

CALIFORNIA HOMES

THE MAGAZINE OF ARCHITECTURE
THE ARTS & DISTINCTIVE DESIGN

*Beautiful
DESIGN*

+ VISIONARY
Exquisite Craftsmanship
by Soane Britain

SPECIAL EVENTS

Palm Springs Modernism Week
SFDC Presents Design San Francisco



OPPOSITE Visual Comfort's "Natalya" chandelier and a seascape from the homeowners' art collection bring down the tall ceilings in the living room, grounded by a pale blue Kravet rug.

LEFT Dark wood and white upholstery fabric dramatize a corner chair.

Desert *Riposte*

BARCLAY BUTERA ESCHEWS THE STRICTLY CASUAL CONVENTIONS OF DESERT DESIGN TO CREATE A MORE LUSHLY APPOINTED PALM SPRINGS HOME THAT REFLECTS HIS CLIENTS' INTERESTS

TEXT BY CANDACE ORD MANROE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY NATHAN SCHRODER



Interior designer Barclay Butera stands beside Noir's metal-frame wingback "Allende" chair; drapery fabric is Cowtan & Tout.

OPPOSITE The sitting area of a guest room illustrates the pillow stories Butera uses throughout the home.



FOR LONG-TIME collectors of fine art and antiques, a vacation home in the Coachella Valley desert required just enough pomp to embrace their passions. "It's really the antithesis of a desert home," says designer Barclay Butera, "because there's a touch of formality, especially in spaces like the dining room and office.

The clients are huge collectors, and the home is a mix of old and new. It's a transitional design."

Where a more typical desert design might be scrubbed down to only squeaky-clean lines, these airy spaces are apt to sprout decorative flourishes as ornate as crystal chandeliers. In the dining room, a fine old lamp with crystal drops decorates a new sideboard, and a pair of thickly gilded frames showcase old oil landscapes painted in warm, burnished hues. But the effect is subtle. Butera uses formal elements sparingly—the two gilt-framed paintings are the only art decorating the room. Plus, one entire wall is awash with natural light.

Formal nods aren't limited to the dining room. Even in the loggia, arguably the most casual space given its open-air back side with exposure to the pool, golf course, and the mountains beyond, a pair of overhead fixtures dazzle with dangling antique mirrors that shimmer in the sunlight and sway in the occasional breeze. The idea: to be a true oasis for its owners, the house must support their taste level and interests.

"There is a sense of richness in the furnishings," says Butera, who also designed the owners' main residence in West Hollywood. "All are done in soothing colors for an overall feel that's easy on the eye." Pale blue indoor-outdoor fabric with no pattern or trim brings serenity and a hint of elegance to the loggia's comfortable wicker-style upholstered furnishings. The loggia seating is thickly padded, as are the multiple conversation areas in the living room, where the palette is white with pale blue accents.

"This home is all about comfort," underscores the designer. "I was given carte blanche and worked with the gentle Mediterranean architecture to create a home that is truly livable and feels friendly."

An absence of pattern on furniture upholstery assures Butera's goal of serenity. But the designer is known for his layering. "How I layer color and texture is my trademark," he says, admitting that this house is no exception. "There are pillow stories in every room—in the living room, master

bedroom, sitting room, guest rooms, even the loggia. You can add a lot of color and depth through pillows."

Another element of the decorating worthy of a shout-out is the lighting. "We spent a lot of time on the lighting. Each space has its own fixtures that contribute to its unique character."

Crystal-beaded iron pendants define the kitchen island and weave that hard-working space ("the owner is a wonderful cook, and she likes to entertain," says Butera) into the home's refined mosaic. The elegant master bath gets a lighter touch with formal chandeliers and sconces that appear airier and more fragile.

Two of the most idiosyncratic rooms are the gentleman's office, where walls enfold in a deep indigo and antiques and art are the crowning glory, and the media room, ashimmer in silvery-gray velvet upholsteries and a graphite-hue grass-paper on the walls.

Like any California vacation home worth its property taxes, outdoor spaces are among the most lived-in and important. Palm Springs' stunning desert sunsets against the mountain backdrop can be enjoyed from multiple seating areas around the pool and fire pit. "In addition to a very rectangular pool there's a big fire pit with seating that looks onto the golf course and mountains. The back yard is grand, but livable," says Butera. **CH**



ABOVE/LEFT
A second loggia off the kitchen is set for a cozy al fresco meal. The owners enjoy entertaining with pieces from their antique cutlery and china collections.



ABOVEThe kitchen's barstools are "Destin" from Design Masters covered in a Schumacher fabric; pendant chandeliers are "Chateau" from Eloquence Home. A round Lexington table is illuminated by Aiden Gray's "Chan" chandelier.



ABOVE Opening onto the pool, the master bedroom is furnished with a Century "Crescent" bed covered in Holly Hunt aqua velvet. Two Baker "Piedmont" chairs are covered in Rogers and Goffigon blue fabric. The "Elizabeth" oval ottoman is from Barclay Butera Home. Wallpaper is Phillip Jeffries.

