

LOS ANGELES

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Against that traditional backdrop, Dyer had to find a way to balance the couple's distinct sensibilities. "The husband really loves contemporary, and the wife loves warm and elegant," she says. "My job was to marry those styles and make them work within the house." However, there was one thing both parties had in common, the designer notes: "They don't like a lot of frill." The goal, says the wife, was to have a sophisticated-looking house, but one where "you could feel comfortable having a playdate in almost every room."

Given the tight time frame, Dyer decided to custom-make almost all of the furniture. "It worked better with their budget and was quicker," says the designer, who had matching sofas made for the living room, a breakfast table for an eating area off the kitchen and an upholstered bed for the master suite. Dyer complemented those designs with luxurious fabrics that "wouldn't feel too formal," she says of textiles like the Romo linen she used for the family room

Schey chose board-and-batten siding to give the structure a casual sensibility and framed the windows with shutters. A covered balcony extends over the front door, which is surrounded with Sweetwater natural stone. Patricia A. Benner designed the property's landscaping, which was installed by Tomer Levi of DoubleGreen Landscapes.