



hen a home has been lovingly maintained for more than 100 years it deserves owners who want

to preserve its character and charm; custodians to move it gently forward with a sympathetic renovation to embrace modern life without sacrificing its magic. 'That was exactly the intention of the couple, with a baby daughter, who bought this historic, redwoodshingled, craftsman's-style home,' says designer Heidi Caillier, who worked with them on its revamp.

'The couple – he is in the wine trade; she is in luxury travel – consider themselves caretakers of the home and wanted to preserve as many of the original details as possible,' she says of the house, built in 1910 and located in Berkeley in the San Francisco Bay Area of California. The owners found Heidi on Instagram, and instinctively felt in tune with her passion for design and fearless, confident attitude that comes from a natural flair and a fount of eclectic influences garnered over the years, rather than from formal training. 'The couple wanted the house to feel timeless, but youthful and like a reflection of them,' says Heidi who has a love of tension in design, 'a play between masculine and feminine, old and new, modern and traditional.'

When Heidi's clients were discussing influences, they mentioned they were drawn to the quirky style of London-based designers, who are skilled at combining vibrant colour with cosy elements and a traditional countryside aesthetic – think Beata Heuman, Maddux Creative, Ben Pentreath – and that gave them the impetus to come up with a new way of spinning classic ideas. For example, the traditional sitting room is enlivened with modern-luxe touches like pink tiles in the fire surround, a playful rattan

ceiling pendant and a surprising yet harmonious denim-blue Indian dhurrie. 'We wove in natural materials and textures throughout the house that feel lived in with a mix of sage green, soft pink, light blue and small and large scale floral prints,' says Heidi.

The ground floor enjoys a special quality of light that filters through the tall windows that embrace the structure of the building and enliven its dark timbers. The front door opens onto an entrance nook, also known as the 'mud room', with built-in day beds, which is a good spot for morning coffee. The rest of the space is divided into rooms that flow from one to the next: a sitting room anchored by a central fireplace, a 'listening room' for playing records, a dining room presided over by a family heirloom blue porcelain chandelier and the kitchen with copper-wrapped worktops.

The family bedrooms and bathrooms, an office and a garden room are all upstairs. 'Because the ground floor leans towards being dark, the owners wanted the first floor to be airy and light with a feeling of luxury and sumptuousness,' says Heidi. 'We kept the existing shutters and chose pretty textiles, like a vintage quilt and antique kilim for the main bedroom.' The upstairs landing is papered in a John Derian print, a stunning floral that feels both charming and modern. The garden room gets beautiful light and is surrounded by stunning views of the outdoors. There is a sitting area and a game table in the corner. 'It's a lovely place to play backgammon or read a book, and, like the rest of this unique and thoughtful home, it's very reflective of the people who inhabit it,' says Heidi.

■ This house appears among 12 beautiful US homes in Heidi's book *Memories of Home*, published by Rizzoli. heidicaillierdesign.com

"WE TOOK INSPIRATION FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS, USING UNEXPECTED HUES, VINTAGE PRINTS AND ANTIQUES TO CREATE A TIMELESS FAMILY HOME"









MEET THE DESIGNER

- there is nothing quite like it.

Heidi Caillier shares her style inspiration

SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT Paint. It can totally change the mood of a room.

YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS Eclectic, timeless, liveable.

GO-TO BRAND Robert Kime, which is a complete treasure trove of textiles and antiques

AN INDULGENCE YOU WOULD NEVER FORGO Good coffee – it's part of my morning ritual.

OBJECT YOU WOULD NEVER PART WITH My wedding ring.

LAST ITEM BOUGHT FOR YOUR HOME Artwork from photographer Ellie Davies' *Stars* series – her work is beautiful and ethereal.

THINGS ON YOUR COFFEE TABLE Fresh flowers (always!), my favourite candle, Maison Louis Marie Bois de Balincourt, and naturally my new book, *Memories of Home*.

