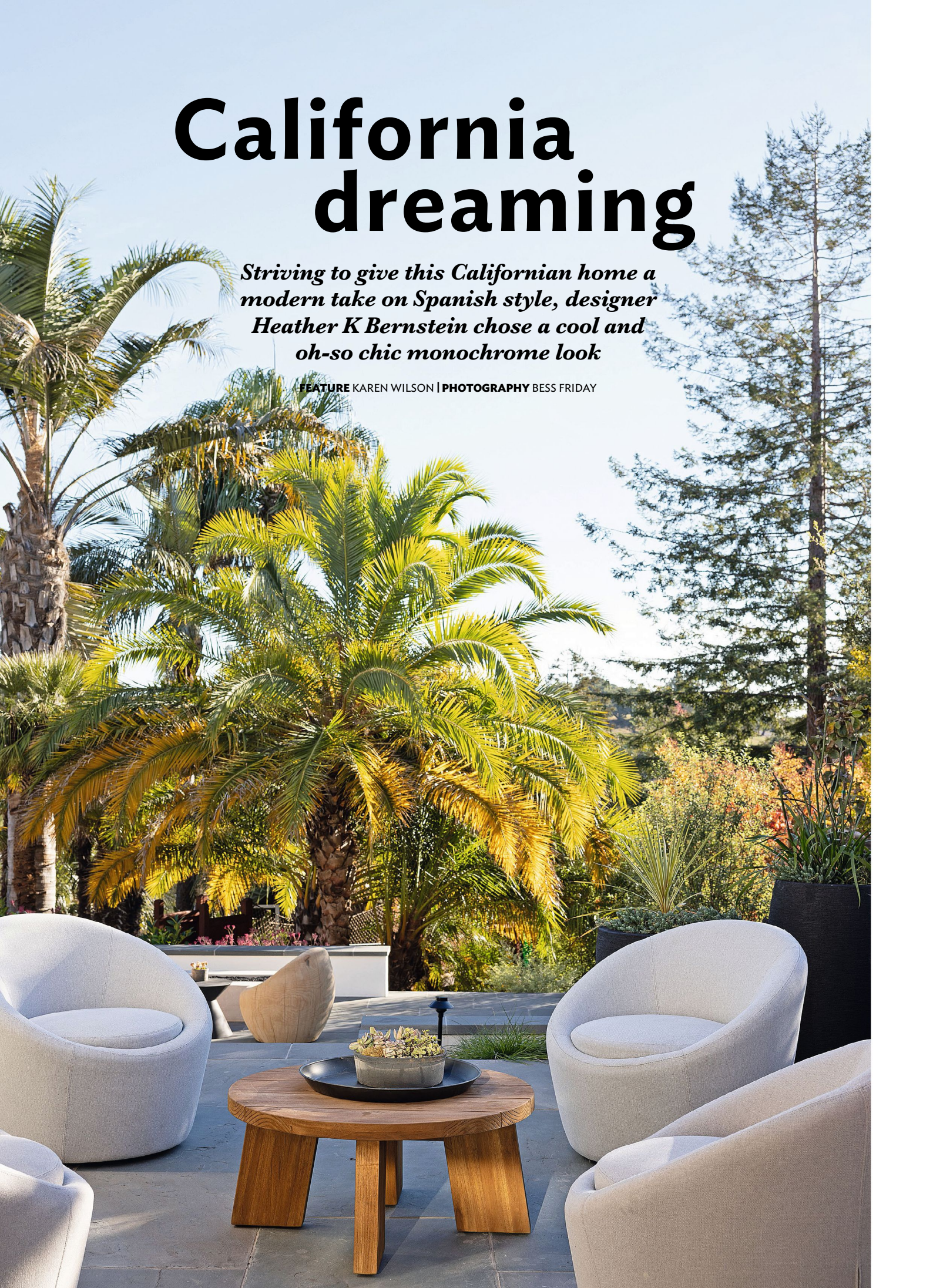


California dreaming

Striving to give this Californian home a modern take on Spanish style, designer Heather K Bernstein chose a cool and oh-so chic monochrome look

FEATURE KAREN WILSON | PHOTOGRAPHY BESS FRIDAY



DINING AREA

Black accents are softened with natural oak and soft leather upholstery.

Lydford oval six-seater dining table, £999, Cult Furniture, would work here. Try Francia solid teak chair, £479, Tikamoon. *Equilibrium* large framed photography print, £190, Doug Chinnery at King & McGaw, has this look

GARDEN

Curvaceous seating brings a welcoming, contemporary feel to the outside space.

Try Bali coffee table in Nature, £599, House Doctor at Royal Design. Luna occasional boucle chair in Ivory, £755, ATM Living, is similar

HOME TRUTHS**THE PROPERTY**

A 1990s Spanish-style detached house

ROOMS

Sitting room, family room, dining room, kitchen-diner, four bedrooms, four bathrooms

LOCATION

Oakland, California





SITTING ROOM

Pops of blue velvet and sculptural lighting bring a luxe edge to the neutral scheme. Moreno chair, £2,500.34, Lawson-Fenning at 1stDibs. Calder chandelier, £1,268, Liang & Eimil, would work here. Diptiq table, price on request, Christian Woo

ENTRANCE

Curved steps echo the shape of the arched door. A built-in cupboard makes the most of the alcove and has a simple, rustic charm. Try vintage elm round stool, £180, Design Vintage. Ceramic textured mono vase, £25, Dunelm, is similar

DINING ROOM

The stylish table with central pedestal is more practical in terms of leg room. Rendor dining table, £5,108, Noho Home, has this style. Alfie dining chair, £515, Liang & Eimil at Furnish, is an alternative design. Portea sconce, price on request, Worley's Lighting



**'MIXING UP THE STYLE OF THE BASE
AND WALL UNITS DELIVERS ANOTHER
LAYER OF INTEREST IN A SCHEME'**



KITCHEN

Neutral tiles both on the walls and the cooker hood add wonderful texture.

Post-modern glass ball LED pendant light, £99.99, The Lightzey, is a good alternative. Try Oslo bar stool in Clay, £255, Graham and Green

TERRACE (LEFT)

The pop-up window connects this smart eating/drinking area to the kitchen.

Grey rattan garden bar stools, £179.99 for a set of two, vidaXL. Natural mango wood fruit bowl, £49.95, Paper High, is similar

WHY DID YOUR CLIENTS BUY THIS

PROPERTY? The couple lived down the street with their two young sons and when this home became available they purchased it right away in August 2019. They loved the views, layout and bones, but it needed work, so they planned to live in their current home while we made improvements. A cabinet maker we'd worked with in the past recommended our firm.

WHAT WAS THEIR BRIEF? The house they were moving from was more glam and contemporary so they had an eclectic style. Here they wanted to keep the contemporary aspect but channel it into their new Spanish-style home.

WHAT WERE THEIR BIGGEST PRIORITIES?

The homeowners are big entertainers who love throwing parties and usually have 40-plus people for Thanksgiving. In fact, after the house was complete they included us in a 100-person open house to show off their new home.

WAS MUCH BUILDING WORK REQUIRED?

Yes. We reconfigured the entire kitchen so that it incorporated the amazing outdoor deck to take advantage of the views. This space was completely demolished and rebuilt. In order to seamlessly incorporate the kitchen with the outdoor space, we added large bifold doors that open up to the entire space. We also added a pop-up window so you can sit at a counter outside while still conversing with people inside. This is the heart of their space where they spend all their time. Most bathrooms were also reconfigured to work for their family, too.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE COLOUR

PALETTE? We wanted a nod to Spain with the tiles, but toned down all the usual bold colours of a traditional Spanish look for a more monochrome theme. Then we threw in pops of colour such as aqua and maroon.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE?

The scope of this project started out small – just painting some cabinets and making the bathrooms more usable – but within two weeks of signing on with the client the entire house was gutted. We had to put our architect hats on and work quickly and efficiently. This job stretched out through Covid so we would design something and then have to get creative with finding substitutes to create our vision. Our design for this home took patience and perseverance.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME?

Combining our clients' hopes with our style and expertise is a thoughtful balance. A balance of grace, texture, smiles, layers, fun and commitment. We aim to find this balance on all projects starting with the first mood board and then rolling it out by room from there.

WHAT WAS THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT OF THIS PROJECT?

When our client saw the finished house, she cried, and said it was perfect! It was the longest, drawn out project we've ever done and the excitement and relief we felt was beyond perfect. 🍷

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EN SUITE

A rectangular mirror increases the sense of height in this room.

Black and brass double arm wall light, from £106, Spark & Bell, would work. Cappella gloss Carrara marble effect tiles, £36.95sq m, Walls and Floors, are similar. Try Terracotta spa waffle hand towel, £15, John Lewis & Partners

MAIN BEDROOM

Lighting built into the bespoke headboard creates a neat boutique hotel look.

Try customisable macrame wall hanging, from £217.36, ZDM Craft Studio on Esty. Dusty pink linen throw, £95, Chalk Pink Linen Company, has this look. Contemporary black dome wall light, £870, Juliettes Interiors, is similar

BATHROOM

A streamlined window and shower screen ensure the view isn't interrupted.

Picasso freestanding stone bath, £1,395, Lusso, has this style. Try JTP Vos black freestanding bath shower mixer, £769.93, Victorian Plumbing. Hedvig small rustic stool, £105, Vaunt Design, would work here



**'CEILING TO
FLOOR TILING
IN THE BATHROOM
INCREASES THE
SENSE OF SPACE
AND HEIGHT
BEAUTIFULLY'**

