

HOLLYWOOD SEQUEL

It's prints charming when decorator Kristen Panitch designs the same 1950s cottage in Los Angeles twice in a row—this go-round for clients who fully embraced its story-book enchantment.

In the guest room of a home in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Pacific Palisades, designer Kristen Panitch covered almost every surface in Isfahan, a paisley linen by Peter Dunham Textiles. She took advantage of the fabric's border design to create a sense of architecture on the ceiling. The table lamps were purchased at the Brimfield flea market.





ABOVE: Kristen Panitch, a native Angeleno, in her clients' home. **TOP:** When she isn't covering an entire space with pattern, Panitch opts for white walls. The living room's custom pieces include a sofa in a C&C Milano fabric and armchairs in a Jennifer Shorto linen. Vintage coffee table, Hollywood at Home. Custom rug, Carpet Craft. Paint, Benjamin Moore Swiss Coffee. **OPPOSITE:** An ivy-draped portico and diamond window muntins are integral to the character of the 1930s Arts and Crafts-style house.

This has got to be one of the most charming houses in all of Los Angeles.

KRISTEN PANITCH: It is the most beautiful, perfect little jewel in the Pacific Palisades, where, sadly, too many people are tearing older homes down and replacing them with mansions. What's crazy is that I decorated this house for the previous owners. When they were ready to move, I introduced them to my clients of 30 years—and longtime friends—Pam and Chris Fillo, who bought it. I guess I felt protective of this sweet house.

ONLY BEH-DOR. What was it like to redecorate the same space for different clients?

This time, we changed enough of the house architecturally on the inside to make it feel unique. The couple's kids are grown, so a family room and playroom weren't necessary, and the plan is that they are going to stay here forever. She is a huge cook and wanted us to focus on the kitchen remodel. We also bumped out some closets and increased the amount of natural light in the home by adding some windows. To me, design starts with the person. Pam is wild for pattern and color, and that really drove everything. My sole directive was, "Go for it!"

You went for it all right! That head-to-toe paisley room is a stunner. Is that all fabric?

Yes, every square inch of it. Pam and Chris had an upholstered room in their previous home and wanted another one. This space had its challenges: It's a small, square guest room just off the pool, and it could easily have felt cold and unappealing. I knew that the best way to warm it up was to put fabric on the walls, the ceiling...everywhere! Sticking to one fabric—even for the bedding—creates a serene environment, much more so than mixing it up. This printed linen was the first and only option we considered.

ELEVATING THE COOL FACTOR

"It goes against Decorating 101, but using small patterns together can be easier on the eye—more quiet," Panitch says. "The

secret is to get the right marriage. I make sure to keep the color values close, then combine the style periods. The contemporary kaleidoscopic wallpaper here (right) is paired with an Indian flower motif on the chairs. A layered room with all of the elements coming from one era might have felt heavy and old-world, but mixing it up elevates the cool factor of each print—the wallpaper looks artistic, while the Indian design feels original when taken out of its traditional box."

Like the look? Try these, FROM TOP: 1515-2 Blush Navy wallpaper, Lindsay Cowles. Killi linen in Duck Egg Natural, Penny Morrison. Gastón y Daniela Nicaragua linen in Lavanda, Kravet. Soane Velvet Border in Fawn, Samuel & Sons.

PHOTOS: LUCY BARNES; STYLING: ALISON GOODE/STUDIO



Bold prints delightfully coexist in the dining room, where custom chairs in a Penny Morrison floral pattern are surrounded by Lindsay Cowles's swirling wallpaper. Vintage pendants, Blaisman Cruz. The curtains are in a tie-dyed linen by WalFab.



BAR LEFT: Pantich collaborated with architect Tim Barber for the kitchen remodel. Refrigerator, Sub-Zero. Range, Wolf. The custom stools are in a Cortina leather. Wall tile, Heath Ceramics. Reclaimed antique French-oak herringbone floors, Exquisite Surfaces. **BAR:** In the powder room, the sink and fixtures are by Waterworks. Wallpaper, Lindsay Cowles. Ceramic mirror, the Window.

That's confidence! How did you know it was going to work?

Color choice is the most important element whenever you're doing a full-on upholstered room. You want a soft palette that has very little contrast. Even the most intricate pattern can work within those guidelines. If this same fabric were in black and white, the experience would be overwhelming in such a small space. The colors here are subtle, with a lovely Indian paisley motif.

I spy pink curtains in not one, but two rooms in this house. How do you incorporate sweeter hues—pinks, purples—and still exude that California cool?

I stay in the world of what I call neutral colors. So while I might use a color like pink, I will search for a soft, grayed-out version, or pair it with a vintage leather chair, so that the overall look ends up feeling neutral. A sofa's fabric might be purple, but it will have an outmost thread running through its herringbone weave, so it reads tailored and not dollhouse. I also like to mix up textures. In the living room, which has a bit of an odd shape, I kept things clean and simple with a modern metal-and-glass coffee table. And since it's easy to get natural-fiber rugs in large, uncommon sizes, I went with a jute rug.

Meanwhile, I notice there's no rug at all in the dining room. Was that a conscious choice?

Yes, it was. You might say I am anti-rug in dining rooms! I would rather spend money on the rugs you actually walk on, rather than ones that are covered up by a table. Plus, rugs can get dirty quickly in a dining area, and when you go for too many layers, you often end up with an overly stuffy feeling. Interior design can get extravagant. My attitude is: What exactly do we need, and how can we make it great?

How else do you keep things practical but pretty?

I like to use smaller patterns for dining chairs; they're great for hiding the inevitable spills. I also like a simply dressed bed. There's nothing worse than piles of pillows—some beds have so many that you have to buy a chair just to put the pillows on when you go to sleep! To create a sense of ease at home, surround yourself with what you love. I always ask my clients: "Where is your heart?"

The master bedroom combines English and Indian motifs. Roman shades in a linen-cotton blend by Jennifer Sherie play off Min Hogg's more demure Sea Feather wallpaper. Panitch embellished the custom bed, covered in a Pindler linen, with brass buttons, which feel "less fussy" than upholstered ones. The bed is dressed with Sferra linens and a Matteo quilt and topped with a pillow in a vintage African textile from Pat McGann Gallery. The vintage table lamps and handwoven Indian throw are from Hollywood at Home. Sources: Visual Comfort. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES.

