

RUE

HOLIDAY 2017



MINIMALIST MEDITERRANEAN

INTERIOR BY WINDSOR SMITH HOME
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THIS HOME, owned by an artist and musician in L.A. – had a Mediterranean architectural style and Moorish elements to it. It was heavy and dark, and desperately needed an overhaul to help complete its overarching concept. Spaces like the two-story living room and magnificent yet disconnected garden needed to be integrated seamlessly with the rest of the home. To take on the task, the couple hired Windsor Smith, a designer who masterfully knows how to merge disparate styles into one cohesive aesthetic.



“**WE INCORPORATED COMFORTABLE, TACTILE, AND NATURAL MATERIALS USED IN A MINIMAL WAY**”

FROM the very beginning the homeowners knew what they wanted. They desired a European look – bohemian southern Italian to be exact – but with a more modern, sparse approach. “We incorporated comfortable, tactile and natural materials used in a minimal way,” explains Windsor, “as well as warm woods and metals, plaster and honed marble surfaces.” One of the biggest overhauls was switching in grayed and reclaimed wood in the interior. This meant completely replacing the “miles of beams and trusses” that supported the top structure of the home. The furniture she chose was a mix of basic modern and neutral pieces with those that had a Spanish colonial patina to them. “The absence of embellishment – for example the casings on the doorways -- really worked for this slightly Moorish house, this Moorish element was implied instead of overt,” she stated.



THE TRANSFORMATION, though, wasn't just stylistic but also spatial. The homeowners wanted to gain vertical space, better aligning the two story living room and fixing the issues of scale. Windsor's solution was to completely open up the dining room's ceiling, integrating in the attic. She then created a catwalk library with a ladder reaching all the way to the top. Coffered ceilings continues the crisscross pattern of the beams in the living room, thus giving both spaces a sense of connectivity and uniformity.



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“THEY were adventurous clients and people of style. They were thrilled by the idea of doing something not boiler-plate but one-of-a-kind,” says Windsor of the homeowners. With such an architecturally magnificent home, comes a necessary dose of quirk: a discovery of a fossilized owl in the garden with every feather in tact certainly became a story to tell when they celebrated the end of the renovation process with a party for close friends.









