



BLUE BOUNTY

HUES FROM AZURE TO COBALT ANCHOR A WEST COAST HOUSE.

INTERIOR DESIGN BY **KIRSTEN KELLI LLC** ARCHITECTURE BY **LISE CLAIBORNE MATTHEWS**
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE BY **W. GARETT CARLSON**
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Bold blue, black and white are
tempered by the natural colors
in accessories. COVER AND THIS
PAGE: Vintage French table.
Hurricanes, basket and ginger
jar, all Madison. Art, Ben Shahn.
Ottomans, Williams-Sonoma
Home. Area rug, Missoni for
Stark. Staircase carpet, Merida.



T

"THE LIVING ROOM ABSORBED FURNITURE. WE KEPT PUTTING IN SEATING, AND THE ROOM JUST ATE IT UP."



Patterns add playful ease. Custom chairs in Schumacher ikat. Coffee table, J.F. Chen. Facing sofas, De Angelis, in Duralée cotton. Square pillows in Ralph Lauren Home fabric; Houliès trim. Ikat pillows, Madeline Weinrib. Other long pillows in Sachin + Babi for Ankasa fabric. Spool chairs, Maison au Naturel. Crystal bowls, Madison. Inlaid bench, John Robshaw. Carpet, Merida.





KELLI FORD, HALF OF THE SISTER ACT AT THE DESIGN FIRM OF KIRSTEN KELLI IN NEW YORK AND TEXAS, IS OVER THE MOON ABOUT BLUE. HER OBSESSION IS EVIDENT THROUGHOUT THE BEVERLY Hills vacation house she shares with her husband, Jerry. In the living room, tones as pale as the sky or as deep as the ocean prove both calming and cheerful. And in almost every room, there is at least one of the oversized blue-and-white ginger jars that have become a signature of Madison, the Dallas interiors shop Ford owns with her sister and business partner, Kirsten Fitzgibbons.

Ford had no trouble selecting the hues—from the navy silk

upholstery for a living room sofa to the blueberry woven carpet for the entry area's spectacular staircase—all anchoring a lively array of graphic textiles in the house's entertaining spaces. But when it came time to choose the perfect shade for the walls of her jewel-box dining room, Ford was stumped.

"I can't tell you how many different shades of blue we considered. Most of them looked too Federal," says Ford, who wanted to personalize the seven-bedroom house, designed by architect Lise Claiborne Matthews in the late 1980s for Sandy Gallin, a Hollywood talent manager who represented stars such as Michael Jackson and Barbra Streisand.

"Then we were lucky enough to be invited to the White House for a Christmas dinner," Ford recalls. "We got to the Ritz-Carlton in D.C. to check in, and our room wasn't ready.

Deep cobalt blue envelops the room, including paneling and trim. **THIS PAGE:** Antique Russian chairs, Sotheby's, in Clarence House fabric. Table, Moura Starr. Mirror, John Rosselli & Associates. Curtains in China Seas fabric. **OPPOSITE:** Lamp, Jan Showers. Custom sofa in Ralph Lauren Home silk. Mirror, Michael Taylor Designs. Custom chair in Missoni Home fabric.



Monograms dress up an upholstered slipper chair, *in foreground*, as well as bed linens. Custom sofa and banquette pillows in Home Couture linen. Ikat pillows, Madeline Weinrib. Coffee table, Paul Ferrante. Inlaid bench, John Robshaw. Lamp, Christopher Spitzmiller. Custom headboard, banquette and slipper chair, all in Duralee cotton. Bed linens, Matouk. Blanket and folded throw, Hermès.



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"MORNING LIGHT STREAMS IN, AND THE BEDROOM JUST GLOWS. WE DIDN'T CREATE BOUNDARIES WITH CURTAINS."





While we stood in the lobby, someone walked by with this Ritz-Carlton bag, and I said, ‘Jerry, that’s it! I found the blue!’ ”

Ford and Fitzgibbons custom-blended a deep cobalt to match. The end result—after a painstaking cycle of paint, dry, sand, repeat—is glossy and electric. “It looks spectacular at night, which is what you need in a dining room,” Fitzgibbons says, noting that the large sunburst mirror above the mantel practically beams in reflected candlelight.


During the day, sunshine pours in. “The windows are incredible,” says Ford. “We’re in love with the view of the city below. It feels like you’re on a yacht, the way the wide stairs lead up to the second-floor landing and the sky surrounds you.”

When the Dallas residents bought this house as their Los Angeles vacation getaway, hidden behind gates and an overgrown but beguiling garden, they were attracted by the struc-

ture’s modern aesthetic and traditional details—an ideal match for the sisters’ talents. The massive rooms, once the site of Gallin’s parties for hundreds of guests, needed Ford and Fitzgibbons’ gifts for creating intimately hospitable settings. “The living room absorbed furniture,” says Ford. “We kept putting in seating, and the room just ate it up.”

What keeps the sea of upholstery—three sofas, six chairs, two ottomans and one bench in the living room alone—from feeling like a jumble is the balancing act between strong prints and textured neutrals. Whites, ivories and mochas throughout provide a reprieve from dramatic color and pattern.

All of the furniture is put to good use. “When we come to town, it’s usually with a crowd. We almost always invite another family or two to come along—with kids and dogs. We adore this house. We like to fill it up.” □



White banding on blue upholstery makes the outdoors feel as decorated as the interiors.

THIS PAGE: Vintage chaises and chairs in Sunbrella fabrics. Table, Michael Taylor Designs.

OPPOSITE: Art, Keith Haring. Custom settee in Quadrille fabric; Penn & Fletcher embroidery. Chairs, Michael Taylor Designs, in Clarence House fabric. Vintage coffee table and side tables. Pillows, Holland & Sherry. Lamps, Christopher Spitzmiller.