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Elements of Surprise

Tanya Krpan redefines West Coast style in Vancouver, BC

AT FIRST GLANCE, the home of interior designer Tanya Krpan is quintessentially Southern California coastal. The abundance of white walls, light oak, Spanish-inspired details – plus the way the light pools in the space – embody classic West Coast living. Take a second look, however, and the room reveals even more layers: an Art Deco vibe reminiscent of Miami and seriously glam statement lighting. Also, that the home isn't in California but located over a thousand miles north in Vancouver, BC.

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INTERIOR DESIGN BY TANYA KRPAN DESIGN CO.

HOMEBUILDER: DAKOTA HOMES





IN FACT, those charming original details aren't vintage at all. The home is a new construction, designed and built by Tanya and her husband, a residential builder. Because they were building in an established neighborhood, their goal was to design a home that feels like part of the community. Tanya says, "In Vancouver, there are a lot of modern homes going up, but we wanted something that feels like it had been there, especially because there are a lot of heritage homes in the neighborhood." So Tanya took her inspiration for the exterior from her time spent in Boston and clad the single-family home in white painted brick, calling the home a "modern brownstone."



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NOW she has neighbors asking if the home was a renovation, unable to remember if it maybe was there the whole time. “I feel really good because that’s what we were trying to go for, this modern-day family home with these bones of a classic house that had been there forever and forever.”

STEPPING past the blush pink front door, guests walk into a foyer tiled in a cream-colored herringbone pattern. To the right is a multifunctional room that could be an office but currently sees most use as a playroom for Tanya’s three young children. Instead of fully closing it off, Tanya selected glass doors and windows and then painted the woodwork a cool, blue gray glazing so, as she puts it, “it almost feels like a little storefront.”





ONLY A GLIMPSE into the heart of the home, the living-dining-kitchen “great room,” is visible past the stairway straight ahead. Even with the open floorplan, Tanya says, “I like to design so that when you are in the space as you turn, each moment you have an experience. There are always view-points, there are elements of surprises. These little treats along the way.” Tanya credits this to her background in hospitality design for a restaurant company. Stepping from the entry into the great room is one example. Tanya says, “A trend happening is that all the flooring is the same. I wanted the floor to have special moments as well.” So, at each threshold, she marked the transition with a slab of marble with bold veining.



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TANYA’S BACKGROUND also helped her know where to spend her budget. She says, “Doing restaurant design, you are working with really massive budgets. This was taking it down to a small scale, knowing where impact points are and where to put your money.” For instance, Tanya selected three large-scale brass dome pendant lights for over the kitchen island knowing that they would be visible from many vantage points.



THE HOME is united through a soft color palette, repeated shapes and materials, and a sense of movement. In the kitchen, Tanya mixed gray and blue granite counters with a Calcutta marble backsplash. (In a budget saving move, she used white square tiles in the shelving above the bar and workstation.) The blue granite that Tanya describes as “a crazy pattern but muted” is used again to frame the fireplace, where it is flanked by white oak built-ins, tying together the kitchen and living area. The fireplace is set into an arch, just like the arch above the kitchen sink and the doorways. “A major inspiration that everything has a slight curve to it. Even the stairway handles are not square,” Tanya laughs. The graphic patterned wallpaper in the dining room also plays on the theme of arches. “It’s a like an intersection of all these arches, color blocked to look like a graphic print.” Spending time in the space, these small details slowly reveal themselves. Each one a surprise, just like Tanya planned.

