

beverly hills

# Lifestyle



GIADA DE LAURENTIIS

\$20.00



# DESERT RETREAT

*by Barclay Butera Interiors  
Photography - Ryan Garvin*





# Q&A

*How did this project come about?*

This dream project came about from a client referral; a woman who over the years has become a dear friend. Our Lake Las Vegas clients are actually Newport Beach residents and reached out to us after purchasing this gorgeous water front property. The initial concept meeting was a hit and we were off to the races.

*What was working with your clients like?*

An absolute delight; I think everyone thoroughly enjoyed the entire process. The clients had a complete level of trust in us and I think this shows through looking at the final photography. They also had faith in the process and an understanding of what our interior design firm brings to the table. Every single item was ordered through us. They didn't shop online, challenge our color palette or aesthetic which always produces a cohesive design. They were also not afraid to spend money on the quality items we suggested. Like I said, dream client!

*What was your inspiration behind the project?*

These homeowners are extremely stylish and fashionable; and fashion has always been a huge inspiration for me. When we first met and I saw how they presented themselves I knew our aesthetics would meld. Ultimately, I got my inspiration from my clients, with the key components of my design direction veering towards modern, fresh, clean, classic, and layered living.

*Why did you choose black and white as the color palette?*

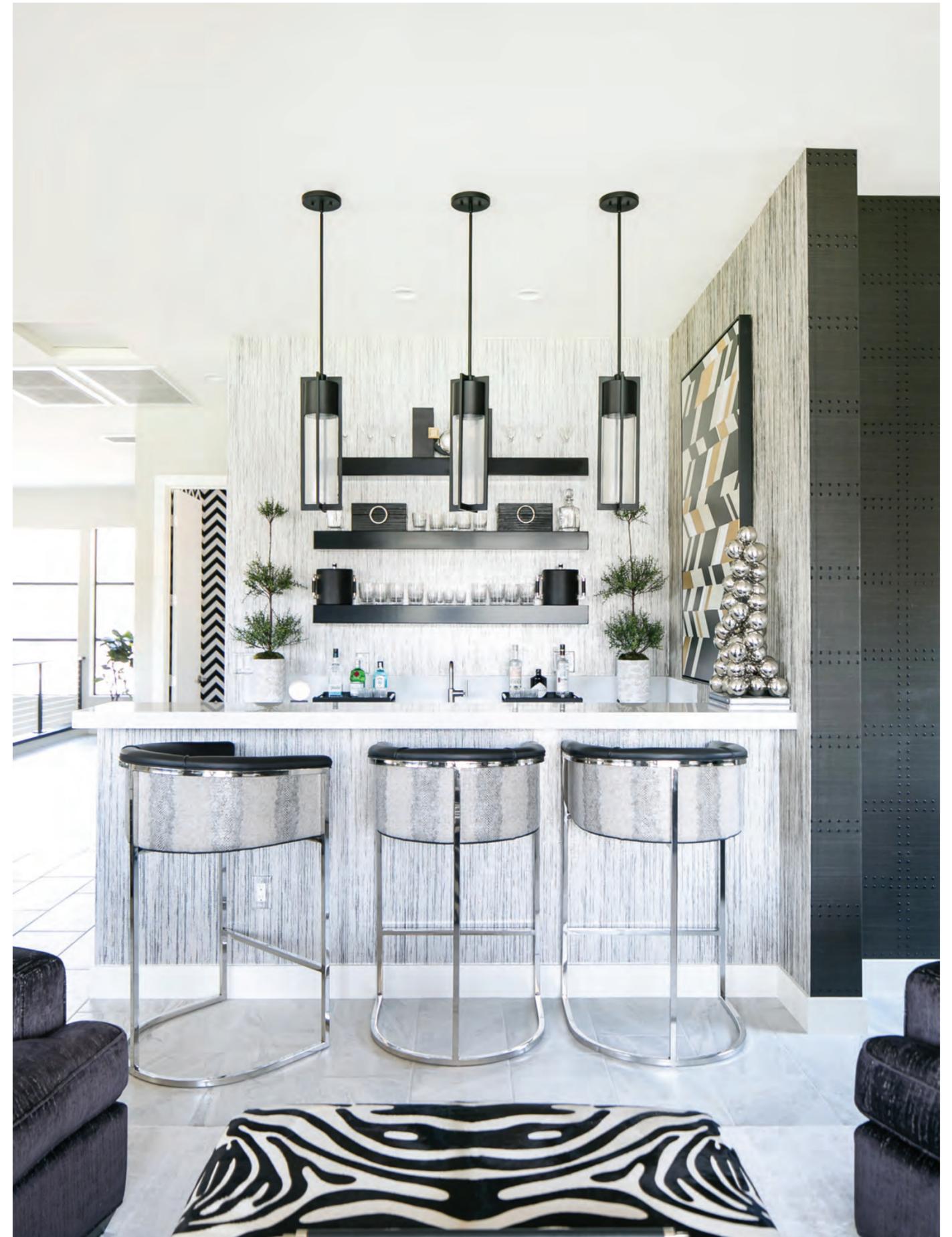
The color palette was in some ways chosen for us. The home was already built with all finishes, flooring, tiles, and materials in black and white. Because of this, we didn't have much of a choice unless we wanted to challenge the fixed finishes - which we did not! And we love the chic sophistication of black and white, so the project unfolded naturally. And together with our clients it was a harmonious decision. It served us very well.

*How do you keep so much of one color interesting?*

I always use wallcoverings to create more visual interest. I also find it helpful to use a lot of texture and pattern play in textiles, rugs, bedding, pillows, art, drapery, and accessories. As an example, we used a metallic wallcovering on the ceiling in the dining room to contrast the black venetian "plaster" wall covering. In an ode to Paloma Picasso, we chose the polished metal table base with a square glass top.

*Working with so many patterns can be daunting. What's your strategy?*

We try to keep larger pieces like sofas, chairs and upholstered headboards in textured solids while accessories like throw pillows, shams and duvets in interesting patterns and motifs. Wallcoverings always add visual impact as a backdrop. Balance is key. You don't want the eye to be overwhelmed. But we wanted it to be a showstopper and it certainly is just that.





*“Balance is key. You don’t want the eye to be overwhelmed. However, you do want to excite the senses.”*

– Barclay Butera

*What aspect of this project best reflects the owners and their interests?*

That is a really great question. What they really wanted was a home that was stylish, glamorous but at the same time comfortable for family gatherings and entertaining. The clients have called on more than one occasion to share their joy in spending extended time here as a really kicked back and relaxing experience. It’s the best compliment of all when a client loves living and being in their own home that we’ve custom designed for them.

*What’s your advice for entertaining in a second home like this?*

I’ve had had multiple homes in my life, too many to mention! My best advice is to do it right the first time. I would rather see a client do fewer rooms and do them to completion, styled and picture perfect than to put a band-aid on a house a little here and a little there. That accomplishes nothing. You want all the comforts of your main home . . . nice bed linens and multiples so you are not changing sheets. You want to have a couple of back-up pressed linens ready to go. Fine china and crystal as well as every day dinnerware and glasses. A well-stocked bar is a must! Never skimp on great art, coffee table books scattered about, and the best lighting and mirrors you can afford. These are the jewelry pieces for the home, the finishing touches often make the room. Remember, second homes are intended to be the perfect respite - not a chore or a project around every corner. Do it right once and you’ll never regret it!

*How did you find the balance between classic and contemporary?*

My signature style has often been referred to as fresh traditional, and that means familiar sophisticated silhouettes, but playing with patterns and textures. It has a nice familiar feel, but it’s very high style and sophisticated.

*What’s the key to the mix?*

Wow! I don’t really know. :) It’s just a powerful inner voice that guides my designs. I also take as much consideration (if not more so) with my clients’ homes as I would for my own home. So it’s a very personal journey for everyone involved. The best is when you get to know these people and you love to socialize with them - that’s how it goes for most my clients, they become fast friends and “clients for life.”

*Do you have a design philosophy?*

NO BUDGET!

