

Good Vibrations

For a creative couple—she’s a movie writer and he’s an art appraiser—a bold home with personality gets top billing.

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INTERIOR DESIGN BY RYDHIMA BRAR OF R/TERIOR STUDIO | PHOTOGRAPHY BY PABLO ENRIQUEZ





◆ WALLPAPER WIN

Though it looks like limewash paint, the dining room wall is wallpapered—a great solution as the couple wasn't sold on a decorative paint finish. "It was a perfect way to complement the bold black and white wallpaper adjacent to the space," Rydhima says. "Plus, this made the dining space a bit more relaxing, and the use of different textures gave it a luxe and moody feel."

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THIS CALIFORNIA CONDO was an “empty modern white box” when interior designer Rydhima Brar of R/Terior Studio first saw it—so not the atmosphere her clients were going for. Luckily, it allowed Rydhima to have total carte blanche, creating an experiential design for the young creative couple to call home. “She was very clear in her vision, and loves the ‘70s Palm Springs mid-century style, but wanted a dark and moody version,” Rydhima recalls. “She wanted a ‘wow’ effect. Think Bowie, Tina (before she left Ike), Queen, Pam Grier, Joan Jett, Rolling Stones, Stevie Nicks, films directed by Robert Altman or Sidney Lumet. But she did not want it to feel too disco!”

Once the vibes were set, the designer got to work creating an inviting home that would work well for entertaining but still be comfortable for cozy nights in. Each room has a distinct color palette and personality, but all flow together cohesively—in part thanks to the wallpaper used in each room. “The living room had this one 15-foot-wide wall and that was the space we had talked about being uninterrupted by any windows or doors where we

◇ MATCHING MOMENT

The couple wanted their primary bedroom to be easy on the eyes, but with a personality. “This was the best opportunity to use a shag rug,” Rydhima tells us. “I happened to stumble upon a wallpaper pattern that matches the rug pattern and those were the key pieces.” The other three walls are painted in Citrona by Farrow & Ball [from Kelly Wearstler’s collection]. “It’s a muted lime color that brought just the right amount of brightness to the space!”

would make a statement,” the designer explains. “During my initial client intake discussions, I looked at their inspiration images. It was clear she loved bold patterns and when I came across this particular wallpaper, I knew it had to be the one!” The bold black, white, and walnut wallpaper makes a dramatic impact and works beautifully with the artwork.

Here and elsewhere, art plays a massive role in the home’s design. “They were keen on having unique art that represented their personalities and they had a budget in mind as well. She was interested in art by Black artists and wanted to represent a very specific time in Black art history,” Rydhima says. “Another consideration was vintage movie poster art. She is a writer for movies and gave me a detailed list of her likes and loves.” The living room poster, *Coffy*, was selected with the assistance of Will Call Art Group and is one of four in the world. “To some the art on top of the wallpaper would have been overwhelming, but in this space, the details of the simple black frame and the sheer size of the piece make it blend very seamlessly,” Rydhima explains.

One of Rydhima’s gifts to her clients at the end of each project is a custom craft cocktail, inspired by the interiors. She worked with mixologist Heather Wibbels to create a “his” and “hers” to enjoy in their new home and shares the recipes with us (*next page*). Cheers to beautiful living!



COCKTAIL PHOTOGRAPHY BY HEATHER WIBBELS



“I PUT A SPELL ON YOU”

GATHER

- 1½ ounces gin
- 1½ ounces pomegranate juice
- ¼ ounce cinnamon syrup
- ½ ounce lemon juice
- 1-2 ounces sparkling wine, optional
- Pomegranate arils, for garnish
- Cinnamon stick, for garnish

MAKE IT

- Combine ingredients in a mixing tin and fill with ice and shake for 10-12 seconds.
- Strain into a chilled coupe glass and top with favorite bubbly, if desired.
- Garnish with fresh pomegranate arils or a cinnamon stick and serve.



“YOU’RE ALL I NEED”

GATHER

- 2 ounces bourbon or rye whiskey
- ½ ounce fig simple syrup
- 2-3 dashes orange or Sassafras bitters
- Orange peel
- Fig, for garnish

MAKE IT

- Add bourbon, fig syrup, and bitters to a mixing glass and fill with ice. Stir for about 20 seconds.
- Strain into a rocks glass with one large ice cube.
- Express an orange peel over the top and garnish with a fig.