

Salvaged Serenity

A fashion industry couple finds respite in a rustic area of the Pacific Palisades, thanks to designer Kristine Kamenstein.

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“They really wanted a calming, refreshing, soul-rejuvenating place,” says Los Angeles-based interior designer Kristine Kamenstein of longtime clients who relocated from a busy (albeit glamorous) Brentwood household to a woodsy retreat in a secluded part of Pacific Palisades. Their new home in a picturesque pocket of this seaside community reminded the couple of houses in the rural areas of southern France. The designer and homeowners agreed they should keep it that way. “This rustic, country feel is really hard to find in L.A.,” Kamenstein says. “We didn’t want to veer too far from that. We wanted it to feel grounded.”

Kamenstein and her clients achieved this shared vision by playing up the home’s rugged architectural elements. “We took our cues from the existing materials—raw-wood ceiling beams, salvaged doors, and tumbled limestone—and

accentuated them with a mix of antiques and paint colors of warm white, muted blue, celadon, teal, and buttery yellow,” notes the designer. “But nothing too precious! We used quite a few Gustavian elements because they have that beautiful, restrained, lovely feel.”

A case in point is the character-rich kitchen adorned in tumbled limestone and designed to feel like a living room

Courtyard The stone courtyard off the kitchen offers the perfect location for an alfresco meal. Kamenstein found the 1880s sawbuck table with residual green paint and surrounded it with “Lucy” chairs from Janus et Cie. **Preceding pages** “We love the salvaged beams in the living room,” says designer Kristine Kamenstein. For a restrained look, she custom-designed the large back-to-back sofas and upholstered them in “Mon Chalet,” a dusty teal velour by Rose Tarlow.









Entry Interior walls painted “Skimming Stone,” a muted gray hue by Farrow & Ball, and a Turkish Oushak rug create a quiet backdrop. The gilt chandelier had hung in the homeowners’ previous living room. The Gustavian chair dates to the late 1770s.

Exterior An ivy-covered portico sets the nature-inspired tone for the rustic retreat the couple share with their three dogs.

tips of the trade

Designer Kristine Kamenstein shares her secrets for keeping guests enticed and enchanted

Toast your friendship.

Set up a bar table so guests feel welcome to help themselves to a drink as soon as they walk in the door.

Cater to the season. Offer a lovely Pinot or a French Burgundy white wine for fall and winter; a mint julep for late spring; and, of course, a Provençal rosé or light craft beer for summer.

Add a special touch.

Enhance ice water with cucumber or basil to give it a special flavor that complements the food you’re serving.

Put anticipation in the air.

“When my husband and I entertain, we like to have a pre-prepared dish, such as a Provençal chicken—a simple baked chicken with onions and potatoes—heating in the oven,” Kamenstein says. “People walk into that aroma and are so enticed!”

Keep essentials at hand.

Lay out plates and everything else your guests will need ahead of time for a “my home is your home” relaxed feel.

where guests and family can pull up to the tough-as-nails antique walnut-topped kitchen table, set down a café au lait, and read the paper in front of the fire. French limestone on the floors and fireplace wall inspired the color scheme of highly textured bisque and warm cream. The round table with its antique Belgian trestle base is surrounded by cushy armchairs (on wheels!) upholstered in raw linen that begs leisurely lingering. Kamenstein completed the cozy, lived-in look by choosing a textured wallpaper in “almost tea-dyed” shades.

In the dining room, a large, durable yet elegant Belgian oak table with an antique zinc top dominates the room. A casual mix of round- and square-back antique chairs upholstered in striated ivory silk surrounds it. Kamenstein’s choice of wall color—a vibrant yet relaxing blue—echoes the hues of an heirloom kimono hanging opposite a gilt mirror.

Shades of blue carry through to the living room as well, wrapping twin sofas set back-to-back to offer dual conversation areas. One faces a large French limestone fireplace and the other a grand piano. Both convivial pockets provide ideal entertaining spots amid soulful elegance.



Kitchen Tumbled French limestone on the walls and floor inspired the café au lait palette of light browns and creams for the kitchen. The fabric on the armchairs is a nubby, loose-woven linen from Lee Jofa. The chairs swivel and roll on casters for maximum comfort and flexibility.



Dining room The framed kimono was the jumping-off point for a blue-and-ivory palette. The large dining room table from Lucca Antiques is constructed of antique Belgian oak with a zinc top.

Living room A painting by David Limrite complements the room's muted palette.







Master bedroom A glazed teal linen from Rose Tarlow dictated the palette of the master bedroom, which overlooks treetops and a running brook. The rug in hues of ivory yellow and dusty lilac underpins the restful atmosphere.







Master bedroom Kamenstein (above) used a delicately patterned wallpaper from Rose Tarlow on an accent wall to play off the deep teal draperies. She designed the generously sized sofa and ottoman for the space. The sofa is upholstered in Cowtan & Tout's "Shima" fabric.



Master bath A more muted version of the Gustavian-inspired blue-and-ivory palette carries into this serene sanctuary. Wall sconces from Dennis & Leen cast a warm, romantic glow over and around the freestanding Kohler tub.

