



The colorful hues of designer Jeffrey Alan Marks' Plain English kitchen, with dual islands painted Mushy Peas, are tempered by white lacquering and oak planks from New England Custom Floors. The sconce is from The Urban Electric Co.

California Calling

INFUSING WEST COAST COOL INTO A CONNECTICUT MANOR HOME PROVES A BEAUTIFUL CHAPTER FOR DESIGNER JEFFREY ALAN MARKS.

WRITTEN BY GRACE BEULEY HUNT | PHOTOGRAPHY BY TREVOR TONDRO/OTTO
STYLING BY ANTHONY AMIANO



A breakfast nook off the kitchen is enlivened by collected artworks. The banquette is clad in Loro Piana velvet and joins a Richard Wrightman table, Paul Ferrante pendant and Paul Smith for The Rug Company rug.

When the opportunity struck to purchase a 1928 Georgian Manor-style home in Greenwich—once decorated by his personal icon, Billy Baldwin—designer Jeffrey Alan Marks packed up his life in Montecito, California, energized by the prospect of test driving the Connecticut idyll and restoring the residence to its former grandeur. Naturally, one such home needed a showstopping kitchen at its heart.

“The house merited this very interesting kitchen,” muses Marks. The designer teamed up with Plain English (“their clean lines and

simple yet elevated cabinetry matched the legacy of the property perfectly,” he notes) to craft a layered space defined by a blue, green and pink palette—a request from his five-year-old daughter, James, that proved surprisingly sophisticated.

The challenge: Bringing an airy disposition to the room’s dark, patrician architecture. “By adding a large picture window over the sink, gallons of high-gloss white paint on tongue-and-groove siding, and window screens to enclose the bar, the space became breathable,” he explains. And *oh*, what a bar it is.



More glossy paint—this time emerald green, gives the feel of an old-timey pub room. Another star detail is the cocktail serving island Marks fashioned from an oversized antique French laundry basket purchased on a whim. “We spend a lot of time in there as a family; it’s cozy and intimate,” Marks reflects. “And whenever we have parties, it’s the room that everyone gravitates towards.” Coziness similarly defines the breakfast nook, a sunken space off the kitchen where casual meals are enjoyed fireside, ensconced in a green velvet banquette that echoes the tones of the bar.

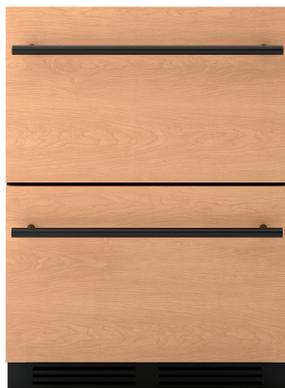
The living room, trimmed with Baldwin’s original moldings, graces the cover of Marks’ new monograph *This Is Home* (Rizzoli). Featuring an array of residences for repeat clients, the tome explores the idea that we don’t stay in multi-generational dwellings as our ancestors did—we move and change with the people we call home as compass. Practicing what he preaches, Marks recently sold the Connecticut property, embarking on a California comeback and leaving a transformed piece of history for its next lucky stewards.



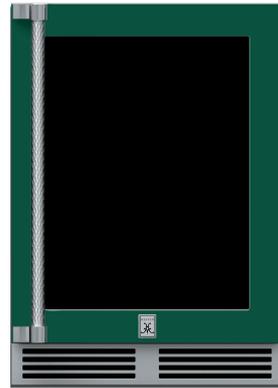
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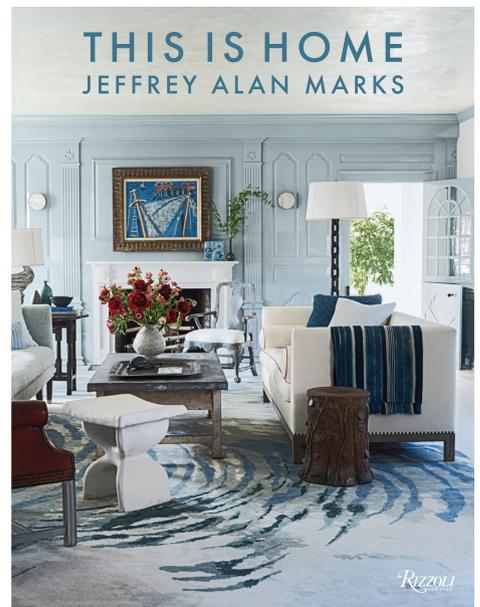
A Palecek lantern and chairs alongside a Sutherland table create a dining destination within Marks' English-inspired garden. More of the designer's home can be seen in his new monograph, *This Is Home* (below).

Living Laboratory

"I have always loved to garden, so elevating the outdoor spaces was a real passion project for me," shares Marks of his property's transformation. "The original owner in the 1920s treated the grounds with meticulous care, and I'm so happy they survived the past century," he notes, pointing to a vast green lawn with meandering seating areas, a "play garden" favored by James and the family puppy, a magnificent array of old growth lilac trees and a 100-year-old sunken English garden.

There, injecting his signature flair, Marks composed an outdoor dining room rimmed with espaliers "to give structure" and dotted with boxwoods in woven planters designed in collaboration with his longtime partner,

Palecek. Known for their emphasis on natural materials and traditional artisanal techniques, the Bay Area-based brand has collaborated with Marks since 2012, finding common ground in their shared coastal-chic ethos and attention to detail. "I love mixing my pieces into the garden. Right now, I'm experimenting with 10 different types of ropes for a new collection in development with Palecek," shares the designer, as he preps for his West Coast move. "It is a testing ground for all of my exterior product collections. People think California sun is tough, but I'm learning from the seasons here what will last and what won't!" jeffreyalanmarks.com, palecek.com





PRETTY PALETTE

RING IN SPRING WITH CHEERFUL TILES OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY WILLIAM BRINSON | STYLING BY SHANA FAUST AND ALEXA MULVIHILL

Clockwise from top: Porton Zellige Tile in Pure White / bertandmay.com. Rae Stacked Mosaic / annsacks.com.
2x6 Moroccan Zellige Bejmat Terracotta Tile in Artichoke / luccainteriors.com. 2x8 Cement Tile in Paste / cletile.com. Hexagon Tile in Rosemary with Henry Holland / bertandmay.com. Lido Nue Confetti Mosaic in Fenugreek Seeds / outercle.com. 4x4 Cement Tile in Azure and Grass / cletile.com. Fez Field Tile / walkerzanger.com. Helix Quad Terrazzo Tile in Limoncello / livden.com. 4x4 Cement Tile in Duckling / cletile.com. *Backdrop:* 12x24 Level White Matte Tile / walkerzanger.com.