

COUNTRY MEETS CITY

DESIGN TEAM BLENDS CONNECTICUT ELEMENTS, CALIFORNIA STYLE

BY SOPHY CHAFFEE

The direction the homeowners gave interior designer Anne Sneed and her team for the downstairs remodel of this 1998 Carlsbad tract home was essentially bicoastal.

For the wife, they incorporated her nostalgia for her home state of Connecticut, which is reflected in her collection of milk glass and old kitchen gadgets, in the design they described as “timeless, tailored, countrymeetscity.” For the husband, they brought in quintessential indoor- outdoor living of Southern California by opening the dining room, kitchen and family room to the backyard pool he swims in almost every day.

“She has a real thing for nostalgia, things that were in her grandmother’s house or that we

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Opening the family room to the backyard and moving the bar to the front corner of the room so it also opens to the pool area gave new life to the Carlsbad house, the homeowners said.

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grew up with,” Sneed said. “The house had sort of a Tuscan look. So it was about getting it to have a more clean, crisp, California coastal look with an edited version of her vintage pieces to make a clean canvas for her.”

“The house was warm, with reds and browns,” said the wife of the 5,400-square-foot home they bought in 2006. “But I wanted more of a Connecticut feel.”

“I had breast cancer in 2005, so we moved here specifically to have the pool. We didn’t do anything when we first moved in. We just enjoyed it. And since I survived this, it’s like a big treat to make it how I wanted it.”

In the summer of 2015, Sneed and her team began designing the remodel, which includes the dining area, kitchen, family

room and staircase, but not the downstairs formal living room.

The plans that the couple, who wish to remain anonymous, approved had to be adjusted when Beckham and his team began demolition.

“You see that wall with the refrigerator?” the husband said. “That whole wall was supposed to be taken out. The kitchen and the dining room behind it were going to be one big room. It wasn’t until Nick got down to the studs that he found out that it was a shear wall.”

The workaround required extensive and expensive engineering, so they opted to keep the dining room as a separate room, but to unify it to the rest of the remodel by covering one wall in the shiplap that was also used on the ceiling of the kitchen and the back of the media alcove in the family room.

Early on in the design process, the wife brought in a photo of

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The dining room used to be the homeowner's art/sewing room. "You couldn't even see the windows," quipped her husband. But now with new furniture, windows, French doors and shiplap walls, the room has style.

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a chandelier with a mix of crystals, forks, spoons and knives, which now hangs over the dining table. “That really informed us,” said interior designer Brienne Garcia, also of Anne Sneed Architectural Interiors. “It was really indicative of her style – a little quirky, a little vintage,” Sneed added.

All walls in the remodel are painted white, with subtle shades of gray added in the kitchen on the island and at the back of the open cabinets for her collections.

To make the kitchen more visually interesting, they added a custom range hood by Jim Gibson, a mix of matte and glossy white subway backsplash tiles, and new white cabinets from Busch Woodworking that pop next to the black Virginia granite counters.

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Anne Sneed broke up the space along the back wall of the kitchen with a custom range hood.

She also replaced the cabinets, and the homeowners donated the old ones to The ReUse People and got a nice tax break. The open shelving allows the owner to display her vintage wares.

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They eliminated the breakfast nook to make way for the large, marble-topped island with seating. There's more seating along the counter that opens to the family room and in the two comfy leather chairs on either side of the kitchen's new French doors.

“When his parents come, they sit there,” said the wife, pointing to the comfy chairs. “The younger people sit around here (at the island). There's a place for everyone, and you can keep all the generations together.” Beckham worked around the shear

wall to maximize space for a pantry so the functional, but not antique, appliances such as the coffee maker could be out of sight behind the new sliding barn door. Sneed and Garcia helped the homeowner display just the right amount of her vintage-ware in the kitchen.

“It still feels like her personality,” Garcia said. “It’s picturesque, but it’s not cookie cutter. It’s comfortable.”

In the family room, Beckham added La Cantina accordion doors on the back wall to open the space completely to the backyard, the husband’s favorite space.

“When we first saw this place for sale, I walked right through the house and right out here,” he said, standing in the backyard. “I said, ‘I’ve got to be right here.’” Sneed’s team also got rid of a 5-by-10.5-foot, L-shaped bar that ran along the wall opposite from the La Cantina doors and replaced it with a TV alcove with cabinetry.

“There was a huge ugly bar over here with no water,” the husband said. “So the whole center of the room was off because the bar was here. She did a great job because now (the room layout) make sense.”

They beefed up the fireplace hearth and surrounded it with Virginia black granite and moved the door to the garage to make room for the new wet bar next to the La Cantina doors. The bar also opens to the backyard with smaller accordion doors.

The couple kept their large, dog-friendly leather sectional sofa and added two blue-gray wing chairs that face the backyard. “This is where we sit, looking out, especially in the summer,” the husband said.

“This house is way more livable now,” the wife said. “It’s just a happy place to be.”

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The view from the backyard shows how Anne Sneed’s team unified the kitchen and family room with traditional styling. They were able to keep the existing distressed wide-plank, engineered hickory flooring.

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