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A Cultured Approach

International influences bring a worldly outlook to a new home in Palo Alto.

BY MAILE PINGEL // PHOTOGRAPHED BY BRAD KNIPSTEIN

It's not uncommon for a couple to think about moving when their children have fledged the nest, but for one pair, both of them Silicon Valley executives, a house hunt never revealed a neighborhood as charming as their own. Hesitant to give up their quiet, tree-lined street, they decided instead to rebuild. Down came the old house and up went a new one, inspired, in part, by happy memories of traveling through Italy. Working with architect Adam Bittle of Architecture Allure in San Francisco, the couple devised "an Italian villa reimagined for the California lifestyle," recalls interior designer Sindhu Peruri (peruridesigncompany.com), who was brought on as framing began. "They love to visit Tuscany and wanted that feel in the architecture," she explains. "My goal was to keep the interiors contemporary and cohesive while bringing their vision to life."

"They're a family of blended cultures that share a lot of similarities in their vibrancy and way of life," she continues. "I wanted the interiors to reflect their casual lifestyle and to ensure that the rooms were well laid out and inviting, with noteworthy moments in key areas." Working closely with her clients, Peruri, who launched her eponymous Los Altos design firm in 2015, crafted polished spaces with a down-to-earth feel. "There's some drama but nothing ostentatious," she says. "And shopping trips with the clients helped us connect and understand one another on a deeper level." An early visit to Coup D'Etat revealed not only the bronze bench now greeting guests in the foyer but the dining room's John Pomp chandelier. "That was one of the first pieces we selected. It's seen right as you walk in the front door," she continues, explaining that they all liked the tension between the fixture's

Artworks by Jonathan Smith (above the custom sofa) and A.J. Oishi bring an ethereal spirit to the downstairs media room. The rug is from Stark.





(This is anything but your average basement—it's a plush media lounge with a custom coffee table by the Italian firm Alcarol and artwork by Brooklyn-based photographer Jonathan Smith.) In the living room, Lizarraga gave the built-in niche a blue agate finish. It was a part of the room that had given Peruri and her clients pause. "We thought, 'Should we do another piece of art? Bring in something vintage? Add shelving like a bar?'" But it was through Caroline's work in the basement that we came up with the idea of agate, and it really works!" In fact, decorative finishes and murals have been

in high demand lately, with Lizarraga creating designs for three more of Peruri's current projects. "I tend to be 'minimalistic,' but Caroline's work just takes spaces up a few notches," says the designer of her frequent collaborator and now good friend.

Those sorts of artful details continue upstairs, where the designer commissioned London firm Maap Studio Artworks to create a wall-mounted display of white- and gold-painted porcelain flowers. "The client mentioned that it makes her happy to wake up every morning and pass by this beautiful installation," Peruri says proudly. In the

primary bedroom, she took a "moody, tone-on-tone" approach, focusing on soft contrast and texture. It was all about creating a layered but tidy look that would serve as a soothing retreat for her busy clients. But it isn't all seriousness. "We found the pillow painting by Carol O'Malia at Simon Breitbard Fine Arts and the clients laughed when they saw it. They like the juxtaposition of the crumpled pillows above their very neatly done bed—it's a bit cheeky," she says. Also upstairs are rooms for their children when they return home and a tranquil guest room with bedding that

incorporates Kantha work textiles from Jaipur. (Many of Peruri's family members in India work in the textile industry, so it's an artform she knows well and appreciates.)

"To me, this home is an example of making discerning choices in art and furnishings. Every detail was thought through so that the clients can cherish their home for years to come," she says. "The spaces are cohesive, and you get a sense of who the owners are, understated and elegant." And most importantly, those clients are happy. So much so, her renovation of their Montana lake house is already on the books. ■