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PRINT POST APPROVED PP100007431

BRING TO LIGHT





A dark and dreary
California bungalow
now shines bright
thanks to the creative
talents of LA-based
interior designer
Amber Lewis

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TESSA NEUSTADT
TEXT BY BIANCA MARTIN

FRESH START

A contemporary revamp starring crisp white walls, blond timber flooring and effortlessly stylish furnishings has delighted not only home owners, Christina and Josh, but also Ralph, the wheaten terrier.



MODERN CLASSIC

"It's all about finding a nice balance and flow between [old and new]," says Lewis, who decorated the ranch-style home with patterned rugs, lush greenery and statement lighting.

If you're trawling online for an interior designer, what would make you click for a closer look? There's a good chance a professional whose portfolio includes names Client Freakin' Fabulous and Client Pretty Much Perfect would pique your interest.

Fortunately, when the designer in question is Los Angeles-based Amber Lewis, behind every client name is a home brimming with laid-back, eclectic style. In fact, Lewis's look is so unique and well honed that it brings people to her. "My style has evolved with the places I've lived and travelled to. Now clients see my style and come to me for it."

That was the case for business owner Christina and her magazine editor husband, Josh (aka Client Freakin' Fabulous). They gave Lewis

carte blanche to overhaul their ranch-style home in Costa Mesa, a beachside town 45 minutes south of LA.

"[Christina and Josh] had full faith in me," says Lewis. "They were the definition of an easy client. I had a fun time designing with Christina. She was also *into* the process of the project."

The process, in this case, was extensive. The house had a boxy layout in need of reconfiguring, and required new windows to bring in light, not to mention fittings and furnishings for almost the entire house - all with the constraints of a tight budget. "They really didn't like anything [about the original house]," admits Lewis.

Like many modern collaborations, Lewis and her client kicked off their journey with a shared Pinterest board. "Christina was Pinterest-obsessed," >



TEXTURE PLAY

"The goal was to modernise the space, but keep it charming and comfortable," explains Lewis. The key? Layer upon layer of soft furnishings, along with timber and leather accents.



says Lewis. "But she found some of my favourite pieces in the house [there]."

Once Lewis understood the couple's style, she worked to avoid that "we bought the whole showroom look" by meshing new buys with second-hand finds. Next came some of Lewis's signatures, like almost-blinding white walls, brass fixtures and ethnic cushions.

In fact, it was a love of cushions and an overflow from her projects that encouraged Lewis to start up her online store, Shoppe. It's been so successful that the designer now runs a bricks-and-mortar showroom that houses her office.

While Client Freakin' Fabulous have recently welcomed a baby and called on Lewis to deck out their nursery, next up for the designer is an overhaul of her own home. And given that she's a "control freak", the client name she gives herself might already be set in stone! □



CREATIVE COOL

Each space was designed to showcase Christina and Josh's favourite things, from the bookshelves filled with fashion and art tomes to the minimalist bedroom featuring a dream-inducing artwork.

"I wanted the house to represent the owners – they live near the beach, but have a little edge, so I wanted an eclectic feel"

- Amber Lewis, interior designer

