceilings.





A grey apron sink calls to its matching island frame, while open shelving flanking a stainless steel vent hood offers an opportunity to showcase dinnerware that belongs in the spotlight rather than behind cabinet doors.



Love & Interiors' Melanie got in on the ground floor of this stunning new build nestled in the historic neighborhood of the Berkeley Hills. Her early involvement meant she had the opportunity to provide feedback on architectural plans in order to optimize her design's impact. "It was really nice to define the overall direction from the very start," Melanie comments. Embarking on a new build in an area already dominated by older homes with an established continuity throughout can be a bit of a balancing act, as even the most appealing of structures can be an eyesore or a disruption if it doesn't make sense contextually. "There are a lot of older homes in the neighborhood—a lot of older craftsman homes—so we wanted to respect the existing architectural styles that were there, but also make it appropriate for a young family that would likely be buying it." Finding a happy medium, Melanie opted to uphold the traditional craftsman aesthetic on the exterior of the home, and then focused on modernizing the home's interiors, relying on a bright and fresh color palette to elevate the home's customary craftsman sensibility.

The home was intended as an investment property to be placed on the market shortly after completion, placing added pressure on Melanie to deliver a space that wouldn't alienate their desired demographic, but still had its own personality. Melanie's goal of creating "something that feels unique, and doesn't look like all the other cookie-cutter homes on the market" meant juggling tradition and individuality. The difficulty here was in managing the desire to bring this modernized sensibility to life without sacrificing mass-appeal. "It's always tricky to make selections that will feel special without being too generic... you don't want to be divisive," Melanie advises, a challenge she clearly rose to meet. Though the home is scattered with enticing and unique materials, prints, and patterns, Melanie's selections work perfectly in unison to cultivate an aesthetic with a surprising amount of charm and personality. The unique merit of the home lies in Melanie's commitment to thinking outside the box: "when I'm collecting things for a space, I try to make selections that feel unique to the home—that have a story to them."

The character and personality of Melanie's designs are most evident in elements like the funky pattern on the living room fireplace or the floor in the master bedroom. Melanie capitalizes on these selections that often go overlooked, or at least underused, by other designers, particularly when designing spaces intended for sale. The idea with investment properties is so often aimed at blandness, mass-appeal, and generic mentality. Melanie challenges this idea with exacting precision. Continuing her standard revolt against the mold, Melanie plays with the finishes of the hardware in her spaces as well, a revelation that jolted us to take a second look. The varying textures are barely visible at first glance because of how well they mingle together. "I like to mix finishes so that things don't feel overly designed or matchy-matchy," Melanie confesses,



The craftsman style adopted and maintained throughout the exterior of the home receives a modern twist with striking black trim.



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Divergent finishes bring visual variety to this double vanity while a grey-blue tone produces a calming effect. Delicately patterned tile acts as the perfect foundation for this spa-like ensuite.

adding, "I fear things becoming dated down the road. Like if everything is in brass or a specific finish. It's really nice to be able to play with those finishes and have a client trust that process and trust that it's all going to come together. You'll notice that not all the light fixtures are the same finish necessarily. You'll see a nickel faucet with a darker mirror in the master bath, but then the brass hardware is on the vanity, and all of that comes together and works."

Risks are a part of the job for Melanie, placing a premium on trust in her working partnerships. Thankfully, Melanie had worked with Peter Rosenthal of Buzzer 9 Development Inc, a custom home builder based in Suvasalito, before and had already established the trust necessary for the execution of her bolder design choices. Melanie and Peter are currently wrapping up their third custom home together and share a collaborative partnership, balancing Melanie's willingness to take risks with Peter's extensive knowledge and experience. Melanie credits their great working relationship with their ability to pull off the more adventurous features in the home, like the darker island, which may not have been possible

had they not had the time to develop that confidence in one another. "It's very exciting and rewarding to have him trust me to make these decisions," shared Melanie.

Melanie considers the defining feature of this space to be its coziness, especially considering the home's modern structure: "Even though it's a new build, it feels like a comfortable and livable home. It doesn't feel too sterile. That's always my goal when working with a very modern style: for things not to feel too cold." Indeed, Melanie's modern designs in the interior portion of the home work harmoniously with the exterior, which succeeds in blending in with neighboring homes while still retaining enough curb-appeal to stop passers-by in their tracks for a lingering look. Though the property was an investment and ultimately intended for sale, we cannot help but imagine the young, vibrant family enjoying the designs that Love & Interiors dreamed up for them, cozied amongst the stunning collage of disparate but cohesive finishes and pieces. The family that is lucky enough to bask in the fruits of Melanie's labor is a lucky one indeed! 