

JULY-AUGUST 2013

# VERANDA

## THE *NEW* CHIC

*Airy Kitchens  
To Entertain In*

**COLOR**  
YOU CAN  
LIVE WITH

*And The  
Confidence To  
Express Your  
Own Style*







INTERIOR DESIGN BY WINDSOR SMITH  
ARCHITECTURAL RENOVATION BY STEVE GIANNETTI  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MELANIE ACEVEDO  
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# SIMPLE EASY CHIC

A LOS ANGELES  
DESIGNER  
BREATHES NEW  
LIFE INTO  
A 1970s HOUSE,  
INFUSING IT  
WITH REFINED  
YET CASUAL  
GLAMOUR.





**F**OR MORE THAN A DECADE, INTERIOR DESIGNER WINDSOR SMITH HAS BEEN MAKING HOUSES THAT EPITOMIZE UP-TO-THE-MINUTE CALIFORNIA COOL. HER LOOK HAS ALWAYS INCLUDED TAILORED furnishings along with casual elements that knock down the glamour, making a house feel luxurious but breezy, like a satin dress worn with bare feet. She's still deconstructing glamour. But Smith's latest move is to add a strong modern layer to rooms, giving them a new kind of restraint and self-possession. That's certainly the case for this light-flooded 1970s house tucked in Los Angeles's Mandeville Canyon, whose homeowners are movie producer



Smith maximized the kitchen's soaring height with tall shelves accessed by a sliding ladder. Stools by Lee Industries, upholstered in linen by Windsor Smith Home for Kravet. Island sink fittings, Perrin & Rowe by Robt. Refrigerator, Viking. Cookware, All-Clad. Backsplash and countertop, Irish gray stone. openware: Vinhega Louis XVI-style chairs, Old Plank Road. Art: David Amico. OPENING PAGES: Windsor Smith Home sectional in Marvic Textiles linen and armchair in Kravet linen.





An inventive patchwork rug and subtle tone-on-tone palette balance the living room's ornate mirror and formal floor plan. Rugs, ABC Carpet & Home. Curtains in linen by John Saladino for Savel. Windsor Smith Home ottomans in Kravet animal print. Vintage Venetian mirror, Sarlo. Vintage Jansen table base with marble top. Swedish side chairs, Giannetti Home.



“SMITH CREATED SPARE, MULTIPURPOSE ROOMS LAYERED WITH PALE SHADES. TEXTURE IS A PRIMARY INGREDIENT.”



A Regency-style sofa by Windsor Smith Home, upholstered in rich silk, adds another texture to the layered living room. Sofa fabric, Pollack. Ottoman covered in vintage indigo resist-dye panels. OPPOSITE: Vintage Milo Baughman chairs in Caldelle Leather cowhide. Grand piano, Steinway. Throw on sofa, Hermès. Art, Retna.



and director Shawn Levy, his wife, Serena, and their four young daughters. “It’s a bohemian, artistic, vibrant, theatrical household,” Smith says.

She gave the family spare, multipurpose rooms layered with pale blues, lavenders, grays, and whites. Texture is a primary ingredient. The house bends around a series of gardens, with great rooms on either end. In one, the existing ceiling beams looked depressingly fake. They’d been faux finished, then faux distressed with gouges, and later painted over in white. “We wanted to make them look organic,” Smith explains, “so we sandblasted them down to the natural wood, leaving just the faintest residue of white paint.”

The raw beams, with their hint of patina, were the inspiration for everything that followed. In this great room, which includes a kitchen, dining area, and den, Smith added a whitewashed brick wall to make the space seem loftlike. She surrounded a wood dining table with mismatched chairs from different eras and countries. “They all have a worn, driftwood feeling, so it works,” she says.

If you’re scanning about in search of the formal dining room, don’t bother—there was one, but this family didn’t want it. They all play instruments, so Smith turned it into a music room, which holds their Steinway piano, a chic graffiti painting by the

artist Retna, and big, square midcentury chairs upholstered in black pony skin.

As for the great room at the other end of the house, it’s now a proper living room dominated by a 1920s Venetian mirror so mercurially alluring, “it could have come from Gatsby’s mansion,” says Smith. Yet the room has a bohemian soul. Smith looked everywhere for a carpet large enough for the expansive space, but they all seemed ballroom-esque. Then she got the idea to stitch together four indigo patchwork rugs into one big one. “It’s like a carpetbag,” she explains. “Very Janis Joplin.”

At the end of the day, the homeowners retreat to a master bedroom so well edited it has the air of a high-end hotel room, a comparison Smith applauds. “The old bedroom was filled with books on the nightstand and other clutter,” she says. “The new bedroom is as clean as an incubator. Every day, we’re so bombarded with information—we need a still, quiet place to recharge.”

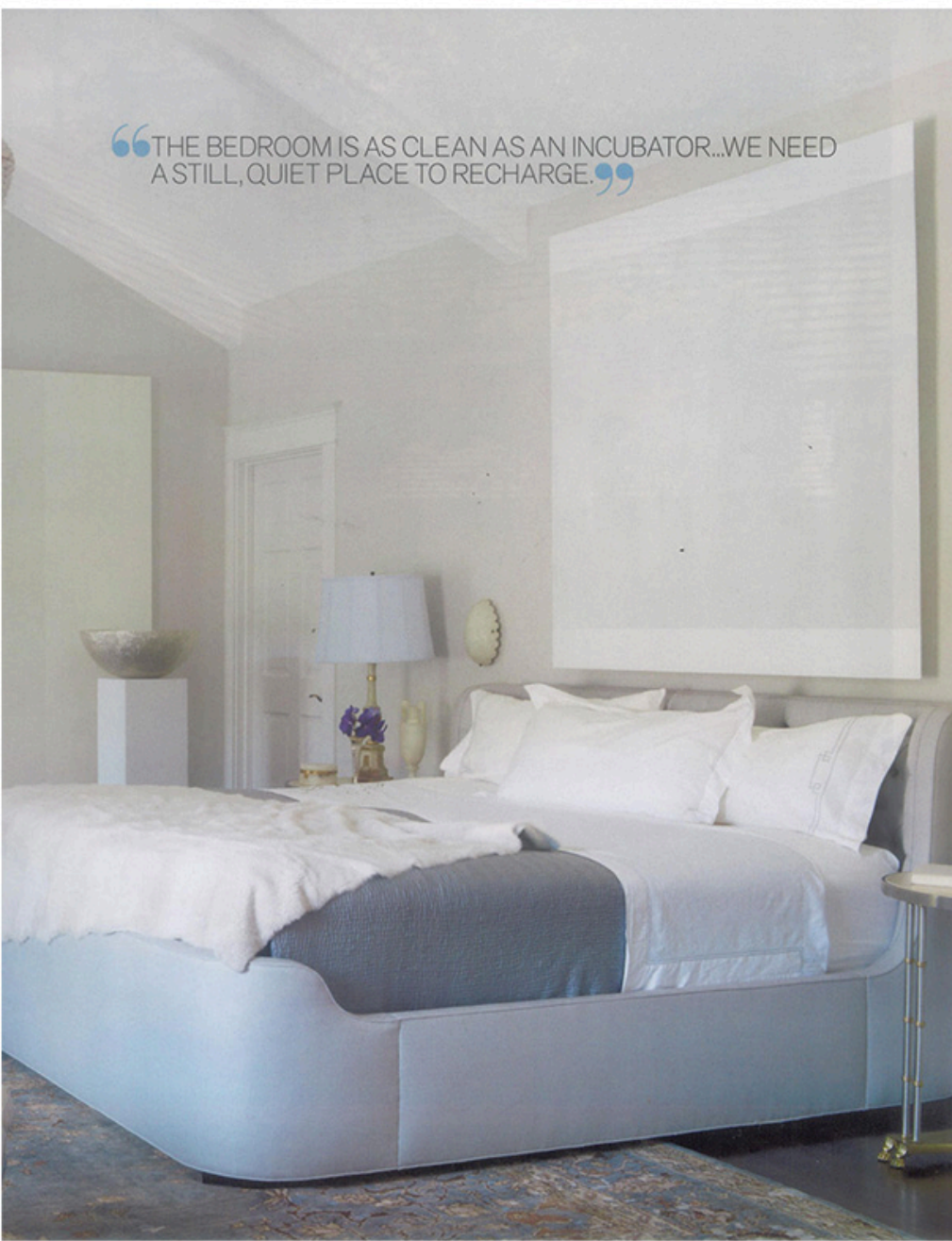
A fine and graceful bibliotheque, a silver velvet sofa, and an upholstered bed as trim and sleek as a yacht should do the trick. But just in case, Smith added a shimmering hammered-silver bowl on a pedestal: “I think of it as half a gazing ball—a way to connect with the relaxed creative mind.” □

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Rounded edges on the sofa and bed soften the architectural lines of the master bedroom. Windsor Smith Home bed upholstered in a Dedar fabric. Windsor Smith Home sofa in silk velvet by John Saladino for Savel. Bibliotheque, Lee Stanton Antiques. 1940s French crystal chandelier. Walls, Benjamin Moore's Cement Gray. Art, Mary Corse.



“THE BEDROOM IS AS CLEAN AS AN INCUBATOR...WE NEED A STILL, QUIET PLACE TO RECHARGE.”





A custom vine-draped pergola by Morrow & Morrow creates a leafy alfresco room. Table, Windsor Smith Home. Benches, Teak Warehouse. Bench cushions in a China Seas fabric. Square planters, Restoration Hardware.

