

# COCKTAIL HOUR

Designed for intimate soirées with stylish friends, this Palm Springs home recreates the glamour of Hollywood's golden age.

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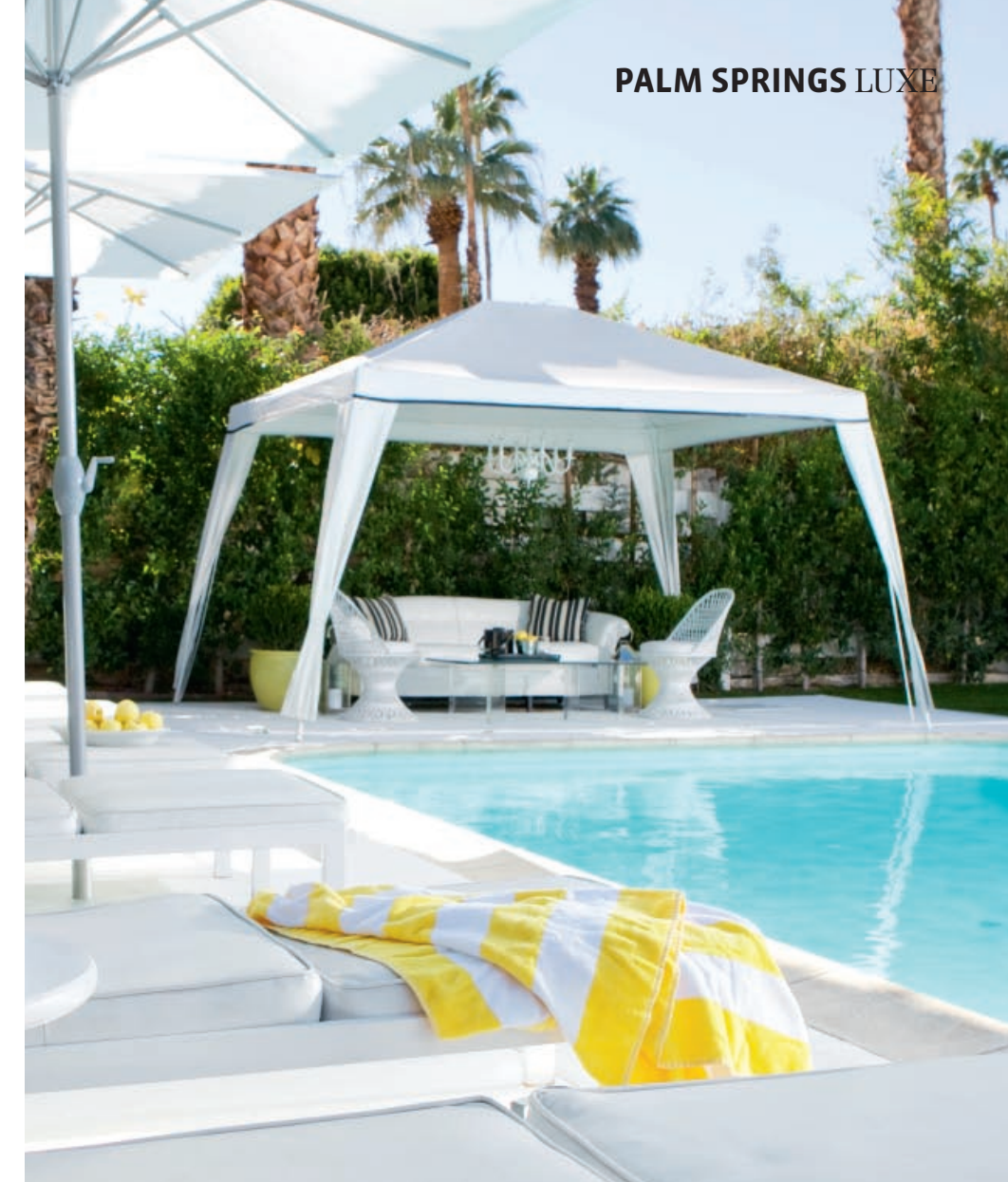


THIS PAGE The kitchen of David Jimenez's Hollywood Regency-style home was opened up to the living room. Vintage chrome stools at the breakfast bar. OPPOSITE PAGE The detailed white screen distills the bright hue of the canary yellow wall and is a clever alternative to artworks.





THIS PAGE The blue Naugahyde sofas and the yellow wall, representing the Californian sunshine, create a seamless transition between the pool and living room. Liberally scattered urns, lamps and books give the space a collected, comfortable feel. OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP The poolside ambience is reminiscent of a resort with umbrellas, pavilions and cushioned sofas, complete with yellow towels and abundant greenery.



designed the house for entertaining,” says David Jimenez of his Californian holiday home, which exudes the sophistication of 30s Hollywood. As the vice-president of visual merchandising and store design for Hallmark Cards, David’s lifestyle is somewhat celebrity-like, hopping busily between his homes in San Francisco, Palm Springs and Kansas City. David has played an important role in developing the visual aesthetic of Pottery Barn and Restoration Hardware, two major homewares stores in the US, and his design influence is seen in many an American home. His varied career and interests may explain his innate ability to emulate a particular style with great success. His elegant decoration of his Palm Springs home is no exception and it surely possesses the ambience for a fabulous party.

Originally designed by William Krisel and built in 1957 by the Alexander Construction Company, David bought the house in 2001, falling in love with its unique aesthetic. The house came with an out-of-date kitchen and bathroom and a backyard full of gravel, but its soaring ceilings and original rock fireplace offered great potential. “Besides,” he says, “Palm Springs is a very special place; the air smells better, the sun shines brighter and my spirits are lifted when I walk in the door.”

David wanted the mix of furniture to be eclectic, believing that you can inject more soul, character and wit when the furnishings aren’t all from the same era. Character is an apt choice of word for the house – you could imagine Greta Garbo walking into its Hollywood Regency-style rooms at any moment.

Developed in the 30s by designers such as Dorothy Draper and William Haines, Hollywood Regency-style decorating reflected the life and times of the movie stars, replicating their on-screen glamour in homes that were the setting for frequent cocktail parties. The polar opposite to mass-market decorating, the style hints at an interesting



and ostentatious life. Recognisable and copied worldwide, successful execution is rare, making David's home so unique. As he explains, the zebra rug in the main bedroom, mirrored console in the entry, and Greek key detail on the drapery valances in the bedrooms "all support a Hollywood feel".

To create a seamless transition between the living room and pool area, David has picked colours from the two areas to create a balance. The fresh blue of the pool is matched in the sofas, while the Californian sunshine is reflected throughout the house in the citron yellow cane chairs. Sharp black and white lines balance such vibrancy.

David visited local antique stores to find vintage pieces he loved and that would be a unique addition to the space. "I paired the vintage finds with new purchases to create a mix of old and new throughout the house," he says, noting the two Chesterfield sofas, found at a local thrift store, which he reupholstered in blue Naugahyde.

A penchant for lamps is apparent in the home. "I just can't get enough of them, and I often replace original shades with drum shades in black, white or metal for a more modern effect. Besides, everyone looks better in dim lighting." Such individuality is extended to the bedrooms, with different wallpaper used behind the bedheads to create a unique personality for each room. "It was an easy way to make the rooms look interesting without wallpapering the entire room," he says. The eclectic and varying themes are balanced by the floors, which have been covered in a white resin to unify the space and create a cool feeling to mitigate the heat of the surrounding desert.

Outside is also elegant, appearing as relaxed and stylish as a resort. Umbrellas, pavilions, cushioned sofas and wing chairs sit beside the swimming pool, the setting completed with yellow towels and white urns of fragrant flowers. Just like any house of its time, the furniture is arranged for conversation. As David tells it, his guests love the occasional martini, shared poolside. "Guests love the uniqueness of the house," he says, "the lightness of the rooms and how comfortable they feel in the space." While there are no film studio cameras rolling through his door, there most certainly is a bar. 🍸

For more on David Jimenez, see [djimenez.com](http://djimenez.com)

THIS PAGE David has worked with a limited colour palette in the house, creating a sense of harmony. Artworks were bought from local thrift shops. OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT David Jimenez in front of a wall of framed pictures; the combination of frames is eclectic yet together. Vintage chair in the main bedroom was bought at a thrift shop and recovered. Patterned wallpapers are a feature of the bedrooms.

**SPEED READ** Used for holidays and weekends, David Jimenez designed his Palm Springs home for entertaining, inspired by the glamour and sophistication of 30s Hollywood. • The Hollywood Regency style of decorating was a reflection of the life and times of movie stars and replicated their on-screen glamour. • David bought many pieces in local thrift or antique stores, combining vintage with modern. • Decorative wallpapers provide a graphic backdrop, and one colour palette is used throughout.

**THIS PAGE** Each bedroom features different wallpaper behind the bedhead, which was a way of injecting varying patterns and colours into each room of the house. Here, the patterned wallpaper is offset by a decorative wall sculpture, *Raindrops* by C. Jeré from Jonathan Adler. **OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP** The colour theme is continued in the details. **BOTTOM** The busy, metallic wallpaper is offset by a black painted mirror found in San Francisco; bed linen is in a classic design that does not compete with the other elements in the room.

