



NATURAL BEAUTY

A MONTECITO ESTATE MADE TO FIT ITS
STUNNING SURROUNDINGS

TEXT BY JENNIFER BLAISE KRAMER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY KELLY TEICH

Architecture by Warner
Group Architects all
aglow in Montecito.



New skylights by Kingspan Light immediately flood this formerly dark home with natural light.

OPPOSITE An aerial view of the estate shows off intricate landscaping by Sam Maphis, owner of Earthform Design.



“THE STYLE AND INSPIRATION WERE TO CREATE A HOME THAT LOOKS AS IF IT HAS BEEN HERE SINCE THE 1920S.”

- WGA SENIOR PROJECT DESIGNER CHRIS RICHARDS

SET AMONG AN ACRE OF FORMAL GARDENS, palms, and oaks in Montecito, this Spanish Colonial was waiting to be opened up to its lush setting. In came the Warner Group Architects (WGA), along with Allen Construction, to remodel this 4,900-square foot residence, leaving no room untouched as they rethought everything from the entry—where they created an instant connection to the gardens—to the master bedroom, maximizing the ocean views. Making the most of so much natural beauty, the team managed to add more color and style inside and out, while ensuring all the details looked era appropriate.

“The style and inspiration were to create a home that looks as if it has been here since the 1920s,” says WGA senior project designer Chris Richards. “The remodel allowed the home to function better for entertaining,



ABOVE A reading room lacquered in Farrow and Ball Stiffkey Blue is layered in patterned upholstery from Schumacher and Raoul Textiles.

LEFT A new arched, paneled, wood door connects the brighter kitchen to the dining area.

OPPOSITE In the living room, antique chairs were refreshed with Scalamandre and Cowtant and Tout Fabrics.

refocusing the spaces and views to take advantage of ocean and mountain vistas.”

First the team added new steel doors and entry steps to create a line of sight from the front of house through to an 80-year-old palm centered at the back of the house. Next came large skylights positioned above living room and the dining table in the great room to flood the once dark home with light. Then, with all the newfound sunshine, came color—and lots of it. Since the living room, library, and kitchen are all within eyesight of each other, the design team decided on a palette of blue and white for consistency.





A custom wallcovering by Mural Sources brings the outdoors in to the master bedroom.

“We wanted the colors to all speak the same language as to create a cohesive and welcoming flow through the rooms,” says WGA senior interior designer Jamie Hallows, who skewed blue tones from navy that’s lacquered in the library to antique porcelain in the foyer, from the homeowner’s own collection. “In addition to liking blue and white, the clients are also not afraid of pattern,” Hallows says, adding that they matched upholstery and wallpaper in the guest bedrooms and the peacock-patterned media room.

Bright green, moody black, bold reds, berries, and yellows are among the other tones seen in the home—and in the gardens, where Earthform Design helped create that new entry and surroundings. “They did a fabulous job to make the house feel formal yet a piece of the land,” Richards says. “The amount of light that is now introduced into a previously dark space gives the home such a bright, inviting, and open feel.” **CH**