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ART IN DESIGN



DESERT STAR

INTERIOR DESIGN: TAYLOR BORSARI
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Its Spanish Colonial Revival lines and lush landscaping would seem to place interior designer Taylor Borsari's home in Los Angeles. But it's actually just outside Las Vegas, in antithesis to that city's penchant for all that is gold and glittery. "Right before we moved here, we'd put in an offer on a 1920s Mediterranean bungalow in Westwood," says Borsari. She and her husband withdrew the offer when a job opportunity in Vegas brought them to the desert city. A decade and a half later, the couple looked to that architectural tradition for inspiration on the home they would design for themselves, tapping Erik Evens of Evens Architects to create a home that nods to both Borsari's grandparents' house and the couple's Southern California roots. Overcoming the challenges of the pie-shaped lot, the majestic two-story Spanish home encompasses a sweeping view of the Nevada desert and the lights of the Strip.

"The Mediterranean style responds beautifully to the desert climate," Evens says. "Its deep-set windows, thick white plaster walls, and covered patios and loggias provide shady spaces, a respite from the heat and the ability to control the sun in a way that keeps things cool inside and allows them to use the outside of the house year-round." The neutral interior is equally unexpected, with its reclaimed oak floors and light walls. "Typically, in these homes, you'd see dark beams and dark flooring," Borsari notes. The bleached palette influenced her design. "I wanted to do something more monochromatic," she says. Borsari relied on furniture to corral the large rooms, ensuring that they worked as well for her family of four as for their extended clan. In the living room, a massive stone coffee table, discovered at Blaxland and surrounded by sofas from Lawson Ferring, proved to be the key to bringing scale to the magnanimous space. A white leather bench was another crucial element, serving to unify the room. "It's great because you can focus energy different ways when the whole family is hanging out together."

Sometimes undersized pieces are the trick to balancing a room. Witness the pair of barrel swivel chairs from Four Hands. "I needed something that would be easy to navigate around," says Borsari. Paired with a woven lounge chair by John Risley and a live edge coffee table, they complete a seating area that opens its arms to the other half of the room and also to the light-filled nook nearby. "That alcove is all about the windows and the connection to the garden," says Borsari. Delicate brass-framed chairs and a white table with a carved wood base create the ideal tableau for the family's spirited games of Rummikub.

In the screening room, Borsari forwent the expected theatre-style seating. "You want to be able to curl up with the people you love," she says. Two long sofas of her own design, covered in Jasper's Para in Fig, walls and ceiling washed in complementary Schumacher golds, woven animal heads by Javier S. Medina, curtains fashioned from Jasper's Templeton Tint, and rugs found at Silk Road confirm that cozy objective. Throughout, family, function and fun drive the decor, buoyed by furniture and accessories washed in pale tones that nod to the Moorish influences from which Spanish Colonial style is derived. Note the large outdoor dining table, which does double duty as a ping pong table; the family room, where a long breakfast table looks out over the backyard; or the dining room, the home's most formal space, which celebrates the bonds of togetherness, where nearly a dozen of Frog's Lyo chairs snuggle up to a table Borsari inherited from her grandmother. Ultimately, Borsari says, "We were trying to create a family space." ■ Taylor Borsari, taylorborsari.com; Evens Architects, evensarc.com