

California casual

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Detached new-build home

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, dining room/bar, kitchen/pantry, boot room, office, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, laundry room

LOCATION

Washington, USA

Entrusted with designing the interior of a new build, Emily Ruff used light tones, texture and a West Coast vibe to give it warmth and personality

WORDS SEÁN O'CONNELL | PHOTOGRAPHY CARINA SKROBECKI

KITCHEN

Creating a symmetrical design on each side of the cooker brings a strong sense of balance to the space, while the hearth-style range hood highlights the tall ceilings. Harvey Jones' Shaker kitchen is similar. For Mont Blanc quartzite surfaces, try Solid Stone Worktops. Pendant lights, Visual Comfort & Co

DINING AREA

A reclaimed wood dining table with a rustic feel was chosen to ensure this space didn't feel too formal.

For a reclaimed wood dining table, try Nkuku. Analay chair, Kave Home, is similar. Chandelier, Visual Comfort & Co



HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT?

This project was for a client we had worked with before, but this was our first custom home together. We were brought in a few months before the foundation of the house was poured so we got to be involved every step of the way.

WHAT WAS THE BRIEF?

The homeowners provided images for inspiration, but they really put their trust in us to come to the table with a vision for the design and to make each space functional from a layout and cabinetry perspective. They wanted the home to feel light and bright but have warmth and texture throughout.

WHAT WERE THEIR MAIN PRIORITIES?

The clients were coming from a more modern home and they wanted this house to feel more transitional and really timeless. Our main priorities were to add as many special details as possible with finishes and fixtures and also make each space feel unique with tiles, slabs and furnishings. Our shared goal was to have a new-build home that didn't necessarily feel brand new.

WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR THE SCHEME?

A lot of the clients' inspiration images were from homes that have a California casual feel to them. We also wanted to bring in more traditional finishes and fixtures to balance out the modern design of the windows and doors and ultimately get us to the more transitional style that the clients were looking for.

WHICH ROOMS ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS?

The kitchen and sitting room were most important to the homeowners as that is where they spend most of their time. The sitting room is sunken a few steps from the other spaces and I love the way you can step down to it easily from both the kitchen and dining space.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE OVERALL COLOUR PALETTE? At the clients' request we kept a lot of the main



‘Don’t be afraid to mix materials and finishes – it’s one of the best ways to break free from that builder-basic look’



HALLWAY

Metal-framed glass doors not only add a mid-century touch but also create a visual flow throughout.

For glazed doors, try Crittall Windows. Walls in Swiss Coffee, Benjamin Moore. Limestone flooring, Clé

SITTING ROOM

Furnishings with circular shapes and softened edges counteract the large rectangular windows.

Maru round oak pedestal coffee table, Daals, would work here. Try the Bruges sofa, Loaf

LAUNDRY ROOM

‘Alongside stacked appliances and a folding area, we maximised storage, making this into an indispensable space,’ says Emily.

Storage bags, Steele Canvas Basket Corp. Maroc limestone flooring, Authentic Stone

‘Curtains in a bathroom bring a wonderful warmth – just pick an easy wash material like linen’



spaces more neutral, then we layered in blues, greens and rust tones with the furnishings. I really wanted each bathroom to feel distinctive and special so we did our best to select unique materials for each one and also chose four different types of natural stone surfaces to use throughout the interior.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE OF THIS PROJECT?

Deciding where to allocate the budget when it came to finishes and fixtures. With new-build homes there are always trade-offs when it comes to budget as there are so many costs involved with building a custom property. We focused on quality and natural materials without going crazy on the tile and plumbing spend. We were selective about which lighting fixtures we splurged on as well. With the surfaces, we used some beautiful marbles that weren't as pricey as a Calacatta Gold, but still really elevated the design and brought that luxury feel to the bathrooms.

WHICH ASPECT WAS THE MOST SATISFYING?

Our working relationship with the clients. I think the amount of trust they put into us with the design really shows and seeing everything come together the way I'd envisioned was so much fun.

WHAT'S THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL INTERIORS SCHEME?

Not being afraid to introduce new ideas. As a designer, I push my clients to think outside the box and although we will give a client what they want at the end of the day, you never know what they may love if you don't show it to them.

ANY ADVICE FOR HOMEOWNERS? Hire a designer whose aesthetic and portfolio really resonate with you and be open to new ideas, even if you can't see them in a finished inspiration photo. 25

Emily Ruff of Cohesively Curated, cohesivelycurated.com



BEDROOM

‘We wanted this room to feel layered and cosy,’ says Emily. For a similar bedside table, try La Redoute. Vintage alabaster table lamp, Chairish

MAIN BATHROOM

An arched shower opening was introduced to add an individual touch to this room. Free-standing bath, Lusso. Reclaimed limestone floor, Lapidica. Beige linen curtains, La Redoute

NURSERY

The artwork and rug were used to add colour to an otherwise ‘warm and organic’ scheme. Walls painted in Hushed Hue, Benjamin Moore. Similar rug, Jaipur Rugs. Murray Sherpa storage stool, Dunelm, is similar. Viera raffia shade, Litecraft, would work here

