

CALIFORNIA HOMES

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ERINN V. DESIGN GROUP UPDATES A CLASSIC SANTA BARBARA HOME, CAPITALIZING ON THE SITE'S MOUNTAIN & OCEAN VIEWS

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IN THE HILLS above Santa Barbara, in the unspoiled enclave of Mission Canyon, Erinn V. Design Group has lavishly updated a 1970s residence while retaining its Mediterranean-style architecture, a quintessential trademark of the resort community. Erinn Valencich, founding principal of the Beverly Hills-based firm, reports the existing house—it was purchased by the designer and her husband, making this a profoundly personal project—was not taking full advantage of the extraordinary site. “We completely restructured the home, so now every room focuses on the canyon and ocean views,” she says.

Valencich explains that the modern Mediterranean residential architecture of Ibiza, Spain—the fashionable resort town’s homes are distinguished by sleek surfaces and a palette of natural materials—was a strong inspiration for her design of this property. “My firm’s approach



TOP LEFT Amidst panoramic views, a sofa by Erinn V. for Ambella Home and coffee table by Erinn V.

Kitchen featuring a generous use of Calacatta marble from Daltile and custom white oak cabinetry integrating high-end Monogram appliances. A stylized pendant from SkLO Studio hangs over the island. Photo by Rafael Batista.



Living area featuring sofa by Erinn V. for Ambella Home, coffee table by Erinn V. and natural Santa Barbara sandstone fireplace. In the rear is a dining table by Erinn V. paired with wing chairs by Erinn V. for Ambella Home, beneath lighting by Studio Italia Design.



Sofa and chairs from Universal Furniture enhance outdoor living with mountain and ocean views.

has been described as ‘modern classic,’ resulting in warm, layered homes with very clean lines,” says Valencich, who explains that translates into contemporary environments warmed by natural materials as well as traditional homes freshened with modern elements. “Most importantly, I want our designs to be relaxed and effortless, but I always try to achieve a degree of elegance,” states the designer.

Without compromising the 2,500-square-foot residence’s Mediterranean architecture, Erinn V. Design Group enclosed an existing front porch to create more interior space, and

added a contemporary-styled wood-clad entryway, evocative of the trendy eatery Nobu Malibu. “I wanted the front entrance to have a strong presence, reinforcing the modern Mediterranean vibe,” reports Valencich. Beyond its threshold lies a light-filled foyer that previews the home’s emphasis on clean lines and natural materials, with its tumbled Noche travertine flooring extended from the exterior entry. The foyer also reveals a beamed pine ceiling—the handsome element had been painted over by a previous owner—that carries throughout the residence, juxtaposed with contemporary black lighting fixtures.



Contemporary Kallista soaking tub in a sheltered garden, the ultimate indulgence in bathing.

RIGHT Primary bedroom with bed by Erinn V., bench by Erinn V. for Ambella Home, custom rug from Mehraban, and window shades by Erinn V. for Hartmann & Forbes.

“MY FIRM’S APPROACH HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS ‘MODERN CLASSIC,’ RESULTING IN WARM, LAYERED HOMES WITH VERY CLEAN LINES.”

—ERINN VALENCICH

A classic white backdrop allows the furnishings, art and environment to dazzle, as local natural materials connect the home to its scenic site. Expansive windows treated with the entrepreneurial designer’s own line of shades amplify mountain and ocean views throughout the open-concept floor plan, and outdoor living spaces shaded by citrus, olive and live oak are fully integrated into the design. The living room gracefully transitions to a dining area with a soaring Santa Barbara sandstone fireplace infusing a hint of rusticity into an elegant setting.

The kitchen, whose countertops and island are clad in Calacatta marble, offers panoramic canyon and ocean views, and an adjoining patio provides opportunities to experience that natural beauty. The designer selected high-end Monogram appliances—the range sits beneath her own custom plaster hood—with refrigeration units discretely hidden behind custom white oak cabinetry embellished with pulls from Baldwin Hardware’s Hollywood Hills collection by Erinn V. Additionally, a built-in outdoor grill allows a home cook to dabble in the region’s signature Santa



Guest bath with custom vanity by Erinn V. topped with luxuriously-veined Calacatta marble from Daltile, fitted with Kallista plumbing fixtures; Calacatta marble shower tiles from Walker Zanger.

Maria-style barbecue, while alfresco dining amidst a stone fountain and spectacular views truly defines Santa Barbara’s indoor-outdoor lifestyle.

A fireplace, set into a wall of cream-colored limestone, warms the primary bedroom, whose generous proportions flow onto a landscaped terrace and garden. The adjoining bath features a floating Calacatta marble-capped vanity and cavernous garden-view shower awash in the same luxuriously-veined stone. In addition to copious windows flooding this space with natural light, a private outdoor soaking tub (a textured, contemporary design from Kallista) allows indulgent bathers to fully immerse themselves in the magic of this Mission Canyon site. “People don’t use tubs that much anymore, but when they do, it should be a special occasion,” suggests Valencich. **CH**