



# DESERT BLOOM

DESIGNER: TAYLOR BORSARI

TEXT: SAXON HENRY

PHOTOGRAPHY: KARYN R. MILLET





History tells us that great sculptors studied blocks of material until their inner forms revealed themselves. This will come as no surprise to Taylor Borsari, who was a sculpture major before she turned her eye to interior design. "As I design, I get the shape to emerge," says the founder of her namesake Las Vegas design firm. "As things move along, I'm not afraid to tweak, because I believe it's important to keep an open mind—that will result in a better project."

Against the striking desert terrain of Las Vegas, Borsari melded contour and contrast, creating a serene space for a young family with three children. As she walked through the 10,000-square-foot one-story shell of this house the first time, she identified the indoor-outdoor relationships and the magnificent views as early inspirations. Capturing the rhythm of natural landscape in an interior is instinctual for Borsari, who spent years designing for clients in Los Angeles. "The way the property unfolds from the mountains to the front door takes you on an unexpected journey," she says, noting that the palette was inspired by the neutral, earthy colors of the surroundings. "I wanted a connection to the outdoors visible through the abundant number of windows."













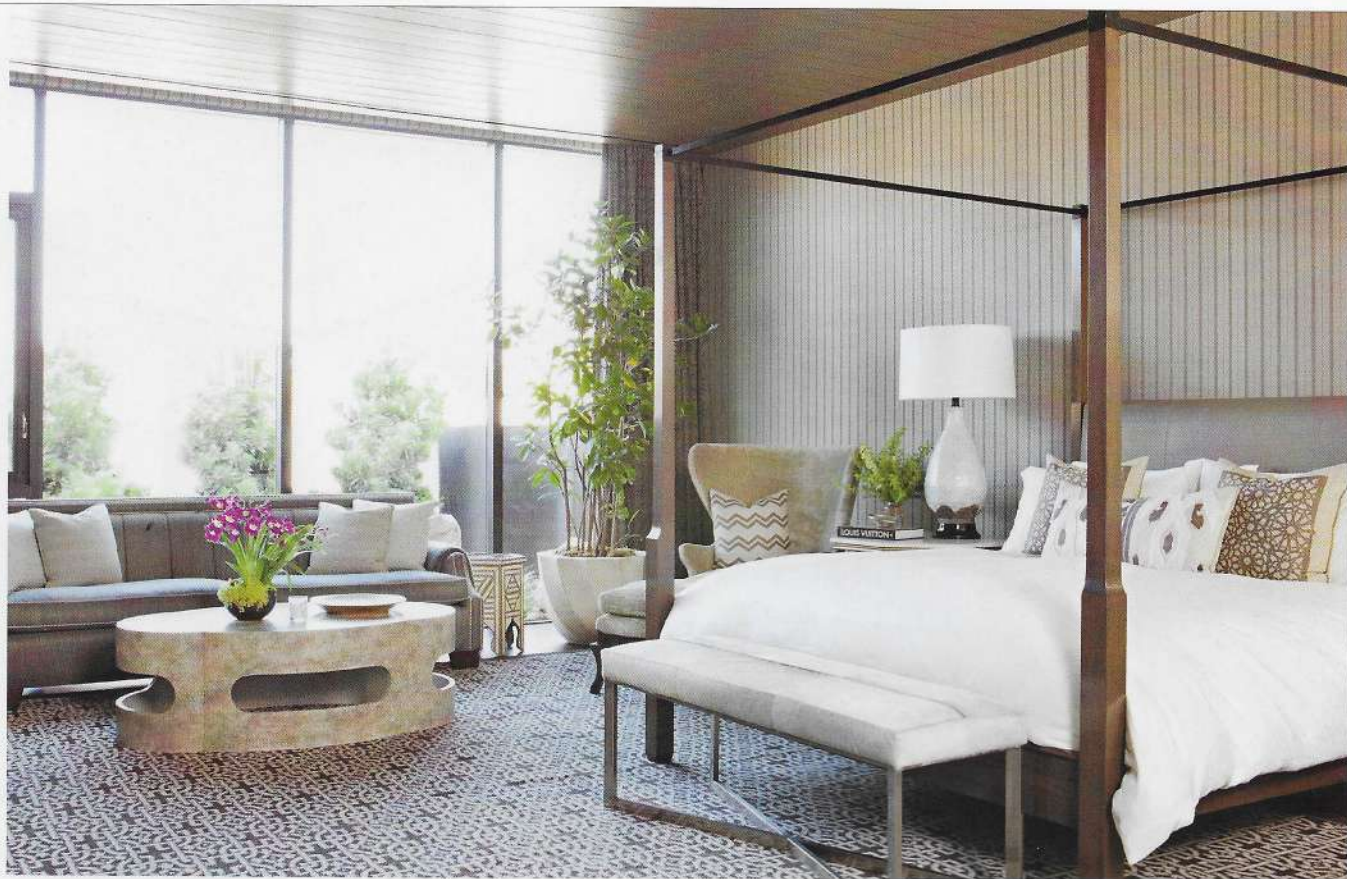












"Materials were chosen for their texture and patina," adds Brook Lieberman, Borsari's right-hand woman on the project. This nixed anything plastic, polished or shiny: oiled walnut kitchen cabinetry and doors throughout the house intermingle with Brazilian cherry flooring to set a mood that quickly became midcentury. "Given the cherry floors, midcentury modern and Brazilian-inspired interiors just seemed like the perfect fit," explains Borsari. Subdued layers—a Michaelian & Kohlberg rug, a Robert Kuo side table and Michael Smith club chairs—ripple gracefully in the living area.

Light fixtures were early purchases and serve as important tone-setters in areas like the bar, where Borsari tucked a spikey vintage chandelier, edging the space with Lawson-Fenning Elysian barstools covered in Holly Hunt leather. The vintage French pendants over the kitchen island are also eloquent elements. "Everything we chose for this project was meant to give it heart, because it was just a big box when we started," Borsari says.









Contemporary art feels delightfully at home on mod wallcoverings, such as Phillip Jeffries Arches wallpaper in the sitting area off the master bedroom, where a vintage leather Vladimir Kagan arm chair is balanced by the curvaceous Dennis & Leen Macau coffee table and the graphic verve of *Anthoxanthum*, by artist Paul Morrison. In the main entry, Borsari paired a Julian Chichester cabinet, which has dainty arcing metal legs and a front clad in shagreen, with artist Martin Mull's *Carpe Diem* and a vintage lamp and vase, showing her time-traveling skills to be exemplary. In the master bathroom, the designer had a circa 1950s open-backed side chair by JF Chen refurbished and combined it with 1930s Art Deco wall sconces originally made for Warner Brothers.

Lifestyle was a big consideration, and Borsari wanted the couple to be as excited about entertaining their friends as their children would be about inviting their pals to hang after school. This made the relationship between the indoor and outdoor spaces especially important. Flexibility was key, as cocktails under the loggia might just morph into swimming parties for the kids.





"There isn't a living room, so the kitchen and the rooms surrounding it are truly the heart of this home," Borsari remarks. "Like everything else, the kitchen cabinetry is simple, and that's a surprising move considering how most people think of Vegas." A collaboration between two of Borsari's favorite workshops in Las Vegas—Matt Martin of Martin Metal Designs, and Russ Angione and Greg Watson of Angione's In the Woods custom cabinetry—resulted in a built-in dining room buffet made of walnut wrapped in steel with a gunmetal finish that's so stunningly classic, it breathes beauty.

Though nothing showy made it into Borsari's inspiration boards, the girl knows how to entertain herself: "The challenge of getting into my clients' heads and trying to execute their visions is so much fun—it's a process I find very inspiring." ■  
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