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DRAMATIC DEPARTURE

The new quietly stunning decoration of this historically significant San Francisco home allows the grand architecture to sing

WORDS RORY ROBERTSON PHOTOGRAPHY MATTHEW MILLMAN





HALL

Graphic forms, including the mural by artist Judith Braun, echo the lines of the evocative staircase.

Overhead pendant light, sourced from Design Within Reach; try the Cross Braced Bulkhead light in Bronze, Porta Romana. Vintage bench, Wyeth. Kilim rug, The Line



FORMAL SITTING ROOM
The look is pleasingly symmetrical in this space, which lies at the centre of the house. In a corner (opposite) sits a sculptural round-top table from Pimlico-based interior designer Rose Uniacke, which the family uses as a games table.

Chelsea Square sofas, Dmitriy & Co. Coffee table, Wyeth. Sculptural custom side tables, Sebastian Parker Studio. Curtains in Kensington in White from Holland & Sherry. Light (opposite), Michael Anastassiades. Chairs, De La Espada. Walls in James White, Farrow & Ball

MEET THE INTERIOR DESIGNER

Chloe Warner shares her style inspiration and loves
WORDS TO LIVE BY You get what you pay for.
BIGGEST INDULGENCE Multiple heated benches. At first it felt very indulgent, but once they went in and the owners were actually able to use their outdoor space even during chilly San Francisco evenings we realised it was one of the smartest purchases.
SECRET ADDRESS Kokkari Estiatorio, a San Francisco Greek restaurant.
OBJECT YOU WILL NEVER PART WITH An antique chinoiserie screen from my great grandmother.
YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS Charming, layered, timeless.





KITCHEN

Forming part of the new double-height addition at the rear of the house is a contemporary open-plan cook space with informal living and dining areas.

The cabinetry was kept pared-back to blend into the living spaces.

Kitchen designed by Walker Warner Architects in white oak and built by Matarozzi Pelsinger Builders

The rebuild of this impressive 1920s house in the Pacific Heights neighbourhood of San Francisco was carefully steered by local architectural practice Walker Warner for its new owners, a young family. A plethora of highly skilled experts and consultants were needed for the project, as the house required foundation stud work before being pieced back together again. ‘To approach this build successfully we had to, effectively, take the house down to the studs and reinforce the foundations with steel, bringing it in line with recent earthquake codes,’ explains Brooks Walker, co-principal at Walker Warner Architects.

‘This district of San Francisco is full of beautiful houses,’ says interior designer Chloe Warner, founder and principal of Redmond Aldrich Design. ‘This is a particularly nice example and you can see the Italian Renaissance influence. We created atmosphere by layering textures and graphic forms rather than pattern and colour,’ says Chloe. ‘The neutral colour palette imbues the home with what I would refer to as easy-going elegance, and a flood of natural light creates a bright, open atmosphere that feels quintessentially Californian. White oak hardwood floors and a luxurious range of creams form the ideal backdrop, while the artwork adds pops of colour.’

The clients were heavily involved in the design process. ‘They were quick to zero in on the “feeling” they wanted. Timeless, uncluttered and tranquil were all keywords laid out in the initial interiors brief,’ explains Chloe. ‘We knew the project would have wonderful architecture and natural light so we deliberately pulled back on certain design elements. We also knew that to fulfil the brief properly, it

would take a restrained decorating touch, giving the architecture, and the art, an opportunity to sing. It’s an elegant house, but it’s also family-friendly.’

Nestled in the centre of the home, the formal sitting room, Chloe says, ‘showcases an artful execution of sophisticated, minimalist comfort. Contemporary statement pieces, such as the cast plaster Rose Uniacke table, add depth among the layered neutrals. Original casement windows and long wool curtains evoke a warm atmosphere while maintaining the room’s expansive feel.’ Next door, in the dining room, a commanding Ilse Crawford table nods to the grandeur of the home’s original Edwardian style. ‘Its presence is amplified by the home’s nuanced colour palette and balanced with a contemporary art piece on the wall,’ says Chloe.

The new double-height addition on the back of the building brings open-plan living to the ground floor, housing the kitchen and casual dining and living areas with views to the garden, which was designed by Scott Lewis Landscape Architecture. However, even though this is a new part of the house, Chloe has designed the interior to be a seamless transition so it feels completely coherent. ‘The large steel-box construction offers floor-to-ceiling windows and large sliding doors, continuing the feeling of limitless natural light,’ she says. ‘It has been designed to look out onto the century-old copper beech tree, an impressively large and beautiful feature of the garden.’ Yet another example of the sensitive intermingling of old and new that lies at the heart of this beautiful renovation. 🍷

■ Redmond Aldrich Design, redmondaldrich.com
Walker Warner Architects, walkerwarner.com

“A FLOOD OF NATURAL LIGHT CREATES A BRIGHT, OPEN ATMOSPHERE THAT FEELS QUINTESSENTIALLY CALIFORNIAN”

HOUSES



MAIN BEDROOM

Neutral wool curtains soften the architectural black window frames and give the space a feeling of warmth and comfort. **Curtain fabric**, Rogers & Goffigon. The **armchairs** are vintage; for similar, try Vinterior

EXTERIOR

The street-facing facade of the house has an elegant monochrome aesthetic thanks to the neutral rendering and original black window frames

MAIN EN SUITE

Built-in white oak cabinetry forms a beautiful dressing space in the bathroom. **Wall lights**, Waterworks. The **chair** is vintage; for similar, try Schmid McDonagh

ROOF TERRACE
Located off the snug,
the terrace is enclosed
with rendered walls.
Evia bench,
Galanter & Jones

