

COASTAL LIVING

The Treadwell kids use this hardy trestle table for impromptu art projects.

- SHOP THE LOOK: Wallpaper, Farrow & Ball. Drapery fabric, Jim Thompson



modern family

With soft furnishings, slick accessories, and gallons of white floor paint, designer Maya Williams turns a 1950s house in Pacific Palisades, California, into a hip beach retreat for a family of eight (and growing!)



meet the family

(clockwise from top left)
Valentine, 2, Miss Goes with the Flow; mom **Langka**; dad **Zach**; **Adelaide**, 9, The Sweetheart; **Hudson**, 8, The Entertainer; **Millie-Magnolia**, 3, Miss Popular; **Gigi**, 4, The Intellect; and **Mirabella**, 10, The Caretaker

movie night in the Treadwell family means six little ones are scattered across their parents' king-size bed. After a typical day of school (three different ones), music lessons (Adelaide plays the cello; Mirabella, the violin), and play dates (3-year-old Millie-Magnolia is the socialite!), the kids now pass snacks and share laughs in front of the TV. Parents Langka and Zach, who met as preteens at a New York boarding school, married in 1997 and have since adopted six children from four different countries: Korea, Ethiopia, Vietnam, and Kazakhstan. With so many living under one roof—each with his or her own set of activities and friends—the family needed a home that instills a sense of peace and quiet when they all return home at the end of the day.

Although Langka and Zach were smitten with the traditional charm of their shingled, Cape Cod-style house in Pacific Palisades, California, a west L.A. neighborhood with stunning vistas of the ocean, their mandate for its interiors was that they be modern, simple, and comfortable. Interior designer Maya Williams proved up to the challenge of creating a relaxing but vibrant retreat. “I realized there could be nothing that seemed contrived or fancy in this house,” she says. “Everything had to be real and natural, and less meant more comfortable.”

First on the agenda was to give the house's original dark oak floors and deep-hued walls a face-lift. “Langka

ON THE HOUSE

STYLE 1952 Cape Cod-style house with a modern, coastal California interior

SPACE 5,395 square feet with 6 bedrooms, 5½ baths, and plenty of garden grounds for roaming

SETTING Pacific Palisades, a beach community with a small-town vibe, between Malibu and Santa Monica

VIEW The clifftop vantage point yields vistas of a wide blue ocean, which turns to a shimmering pink by night.

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THAT DRIFTWOOD COFFEE TABLE! Maya commissioned the table base from a Florida artist who gathers natural wood from the beach and sculpts it into custom furniture. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Table, Carl Woodland

RUGS THAT LOOK LIKE SAND The rippled silk Tibetan rug, paired with sea-foam walls, hints at the beach beyond. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Rug, Aga John

CONTEMPORARY TURKISH PILLOWS Beachy pillows don't have to mean sailor stripes and anchors. Langka wanted global references that would reflect her family's diverse cultural background, so Maya brought in soft blue and green prints to pay tribute to the sea in a surprising way. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Sultan's Suzanni throw pillow fabric in Sage, Martyn Lawrence-Bullard





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THOSE GLEAMING WHITE FLOORS! The dazzling white, which the designer achieved by sanding previously dark oak floors and then painting a stark white polyurethane overlay, instantly brightens the rooms. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Floors in Designer White (33-1), Pratt & Lambert

BAMBOO CHIPPENDALE DINING CHAIRS (right) They're a modern, less formal alternative to the traditional look of 18th-century Chippendale furniture—and their bamboo backing gives a subtle beachy presence to a lavish space. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** For similar chairs, try Jonathan Adler.

BILLOWING WINDOW TREATMENTS To keep the look modern, balance the sense of sophistication and classic glamour with simple elements elsewhere, like a clean-lined table and contemporary black seat cushions. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Drapery fabric, Jim Thompson



“I wanted to create an environment that radiated happiness and freedom as soon as the kids arrived”

—DESIGNER MAYA WILLIAMS

ABOVE: The stairwell's marine-blue striped runner stands up to lots of traffic.

RIGHT: Landscape designer Sabine Höppner chose climbing roses, foxgloves, and sweet peas to echo the bursting-with-life household.

FAR RIGHT: A citrusy painting memorializes the family's beloved pit bull, Christmas, who passed away recently at age 16, and gives the breakfast room a punch of color.





Mirabella's chosen mode of transportation: hanging ten on her pretty pink board



was desperately seeking lightness,” Maya says. They sanded the floors and painted them with a super-durable stark white polyurethane overlay—what’s used on professional basketball courts. For the walls, they chose custom-mixed paint colors in gray-blue shades to mirror the vast ocean and sandy beach outside.

Maya furnished the house with a blend of plush upholstered pieces and slick, modern tables and accents. The mix of soft and strong elements creates the comfortable but clean feel the Treadwells wanted. Unnecessary clutter, like picture frames on Zach’s piano, was nixed to keep the emphasis on statement-making pieces such as the master bedroom’s extra-wide upholstered headboard, which runs nearly the entire length of a 17-foot-wide wall. “Langka is a minimalist because it keeps her calm,” says Maya. “Having less furniture puts a spotlight on what you *do* have, though, so those pieces need to have impact.”

In keeping with the casual mood, Maya let the house’s coastal surroundings guide her decorating choices. “It seemed like everything I was falling in love with for this home, from the shell chandelier in the master bedroom to

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THAT GRAPHIC WALLPAPER! A woven pattern adds energy and a dose of texture to the space. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Trellis wallpaper in Lilas, Manuel Canovas

GAUZY, RAINBOW-STRIPE CURTAINS The sheer fabric allows for privacy but still ushers in all that SoCal sunshine. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Najasa drapery fabric in Sonora, Designers Guild

THE CHEERFUL DUTCH DOOR On warm spring days, it brings in cool ocean breezes.

EDEN CLIMBING ROSES

PEEK-A-BOO! MILLIE-MAGNOLIA AND VALENTINE WAVE HELLO

An old camping chair sees new life with a slipcover made from Lee Jofa outdoor fabric. Floral pillows were fashioned with fabric from a vintage Kazakhstani dress.

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THE LESS-IS-MORE LOOK

Keeping walls mostly bare—save for a single mirror and paintings leaning above the mantel—creates a mood that is calm and uncluttered. Limit furnishings to statement pieces, such as a sleek chaise or a pair of shapely vases.

THAT EXTRA-WIDE HEADBOARD

It practically hugs those who sleep here. With low-slung lines, linen upholstery, and nailhead trim, the statement-making piece lends tailored glamour.

TEXTURED GRASSCLOTH WALLS

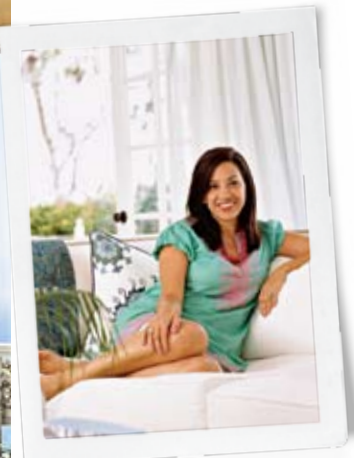
Go against the grain and let walls—instead of floors—tell the texture story. This grasscloth wallcovering looks like beach grass. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Sahara Weave wallcovering in Straw, Ralph Lauren Home

WHITE ANTLER WALL SCONCES

(opposite) Maya painted the originally dark brown light fixtures bright white to pop against the cheery yellow walls. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Sconces, Curry & Company



View of the Pacific Ocean from the master bed



meet the designer

Maya Williams is known for her beachy-casual, modern interiors. She advises clients, "Choose a mood for your home and then create it through wall colors and artwork."

the natural stone table in the breakfast room, was organic," she says. That also includes a driftwood coffee table base for the living room, white spray-painted antler sconces, and fireplaces filled with sea glass and river rocks. Print fabrics had to have botanical motifs, while solids were chosen for their natural textures. In the kids' rooms, Maya picked bright hues that echo the pink, purple, and yellow flowers in the garden.

The busy parents make sure to keep some spaces reserved just for adults, like the living room, which Langka admits is not kid-friendly on purpose. Its sophisticated furnishings, while not suitable for art projects or snack time, serve well for book club gatherings and catching up when friends drop by. While juggling busy schedules and taking care of their newest addition, a 2-year-old Ethiopian girl who arrived mid-January, the Treadwells find peace in their everyday coastal retreat. "We love being together in our home," Langka says. "It's like we live on our own divine island." ■ Sources: page 113

Maya lined the fireplace floor with broken sea glass for a touch of shimmer even when not in use.

