



DESERT Calm

A ROLLING HILLS
ESTATES-BASED
INTERIOR DESIGNER
TRANSFORMS A
SECOND RESIDENCE
IN LA QUINTA FOR
A PALOS VERDES
ESTATES COUPLE
AND THEIR TWO
CHILDREN

TEXT BY JENNIE NUNN
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"The outdoor seating area feels like an extension of the living room when the wall of sliding doors is open," says designer Anna Hackathorn.



WHEN IT CAME TIME FOR A PALOS VERDES COUPLE to design a second home situated on a golf course in La Quinta, they knew just the person to make their vision come to life: interior designer Anna Hackathorn, founder of Rolling Hills Estates-based eponymous firm. Hackathorn, who once worked for the likes of Michael S. Smith, had also designed their primary residence in Palos Verdes Estates. “We actually went to the same high school [different years], and I didn’t really know them in high school, but we knew of each other and knew each other’s names from around town,” says Hackathorn. “They called me about a year-and-a-half ago and said, ‘we’re building a house in the desert and we’d love to have you help us,’ and it was a great project because it’s always fun to do new construction. They wanted it to be comfortable, they liked what we had done in their Palos Verdes house, and they wanted that similar kind of aesthetic but more appropriate for modern architecture in the desert.”

But, when Hackathorn initially reviewed the floorplans of the approximately 4,000-square-foot home built by architect Brian Foster of Brian Foster Designs, she encountered a few unique design elements. “They were unconventional because so many of the rooms are triangular,” recounts Hackathorn of the three-bedroom home with a one-bedroom detached casita and multiple outdoor areas for morning coffee and family

gatherings. “It’s super modern and all of the rooms have unusual footprints, so it was tricky, but it was a good challenge.”

It was also important to the clients that the furnishings and artwork not skew too stark despite the modern architecture. “The wife likes more traditional and bohemian kinds of things, and she didn’t want it to seem too stark and too typical of the kind of furniture that would normally be in a house like that. It was fun and I think it came together well,” adds Hackathorn of the thoughtful and deliberate design. “We really had to plan well to make sure that all of the furniture would fit. We considered making irregularly shaped rugs, but in the end the clients decided that they preferred rectangular rugs, so we made it work.”

For the serene color palette, Hackathorn kept hues neutral in varying tones of crème, sand, and soft blues, and played up textures. “The backdrop is so beautiful, we didn’t want it to compete with that,” explains Hackathorn, who sprinkled in color with photographs by Petros Koublis, Shay Blechynden, and pieces from Fine Art America. “In a lot of my projects, I choose more oil paintings and pieces of that nature, but we felt like this photography captured that desert vibe.”

In the open kitchen lined with barstools from RH, white subway tile from Maven Tile & Stone, and vintage cutting boards from Big Daddy’s Antiques, Hackathorn continued the easy flow in the adjacent dining



LEFT The dining room features a trio of pendant lamps from Serena & Lily and a dining table from RH and chairs by Noir.

OPPOSITE A tranquil palette of soft blues and whites sets the scene for outdoor lounging.



The open living room with sweeping mountain views is layered with chairs from One Kings Lane, a stone side table by Noir, and a coffee table book featuring works by photographer Gray Malin.

room, with a round table by RH, woven chairs by Noir, and a series of pendant lamps from Serena & Lily. Floor-to-ceiling pocket doors in the living room connect the indoors to the outdoors and allow for lounging and taking in 360-views of the mountains. The sanctuary-like master with a trio of oceanscapes by Petros Koublis, is replete with a rug, bed, and side tables from Serena & Lily, and ceramic table lamps by Jamie Young. "I love that the lamps are very textured and they have that kind of rustic lean to them," says Hackathorn. The children's bedrooms (both of whom are in college) have a hint of pattern play and layers. The daughter's room features an upholstered headboard in Walter G fabric, side tables from RH Teen, and a striped box from McGee & Co., and the son's room is appointed with lamps from Noir, a rug by Dash & Albert, and a pillow by Indian Pink pillows.

The project, completed just in time for Thanksgiving last year, is now considered a desert refuge for family weekend getaways, entertaining, and golf trips. "I think the gas was literally turned on the day before," recalls Hackathorn, of the slow but steady race to the design finish line. "They are dream clients, and this is one my favorite design projects. It's nice starting from scratch, and I think they like that it's really comfortable and cohesive." CH

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ABOVE/LEFT “The photographs by Petros Koublis provide a strong yet serene statement in the master bedroom,” adds Hackathorn. “This small table surrounded by a pond is right off the dining room, creating a perfect spot for coffee in the morning or cocktails in the evening.”

TOP The Master bath is defined by small square mosaic tile in Carrara marble and a tall white vase with magnolia branches.

