

HOMES

Mocha Interiors Transform This Desert Villa Into a Calming and Contemporary Oasis

Marble, wood and dreamy selection of furniture inspired by the mid-century modern aesthetic make this holiday home feel like a break

By Karine Monié
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Photo: Phil Crozier

“The original house had undergone a few renovations, but still felt quite outdated,” says interior designer Stephanie Brown of this modern desert villa with mocha interiors that her eponymous studio envisioned for her clients – a Canadian couple who like to escape to balmy California in winter. What the client thought would be an instant makeover project has transformed into a shining example of what contemporary homes in the desert can be.



Photo: Phil Crozier

“Initially they just wanted to replace the dated ceramic floor tile, but we expressed the logistical and aesthetic issue of a piecemeal renovation, and soon it became a full gut makeover that brings this old house into the light!” Moving away from bright colors and kitschy styles that often characterise Palm Springs interiors, Brown fashioned a design scheme focused on a 2023 interpretation of the mid-century modern aesthetic.



Photo: Phil Crozier



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Originally built in 1960 and fully renovated last year, the three-bedroom, three-bathroom home spreads over more than 200 square metres, all on one level. It features an exterior entrance court, an outdoor patio and pool that are an invitation to enjoy the Californian sun. The open living area – that effortlessly flows from from the lounge into the dining and kitchen area – is furnished with a Jill sectional from Montauk Sofa, Maiden Home Vestry coffee tables and a Lulu and Georgia Lagos side table with a Colin Campbell rug bringing it all together; art by Sara Genn from Gallery Jones adorn the walls.



Photo: Phil Crozier

The dining area also features the Eternity Modern Cava fluted oval table surrounded by Massproductions Crown armchairs from Hem Interiors. They are complemented by a Waldorf triple by Lambert & Fils Studio supplied by Above 90 Lighting, and floor-to-ceiling sliding windows that allow for enjoyment and connection with the exterior.

“Our client desired a soft, muted and organic palette that would be tonal and textural,” says Brown. “This aligned well with our taste and approach, as we felt a neutral scheme offered a more calming and sophisticated approach to mid-century modern.”



The team at Stephanie Brown Inc. referenced modern, architectural homes in Mexico and Australia for their expanses of softened whites, textural stone and warm woods, creating a calming sequence of spaces with mocha interiors bathed in sunshine. In sticking to an earthy interiors scheme, the designer has fashioned a glorious connection between the indoors and the outdoor space, bringing the desertscape into the home.



Photo: Phil Crozier



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A desire for indoor-outdoor living in an arid climate guided Brown her selecting materials. “We used a large format porcelain tile throughout the home, which feels cool underfoot, and is extremely durable,” says Brown. “We also introduced a soft terrazzo tile comprised of marble in the primary ensuite, along with a textural wall of zellige.” For the secondary bathrooms, Brown opted for off-white mosaic tiles on the walls, as a nod to retro design styles.



Photo: Phil Crozier



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In the various rooms, walnut cabinetry prevails for its resistance to the extreme heat and sunshine, with symphony of monochromatic palettes, minimal details and layered textures creating a sophisticated ambiance. Soft parchment tones on the main surfaces (such as the walls, floors and counters) pair with warm wood and accents of brass, transforming this desert villa into an oasis of quite luxury.



Photo: Phil Crozier



Photo: Phil Crozier

“Reinvented with respect for its past with a contemporary eye, this getaway reflects a fresh take on emblematic desert modernism,” concludes Brown.



Photo: Phil Crozier





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