



Great Expectations

WITH THE GRAVITY OF GRACE
DESIGNER ELIZABETH DINKEL OFFERS
A SOULFUL INTERPRETATION OF LA STYLE

text: Saxon Henry photos: Karyn R. Millet









it would be easy to miss the mark and label Elizabeth Dinkel's interior montage in a Los Angeles neo-Regency style home merely "eclectic." French antiques, contemporary art, technological wonders and mid-century modern furnishings, each gregarious in their native tongue, bask in their role of having established an authenticity of place that makes one-word descriptions passé.



and when the homeowners, a movie producer and his young family, sought their purveyor of complexity and depth they found her in an unlikely setting: a boudoir. Enamored with the unexpected mix of colors—a robin's egg blue and an earthy pomegranate color—and the juxtaposition of antique furniture styles, Elizabeth Dinkel's bedroom in a Bel Air showhouse compelled them to ask her to bring their tastes to bear in their new home.





"since they are Francophiles with an extensive collection of antiques, the interiors had to serve as a backdrop for a mix of styles and periods, as well as showcase their contemporary art collection," Dinkel recalls. She wanted the home to look as if it had stood for a hundred years and might stand for a hundred more. "I didn't realize it at the time, but my training to create a timeless feel in a new home resulted from a number of historical restoration projects I've done," she explains.



her

first consideration was Thomas Proctor's graceful architecture, defined by its sense of proportion and balance. The couple's passion for entertaining and their desire to unify the home and its lush setting were key. "The loggia (pathway) connects the interiors to the lawn, pool and pool house," says Dinkel, "So everything is integrated." Still, the intersections of space and shape would be sans spirit had it not been for the collaboration between client and designer. For two years they ventured through Europe to find fireplace surrounds, furniture and light fixtures that would offer a subtle French twist.





"because

this is a young couple—she's in her thirties and he's in his early forties—I was determined to give even the most traditional rooms a fresh and youthful feel," says Dinkel. "The living room that doubles as a screening room was created in an 18th century style with very high ceilings." She clad the room in elegant paneling and hid the mechanical elements in a façade of cabinetry. Throughout the residence she used contemporary fabrics on antique upholstered pieces to infuse the light palette with exquisite moments of color, such as the kelly green wallpaper in the dining room.

Dinkel believes that managing the expectations of homeowners lays the foundation for creating interiors that stretch the imagination and complement the lives of the characters who reside within. "These clients were realistic; they wanted to find the best pieces for each space, which takes time. This home is as lovely as it is because we did not rush things. We made sure that each choice was the right one" ■ *Elizabeth Dinkel Design Associates Inc., 554 Norwich Drive, West Hollywood, CA 310 278 3700*
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