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San Francisco Cottages and Gardens

COTTAGESGARDENS.COM | JUNE/JULY 2015

BIG SUR
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LAKE
TAHOE

COOL
SUMMER

Blue Period Living room chairs and a sofa upholstered in Holland & Sherry velvets flank a Holly Hunt cocktail table from Kneeder | Fauchère. Bronze and steel side tables (one shown) by Tuell & Reynolds are through De Sousa Hughes. Pagani bronze floor lamp is through Baker Knapp & Tubbs. Bernadette Jiyong Frank's *Spaces in Between* is through Dolby Chadwick Gallery. Rug is through Mark Nelson Designs. See *Resources*.

A cool palette and sophisticated design welcome a young family to the West Coast

URBANE SUBURBAN

BY ANH-MINH LE | PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN MERKL

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Modern Geometry

(THIS PAGE) In the entry, the Luna round dining table by Hélène Aumont takes center stage under a Bec Brittain Shy pendant. Brass trays are from Coup d'Etat. **Heirloom Setting** (OPPOSITE PAGE) Dining room chairs are covered in an Old World Weavers horsehair through Shears & Window. A Lindsey Adelman pendant is suspended over a table from Antiqueria Tribeca Gallery. See *Resources*.



When relocating from New York to California, a couple and their three children were prepared to embrace a new lifestyle.

Thanks to San Francisco-based interior designer Heather Hilliard, however, transitioning from a SoHo loft to a Hillsborough estate didn't mean abandoning their downtown aesthetic. "The clients have sophisticated, metropolitan taste and were interested in juxtaposing that with the more traditional style of the house," says Hilliard. The home had great bones, but ornate, outdated interiors: Think green, peach and lavender walls—some with a Venetian plaster finish—and decorative accents like carved wood corbels. Hilliard's pared-down vision enabled the clients to put their own stamp on the 5,500-square-foot abode. "She created a very peaceful and serene environment for our family," remarks the wife. "She also did a great job of incorporating existing pieces we wanted to retain."

Hilliard set the tone of the home in the double-height foyer with a dramatic Bec Brittain Shy pendant. Its brushed brass and LED lights introduce a modern edge, counterbalancing the space's classic details. The designer also

transformed the space by washing it in Benjamin Moore's Mountain Peak White. Throughout the home, white walls now serve as a backdrop for the clients' art collection, which includes works by Robert Motherwell, Mark Humphrey and Sherie' Franssen. "Art is very important to us," says the wife. "Since we've been married, we have not exchanged gifts, but rather, purchased a piece of art together for each anniversary, often on vacation. Each one holds a special memory."

Hilliard established the home's signature palette of bold blues in the dining room and living room. "I wanted the rooms to flow and feel like one space," she notes. Located in the front of the house, the area also receives plenty of bright afternoon light. "We selected the saturated navy and blueberry fabrics to pop in—and stand up to—the sun," she explains. "And I wanted the colors to have the same tonal value as the beautiful woods of the furniture," referring to pieces in walnut, mahogany and palissandre.



The Circle Game (THIS PAGE) In the family room, a painting by Mark Humphrey hangs above a custom ottoman upholstered in a Clarence House fabric. Mahogany Art Deco chair is through Antiqueria Tribeca Gallery. Wool rug is through Mark Nelson Designs. **Four Corners** (OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) A settee in the library sports a Rose Tarlow fabric; bench is covered in Edelman Leather. An Ingo Maurer paper-shade pendant makes a statement above an Eero Saarinen Tulip table and Philippe Stark chairs in the breakfast room. Altura kitchen counter stools are upholstered in Duralee denim; pendants are through Plug Lighting. Veronique sconces by Remains Lighting complement Phillip Jefferies' Rings wallpaper in the powder room. See Resources.



Double Vision (THIS PAGE) Mirrors from RH, white lamps by Thomas Pheasant for Baker and twin leather benches from Baker create elegant symmetry in the master bedroom. Custom shams are in a Fortuny fabric. Cashmere throw is from Sue Fisher King. Wool rug is through Niba. **Fine Lines** (OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP) The graceful curve of an antique console from Maison Gerard echoes the branches outdoors. Lamp is through Baker Knapp & Tubbs. **The Comforts Of Art** (OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM) A bench upholstered in a Holland & Sherry fabric reclines under Wynne Hayakawa's *Season of Light*. Brass side table is by Jonathan Browning Studio. See *Resources*.



“Sometimes the beauty of a space is the empty space.’ That has always resonated with me”

From the lines of the limestone mantel to the angular elements of the André Sornay-inspired armchairs, the living room is clean and contemporary. “Each piece of furniture is very sculptural on its own,” says Hilliard. “The silhouettes are noticeable when they have room to breathe with adequate space around them. A favorite designer of mine, Christian Liaigre, once said, ‘Sometimes the beauty of a space is the empty space.’ That has always resonated with me.” The Bernadette Jiyong Frank painting above the fireplace, *Spaces in Between*, was chosen for its minimalist quality as well. “It’s contemporary, but the lines and angles remind me of something that could have been done in the Deco period,” says Hilliard.

In the dining room, the designer juxtaposed a Lindsey Adelman chandelier with the client’s French Art Deco antique buffet, table and chairs. She also reupholstered the seating in a chic horsehair in marine blue, a color that resonates with the 1940s French painting that is the room’s focal point.

The blue period lives on in the master bedroom, where celadon tones are reminiscent of the homeowners’ previous residence. “They used similar colors in their New York bedroom, so there was a familiarity,” says Hilliard. “The room also has views of treetops and lush green plantings, so we selected light green, cream and camel colors to reflect that palette.” The custom upholstered headboard, designed by Hilliard, and plush seating add softness and warmth to the large, open room.

It is all part of the balance that Hilliard orchestrated for her clients. “I knew that they were leaving Manhattan and moving clear across the country, so I wanted them to feel as comfortable as possible,” she notes. “Their new home had to be a reflection of who they are, and where they came from.” 🌟

