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DRAMATIC TILEWORK EMERGES AS THE STAR IN TWO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SPACES WHERE CALCULATED DESIGN DETAILS MAKE FOR A STRIKING YET RESTRAINED KITCHEN AND BATH.

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TRIPLE THREAT

THREE DISTINCTIVE DESIGN AESTHETICS COME TOGETHER IN A BEVERLY HILLS KITCHEN BY DESIGNER MICHAEL BERMAN.



The kitchen is the new dining room. It has become the backdrop for life," declares interior designer Michael Berman, the creative mind behind this voluminous kitchen in Beverly Hills. "I imagine it as a stage, and all the players are your family and guests. If you've choreographed and art directed the space well, it will be a smash hit." Working along with architect Magdalena Glen-Schieneman, builders Horizon General Contractors and lighting designer John Brubaker, Berman orchestrated a dramatic culinary platform with hints of three underlying themes: modernism, Art Deco and Asian minimalism. One of these calculated design references was the

arresting backsplash, crafted from Berman's own clover-hued Marquis design for Walker Zanger, which undoubtedly steals the show. "This tile pattern gives a nod to vintage pressed tin used for Deco ceilings and wainscoting in early 20th-century interiors, but also speaks of modernism. Plus, I love large wall spaces with soaring textured tile as backdrops to a cooking area. It's pure luxury." To balance the cool green tones of the tile and Holly Hunt dining chairs in the breakfast room, Berman crowned the space with a brushed-bronze hood that lends depth and design detail to the overall scene, while satin-finished cabinetry, complete with two commanding islands, impart eye-pleasing symmetry.

“I wanted to create a mix of finishes that worked well with the setting. The home is open to greenery, so it was a natural path to take our cues from the gorgeous foliage outside.”

MICHAEL BERMAN, MICHAEL BERMAN LIMITED



PHOTOS: BARRY SCHWARZ

To fill the sprawling open space of this Beverly Hills kitchen, designer Michael Berman opted for oversize double islands. "They are a great solution for dividing a long space into two separate cooking and prepping areas," he says, "and the solid walnut pillar legs create a furniture-like quality."



"This bathroom, particularly the mosaic floor, was about finding balance; not just in the scale of the space, but between past and present," says designer Chad Eisner of this Venice Beach, California, retreat. "It touches on historical references of what an old-world Tuscan home would be today."

BALANCE BEAM

WITH AN ARRESTING MOSAIC FLOOR AND MIRRORED BATHTUB AT CENTER STAGE, SOFT DETAILS TAKE A BACKSEAT TO REVEAL AN ELEGANT, TRANQUIL RETREAT.

It might sound surprising, but this bathroom is a study in restraint," says Los Angeles designer Chad Eisner. "It's really about 'less is more.'" At first glance, the Tuscan-inspired bathroom reveals a custom mosaic floor by Waterworks—softly reflected in a sculptural mirror-finished soaking tub by the brand—that packs a dazzling punch. But a further study reveals subdued draperies, rough-hewn reclaimed beams, modest hardware. "There really was no competing with that floor or tub," Eisner says about the space's protagonists, pieces selected and sited by the home's architect, William Hablinski. "So I wanted to keep the rest of the details simple." Eisner draped the double French doors in unlined sea green linen to diffuse sunlight, and selected an eye-catching yet uncomplicated light fixture. "The chandelier could have been really grandiose because of the large volume of space here, but the frame and finish are very simple, and the soft drapes of crystal beads provide a sensual line that casually moves your eye in and out." Ultimately, Eisner sought to create a warm, soothing oasis where every detail felt effortless. "This room overlooks the Los Angeles Basin, so it has a magical quality in that you can be soaking in the tub and no one in the world can see you, but you're looking over millions of people go on about their lives. It's a complete flip on privacy."



“Bathrooms are where we get ready to face the day. It’s so much more than washing your hands or taking a shower. It’s where we find our motivation, unwind and reset.”

CHAD EISNER, C.W. EISNER INC

FINISH LINE

THE RIGHT ACCESSORIES, DECORATIVE DETAILS AND MATERIALS CAN TURN AN ORDINARY KITCHEN AND BATH INTO THE HOME'S STAR.



FOR THE BATH

1) Linden Bath Oil, Library of Flowers, \$28; libraryofflowers.com. 2) Leiden Chandelier, David Iatesta, price to the trade; davidiatesta.com. 3) Vizcaya Lotion Dispenser, Kassatex, \$44; kassatex.com. 4) Throw, Black/White, BoConcept, \$129; boconcept.com. 5) Saraghina Catch-All in Curry Yellow, Klein Reid, \$142; kleinreid.com. 6) Legacy Crystal Bracelet 3" Pull in Black, Atlas Homewares, \$24.36; atlashomewares.com. 7) Seagrass Basket, Serena & Lily, \$98; serenaandlily.com. 8) Balsam Gazebo Candle, Agraria San Francisco, \$325; agrariahome.com. 9) Andria Tray Set in Aqua, Pigeon & Poodle, \$245; pigeonandpoodle.com. 10) Lismore Tall Footed Perfume Bottle, Waterford, \$110; na.wvrd.com. 11) Bollywood Etagere, Martyn Lawrence Bullard Design, price upon request; shop.martynlawrencebullard.com. 12) Margaux Freestanding Oval Cast Iron Bathtub, Waterworks, priced from \$12,000; waterworks.com. 13) Arabella Mosaic Tile in Carrara and Thassos, Urban Archaeology, price upon request; urbanarchaeology.com.

TEAPOT AND BLACK AND CRYSTAL CABINET PULL PHOTOS: JAMES WEINER.



FOR THE KITCHEN

1) Storage W., La Cornue W., price upon request; lacornue.com. 2) Dauville Handmade Platinum Glazed Spoons, Canvas, \$18 for 3; canvashomestore.com. 3) Greenwich Grove Cup and Saucer, Kate Spade New York by Lenox, \$40; lenox.com. 4) Marquis Pattern Octagon, Studio Moderne Collection by Michael Berman, Walker Zanger, price upon request; walkerzanger.com. 5) M1746 Bit Pull in Antique Copper, Dakota Collection, Top Knobs, \$10.90; topknobs.com. 6) Darjeeling G.F.O.P. Loose Tea Tin, Dammann Frères, \$18; shop.illy.com. 7) Spheres Teapot/Infuser Large - Wicker Handle by Nick Munro, Horne, \$155; shophorne.com. 8) Barrymore Dining Side Chair, Michael Berman Limited, price upon request; michaelberman.com. 9) Cinnamon Sticks, \$12.95; williams-sonoma.com. 10) Vincent Van Duysen Pottery, Suite New York, priced from \$244; suiteny.com. 11) Enamel Tile Napkin Ring in Olive/Gold, Kim Seybert, \$120 for 4; blisshomeanddesign.com. 12) Mauviel Hammered Copper Soup Station, \$620; williams-sonoma.com. 13) Traditional Pot Filler - Wall Mount, Brizo, \$861.30; brizo.com.