



Matthew O'Dorisio helmed the interior revamp of a stately Menlo Park mansion.

**OPPOSITE** Lush landscaping adds to the sophisticated appeal of the home.



# FRESH COLORS

FOR A MENLO PARK HOME

DESIGNER MATTHEW O'DORISIO RETURNS TO THIS ORIGINAL PROJECT WITH MAJOR DESIGN CHANGES

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WHEN MATTHEW O'DORISIO received the request to refurbish part of a stately Menlo Park mansion, it was an easy yes on his part. After all, O'Dorisio had helmed the interior design of all of the 7,000 square foot home 14 years earlier, with the same client.

"I've known the client a long time, and they wanted to make some big changes," said O'Dorisio, whose design practice is headquartered in Los Angeles. "It was very beautiful before, with lots of blue tones. But they've lived in the house for years and wanted to make it more punchy, with more color and new, fresh fabrics. It needed to be perked up."

One of the immediate decisions made by O'Dorisio and his client was to veer away from painted walls as much as possible, and instead to opt for lush, highly decorative wallpaper. Those choices were partly based on the Southern-inspired architecture of the house, with its classic black shutters and welcoming outdoor terraces, as well as the pool surrounded by hydrangeas. O'Dorisio took a very targeted approach with the revamp, zeroing in on upholstery, new carpeting and the walls, and opting for "a very different general feel from what we have done before."

"The client grew up in Southern California and always wanted a white house with black shutters," said O'Dorisio. "She has beautiful taste and she wanted the house to feel like it had some history. Inside, we painted all the doors black, and placed crystal knobs on them."

The painted woodwork and wainscoting also give the house more depth, he said.

"There's a formality to the dining and living rooms and when you go into the family room, there are navy blue bookshelves that feel like they have layers, and have been there a long time."

Curtains from Sister Parish frame the elegant living room. Chairs are upholstered in fabric from Ferrick Mason available at Harbinger in Los Angeles. Pillows by Clay McLaurin. The sofa fabric is from Cowtan and Tout with sofas from Lisa Fine Textiles. The lampshade is by Fermoie.



**ABOVE** Stools in the kitchen are by Serena and Lily, with lanterns from Visual Comfort.

**BELOW RIGHT** The window seat is covered in fabric from Clay McLaurin Studio. The tables and chairs are custom-made.





In the living room, O'Dorisio selected a traditional Asian lacquered coffee table at first, before stumbling across a vintage cocktail table. This fit in with the client's sensibility; she had a number of antiques from her mother's house. For the sofas, O'Dorisio went with fairly traditional shapes but covered them in intriguing, surprising fabrics - including a deep, plush blue velvet for the living room - which ended up being the starting point for the space.

"It wasn't an easy sell," he said."But I told her, 'I know you're going to love it.'" Fully upholstered stools were added to add a younger, fresher feel.

O'Dorisio and his client spent a great deal of time focusing on the wallpaper, ending up with pieces that seamlessly fit the spaces they are in.

"The first thing we did was to put a tone-on-tone white stripe in the entrance way and through the staircase," he said of the Rebecca Atwood design. "And then we kept going with it." Other examples include a pretty pattern that has a subtle nature print on top before blooming into larger flowers towards the base, and a coral-and-white floral design in the bathroom.

That warmth extended to the outside, where the client was inspired by the Paul Ferrante lanterns suspended from a majestic oak tree at the Ojai Valley Inn - itself the subject of many an Instagram post; and created something similar in her backyard.

"They definitely wanted the whole house to be more fun and not quite so serious," said O'Dorisio. "Even though there's not a lot of color, and quite a lot of blue, it's a sharper look for the house...it's fun and fresh and exactly what she wanted." ❧

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Rebecca Atwood wallpaper is used for the living room, with the area rug by Stark Carpets. The stools are upholstered in fabric from Bennison Aksum and chairs upholstered in fabric from Lee Jofa.



**ABOVE/BELOW** In the dining room: chairs are covered in fabric from Rebecca Atwood, the wallpaper is by De Gournay's Chinoiserie Collection and the area rug is by Stark Carpets. The ceiling paint is from Farrow and Ball.

**LEFT** The outdoor landscaping was inspired by the Paul Ferrante lights suspended from a tree at the Ojai Valley Inn.







**TOP RIGHT** A charming outdoor dining space was outfitted in pieces from Janus et Cie.

**RIGHT** In the guest bedroom: lighting is by Foundry and the rug from Stark Carpets.

**OPPOSITE** A sofa in the primary bedroom is upholstered in fabric from Suzanne Rhein-stein for Lee Jofa. The lantern is by Urban Electric.

