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25

MUST-HAVES
FOR YOUR
DECORATING
BUCKET LIST
p25

10
RISING STARS
OF DESIGN:
DECORATORS
TO WATCH

Forever House

JOE LUCAS AND PARRISH CHILCOAT TRANSFORM A TUDOR-STYLE
TREASURE INTO AN UPDATED FAMILY HOME







Los Angeles is a city of surprises, but few are as unexpected as Hancock Park. The leafy vest-pocket neighborhood is as charming as any scene Norman Rockwell ever portrayed. "It's a fabulous little hidden sliver of the East Coast," says L.A.-based interior designer Joe Lucas. He should know—both he and Parrish Chilcoat, his business partner at Lucas Studio, are transplanted New Englanders.

Lucas thinks the appeal of this 1925 Tudor-style beauty goes back even further than the 13 colonies. "It's like a mini Downton Abbey," he says. "It's even got an upstairs area that feels like it might have once been a staff wing." In a zip code dotted with notable homes, this house's sparkling diamond-patterned windows, enormous airy spaces, and exuberant moldings make it a neighborhood standout.

Yet when Jay Ackerman and his wife, Stacy Sibley, went in search of a "forever house" to raise their two growing sons—Brayden, 10, and Jonah, 4—they dismissed this place as a rundown old pile. Despite its being the work of noted architect Arthur B. Benton, it was in disrepair and had been languishing on the market for years. Most evenings, Jay and Stacy would walk their dog past the house and speculate on what it was like inside. Their conclusion: "dark." And as much as Stacy loves Tudor architecture, Jay's antipathy to dimly lit spaces made it a no-go. Then one day, Stacy got an excited text from Jay, who was inside the house. "This is nothing like what you'd expect from the outside."

So the reinvention of this lovely grand dame began. Due to the couple's affection and respect for historical detail (they'd renovated five previous homes), the physical transformation consisted mostly of



Living room Designers Joe Lucas and Parrish Chilcoat honored the stately architectural details but injected a youthful glamour.

Entry The entry's dark-stained paneling was retained and serves to emphasize the updated painted moldings in the home's other public spaces.

Exterior The 1925 Tudor-style house was designed by architect Arthur B. Benton.

Family Jay Ackerman with his wife, Stacy Sibley, and their sons, Brayden and Jonah.

Preceding pages In the living room, a punch of pink on the pillows from Pat McGann Gallery makes the room both more approachable and more energetic. The tufted sofa upholstered in a Perennials fabric is from Harbinger.





surface changes—painting and repair, sleek new bathrooms, and a beautiful 21st-century kitchen. “We didn’t blow out spaces; we wanted to keep the old-house feel,” Stacy explains.

One day, mid-renovation, a friend coaxed Stacy into Harbinger, Lucas and Chilcoat’s retail showroom in West Hollywood. “I connected with Joe right away,” says Stacy. “I really liked his personal style. He dresses the way he decorates—dapper and preppy, but with an edge.” When she discovered Lucas was also an alum of intimate little Connecticut College—where she and Jay had been college sweethearts—the deal was sealed. “It felt like kismet,” says Stacy.

Lucas adds with a laugh that the love fest lasted only until he reached the house’s threshold. To his eye, the public spaces were oppressive. “The living and dining rooms were very formal and dreary. There was this dark-stained mahogany crown molding that

looked like a big uni-brow in need of trimming. I felt very strongly it needed to be painted out,” he says.

“That did take time to digest,” says Jay, “but now I see it was the right decision. And we kept the dark-stained paneling in the entry which makes that room really pop out at you.”

Stacy says she and Jay were anxious about preserving the house’s integrity. “Keeping the 1920s feel was very important to us.” Lucas and Chilcoat’s solution was to update the architecture with a dose of youthful glamour. “We used traditional shapes with fabrics that feel fresh,” Lucas says.

The most fearless mix occurs in the dining room. “This room used to have such a sad old vibe,” recalls Lucas. “The wallpaper elevated the room to amazing. It’s a coral-y orange, pink, green, and purple world in there, and it makes Stacy so happy.”



Kitchen A newly renovated white-on-white kitchen updates the home without distracting from its 1920s charm. The backsplash tile is from Waterworks.

Dining room The designers paired a walnut dining table from Harbinger with painted Louis-style chairs upholstered in a Travers stripe (on the back) and a Schumacher velvet (on the seat). Emerald-green curtains mix playfully with a patterned wallpaper from Idarica Gazzoni.

Breakfast room Woven chairs from Janus et Cie and a custom table add visual weight to the breakfast room. The shade fabric is from Pindler & Pindler.

China The couple's antique china plays perfectly off the dining room's vibrant palette.





Master bedroom A soft green, tufted wing chair acts as a curvaceous partner to a vintage dresser. Sconces flanking the Bunny Williams Home mirror are from Circa Lighting. The four-poster bed from RH is covered in a zesty, patterned fabric.

Master bath A vanity painted in a soft gray from Pratt & Lambert is paired with a marble countertop. Sconces are by Ralph Lauren through Circa Lighting.

Boy's bedroom A bold Plumwich fabric on the headboard and a papier-mâché animal sculpture above it ensure that boring is banished from Brayden's room.

Family pet Kelsey, a terrier mix, enjoys the comfy new upholstery.



ED TRADITIONAL SHAPES WITH FABRICS THAT FEEL FRESH. ”
—designer Joe Lucas



the family members' individual personalities Lucas and Chilcoat's decorative aim. They diligently earthing sentimental family treasures and integrated the design. In the dining room, they reflected neity and sense of fun, while the living room is more and smart. "The rest of the house is a good mix of the as, "so there's an undercurrent of who they are run- out."

current is enhanced with sentimental pieces. "My ay when I was 4," says Stacy. "He had dabbled in some of his artwork was sitting in storage and some a closet, but Joe got them out and hung one in n and one in the living room. It's such a joy to see s every day."

Lucas also discovered Stacy's colorful glass collection and put it on prominent display. He framed the children's artwork to line a hallway and made sure young Brayden's room highlighted his passions with a coat of Boston Celtics green. What 10-year-old boy wouldn't jump at a chance to have his bedroom reflect his favorite team?

Jay and Stacy say they don't see the project ever truly ending. "The other day Joe brought some gorgeous coral fans over and they look incredible," says Stacy. "With a house like this, we can add things, and it will change as we change. Old houses can do that. That's what I love about them. The original owner's initial is still carved above our front door and we'll never get rid of it. Joe understood that, but he also knew we needed to make this place our own." ■

Interior designers: Joe Lucas and Parrish Chilcoat

For more information, see sources on page 146