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california dreaming

Capturing both the laid-back and glam vibes of Palm Springs, this Lucas Interior-designed home is absolutely fabulous – inside and out

PHOTOGRAPHY Douglas Friedman

WORDS Karine Monié

TERRACE

The sleek lines of the new verandah punctuate the landscape in the most striking way.

Mistral **chaise lounges**, Roda via Niche Beverly (fabric from Perennials Fabrics). Lumbar **pillows** in Holland & Sherry fabric by Satellite Sewing. The Others **lanterns**, Stephen Burks. Vintage Moroccan **rug**, Kat + Maouche

ENTRANCE

The house represents classic elegance in the Old Las Palmas neighbourhood in Palm Springs. The objective was to stay true to the charm of the 1930s Spanish mission-style aesthetic but with unexpected pattern and colour



TERRACE

A firepit keeps things hot on cold desert nights.

Sofa, Holly Hunt (fabric by Perennials Fabrics). **Table**, Dos Gallos. **Dot side tables**, Christophe Delcourt. **Kay chair**, Gloster. **Fire table**, Stoneland USA. **Floor tiles**, Mosaicos Oaxaca



MEDIA ROOM

Echoing the outside, the wallpaper also brings a moody luxury to this lounging space.

Wallpaper, Flie Paper. **Photograph**, Curtis Speer



home profile

THE OWNERS

Craig Hartzman and James John and their dog Winnie Bear. Together for 35 years, the couple has two grown-up children who live elsewhere. Craig and John run a family business in the northwest specialising in construction and development.

THE PROPERTY

A Spanish mission-style home located in the Old Las Palmas neighbourhood of Palm Springs, California. The single-story house is approximately 400sq m and has four bedrooms and six bathrooms.

Located in what was a Hollywood stars' playground in the 1920s and is still en vogue today for celebrities and discerning travellers alike, this Southern California property has quite a pedigree. Set against the backdrop of the San Jacinto Mountains and surrounded by the desert, the area is lined with grand Spanish and modernist homes once enjoyed by Elizabeth Taylor, Judy Garland and Cary Grant, among others. But that's not all. This particular house also has its own story: 'Originally owned by Abe Bernstein – leader of the infamous prohibition-era Purple Gang – it was a place to entertain and embrace the spirit and lifestyle of Palm Springs,' says David Lucas, creative director at Lucas Interior.

Couple Craig Hartzman and James John first fell in love with the neighbourhood before finding their dream winter escape from the rain and cold of the Pacific Northwest, where they live several months of the year. 'We kept walking the streets looking for the perfect house or at least project,' says Craig. 'It was really about location.'

Built in 1928, the house had very good bones, but other than that everything else had to be transformed to fit the owners' needs and bring the property back to its former glory. 'It had lost all its character throughout the years,' notes James. 'Over the years, several remodels led to a major disconnect between interior and exterior,' says David. 'We set out to develop a program centred around the clients' lifestyle that focused on maintaining key elements that felt architecturally true to the original structure. We opened up the perimeter walls and added floor-to-ceiling steel and glass pivot doors.'

Outside, by adding a covered lanai for entertaining, Lucas Interior changed the original L-shape to a U footprint that organises the spaces around a central pool and terrace. 'This is our favourite spot to read, gather with friends or just hang out,' says James. 'We put a fireplace in the middle and it is a focal point, along with an alfresco dining space and lounge area.'

The different materials were selected to give the feeling that they could have been in the home for some time, including the new timber beams, custom rugs and more than 20 different tiles – many of them custom from Morocco and Mexico. 'We had an idea of doing it all in different tiles and it could have been a mess, but with the help and guidance of Lucas Interior, who usually don't design like this, I believe we pulled it off into a fascinating space,' says Craig.

The project took approximately two years to complete and it was worth the wait. Fresh, inviting and unexpected, the interiors are filled with durable textures and bespoke furnishings. 'While their other properties incorporate more muted palettes, Craig and James wanted this vacation home to explore colour, pattern and the art of the mismatched,' David explains. 'The interior definitely reflects us as a couple,' says Craig. 'We had a vision but we could never have pulled it off without the genius work of our interior designers who listened to us and brought our ideas to fruition. It's a perfect entertainment house along with being an intimate space just for us.'

x

lucasinterior.com



LIVING AREA
The gorgeous pattern on pattern works because of the common blue and ochre theme.

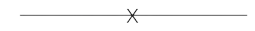
Custom wool and silk rug, Driscoll Robbins. Custom curved sofa with wood base, BC Custom Upholstery using Mokum Alpaca Velvet in Ochre. Custom round wood coffee table, Custom Wood Interiors. Dot side tables, Christophe Delcourt at Avenue Road. Inner Beauty floor lamp, Phase. Pelican chair, Design Within Reach. Lens side table, Holly Hunt. Willow round table lamp, Jayson Home

DINING AREA
The bar space pays homage to the home's wood-beamed ceilings beautifully.

Custom **table**, Custom Wood Interiors. Era **armchairs**, Design Within Reach. **Rug**, Armadillo. Michele Russo **painting** circa 1970. Cement **floor tiles**, Granada Tile. Matrix brushed granite **countertop**, Stoneland USA. Oak casework perforated **metal screen**, McNichols Co



“Our home is lived-in yet a bit of a statement
– it reflects our individuality and taste”



KITCHEN
Black-and-white tiling is both modern and classic.
Dalen **lanterns**, Gregorius Pineo. Custom **island**, Custom Wood Interiors.
Wall tiles, Mosaicos Oaxaca

the blueprint





MAIN BEDROOM

Through the doors is an outdoor lounge area complete with hanging sofa that has views of the mountains beyond.

Custom rug, Marc Phillips. Custom headboard and bed platform, Village Interiors & Jonathan Pauls (with Townsend Leather). Artwork, Luc Bernard *Open No. 5* from Open Series 2015



GUEST BATHROOM

Each of the visitor bedrooms is unique with en suites decorated using different tiles.

Bench, Tirto Furniture. Decorative tiles, Granada Tile. Hexagon tiles, Tabarka Studio



home truths

GO-TO DESIGN BRAND?

We are not really into brand design names of furniture and so forth, but leave that up to our trusted designers. We let them know our aesthetic and ideas and they seem to always find the right product.

FAVOURITE COLOUR FOR A WALL?

Always white as I like the blank colour to showcase our art. In this home, however, we did use a lot of photography wallpaper we had commissioned, along with walls of tile.

BEST PIECE OF FURNITURE?

The beautiful semi-round ochre wool couch that our designers really pushed us to put in the home. We never would have done that if they didn't insist. It is a nod to old Palm Springs style.

BIGGEST DESIGN MISTAKE?

I honestly can say we did not make a design mistake anywhere. We have talked about it and both agree that if we did it again we would not change a thing.

IDEAL DECORATION MATERIAL?

We have tiles everywhere and they really stand out in the home.