

colorful past

CONTRAST
Graphic zebra artwork makes a modern counterpoint to the dining room's traditional Chippendale-style chairs.



CHILDHOOD PALS RELIED ON THEIR SHARED HISTORY—PLUS A LOVE FOR ALL THINGS COLORFUL AND A LITTLE BIT GLAM—TO ENERGIZE A SLEEPY CALIFORNIA HOUSE.

CONTINUITY
Trellis motifs like this real wood lattice are repeated throughout the house.



To transform the entryway from a pass-through to a comfy niche, interior designer Amanda Reynal built in a window seat, framed a vintage Pucci scarf, and pulled up a couple of garden stools that bring the outside in. No longer a drop zone, "It might be my favorite spot in the house," says homeowner Whitney Hanley.



With papers signed, keys in hand, and a bunch of plain rooms in need of an update, California transplant Whitney Hanley (*above right*) also had the perfect person on speed dial: her childhood friend, interior designer Amanda Reynal (*above left*). “Whit and I have always shared a slightly whimsical sensibility: Neither of us shies away from color, and we like to keep the mood light and fresh,” Amanda says. Whitney agrees: “We just get each other, so I knew Amanda would know what works for me and my family.”

What works is a lively but casual glamour that’s part classic Palm Beach, part chic garden party. It’s an aesthetic the two shared even as they learned to ride horses, obsessed over Lilly Pulitzer dresses, and daydreamed about life after middle school in Long Island, circa 1985. After high school years spent apart, Whitney and Amanda’s paths crossed again in college. Friendship refreshed, they became roommates, and—no surprise—Amanda took on the dorm decor. “Think preppy meets posh,” she says.

Some things never change. Working through calls, texts, Skype, and FedEx, Amanda, who’s based in Des Moines, helped Whitney bring the Nantucket beach house of their childhood dreams to life with updated colors and patterns fit for the California bungalow. It’s proof that you like what you like, and you can’t make new old friends.



ORNAMENT
Geometric fretwork designs like this pagoda-style shelf provide extra interest and outdoor-living vibes.

The fresh colors and lively spirit of a large abstract painting by Des Moines artist Robert Spellman served as the jumping-off point for the whole house.

CHARACTER
A vintage menagerie adds personality and keeps things from getting too serious.

“You might come in cranky, but I defy anyone to leave here unhappy.”

DESIGNER
AMANDA REYNAL

This vintage desk was a lucky find during a Palm Beach shopping expedition. It didn't appear particularly special in white, Amanda says, "But lacquered this rich blue, all of the little details suddenly came into their own."



THROUGH THE EYES OF
AMANDA REYNAL

In addition to her design studio and retail shop in Des Moines, her latest projects are in New York and Connecticut.

IN EVERY ROOM

"There has to be some personality—a few plot twists. The space should give a feeling for what really matters to the people."

A PLACE TO START

"Art. It's the soul of a home. I like contemporary pieces in traditional interiors because if you do everything in the same style, the look gets stagnant."

WHOLE-HOUSE UNITY

"Think of the rooms as symbiotic: You could take any piece of furniture, put it in another room, and it would still work beautifully."

THE ART OF DISCRETION
IN COLOR

"People are hesitant to use color because they don't know how to use it judiciously," Amanda says. Case in point: The colors here may be bright, but they repeat and are always framed by neutrals.



FADED DENIM
795
Benjamin Moore



BLUEBERRY
2063-30
Benjamin Moore



DEEP CARNATION
2086-40
Benjamin Moore



STEM GREEN
2029-40
Benjamin Moore

PHOTO: (PORTRAIT) KATHRYN GAMBLE



TEXTURE
Woven pendants and a bamboo mirror are unexpected touches in the white-on-white kitchen.



Whitney and Mike Hanley with their daughters, Parker and Chapin, at the front gate.

Trellis wallpaper in the kitchen reinterprets the wood lattice in the entry.

The Chinese Chippendale-style motif of the outdoor furniture echoes the indoor style.

A mix of patterns in a narrower palette keeps the master bedroom lively but tranquil. ■



CONTROL
A crisp white bedspread helps calm a roomful of texture.