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LIVING



ENDLESS SUMMER

Home Front

By Joan Tapper Photographs by Gary Moss

A Light Touch

IN EVERY SEASON THE LIVING IS EASY.

Sometimes a move offers an opportunity to start fresh, to think about the activities and lifestyle that give us pleasure, and create a home to match. That's what a Westlake Village family did when they bought a one-story contemporary residence in their neighborhood and brought on certified interior designer Karen Shoener, president of Designs of the Interior (interiordesignwestlake.com), and her colleague Genaro Lagdameo to furnish the 7,000-square-foot space.

The home's light-filled indoor-outdoor design showcases patios, a pool, native landscaping, and a view of the hills. What the new owners wanted, says Shoener, was a family-oriented, comfortable, and welcoming interior. "They were drawn to a minimalist style," Shoener says, "with clean lines and neutral tones like white, off-white, and gray, with touches of blue and green." With two high school-age children and a large dog, "they wanted the house to be fun, creative, and a bit playful," she adds.

One surprising request from the owners was to forgo a formal living room and create a billiard room instead. The table was one of just a few pieces that came from their previous house, and Shoener and Lagdameo updated the color of the felt. The designers added high pub tables with stools and chairs that swivel to take in the landscape. "Many of the fabrics are high performance or high-end indoor-outdoor materials," Shoener says. "Easy care but luxurious looking." >



Only a few of the owners' previous furnishings made the move to their new Westlake Village home, but that included the billiard table, which became the centerpiece of an informal living room.



The huge dining room, which came with an artistic wine rack installed by the previous residents, needed to accommodate large parties. “I’d been dreaming about doing a round table that can fit eight or 10,” says Lagdameo. “Round tables have good feng shui, but it’s hard to find one that big. We had it made locally with a lazy Susan for serving.”

Warm hues keep the neutral palette from being cold or boring. “The leather sectional in the family room has a buttery tone,” Lagdameo says. To temper an atmosphere of formality, there are asymmetrical elements, like a narrow, live-edge table flanked by a banquette on one side and chairs on the other.

For the bedroom, the designers took their cue from the owners’ enjoyment of fine hotel suites and ordered two comfortable chaises, a hand-knotted wool rug, and luxurious bedding. “It feels like they’re on vacation,” says Shoener.

A highlight of the interior design is in the office. The owner had a collection of guitars, which had been mostly stored out of sight. “He was frustrated not to see them,” Shoener explains. “We got a cork wallpaper with embedded flakes of brass and designed a pleasing yet functional array of the guitars, an artistic display within easy reach of the homeowner. He was just thrilled.

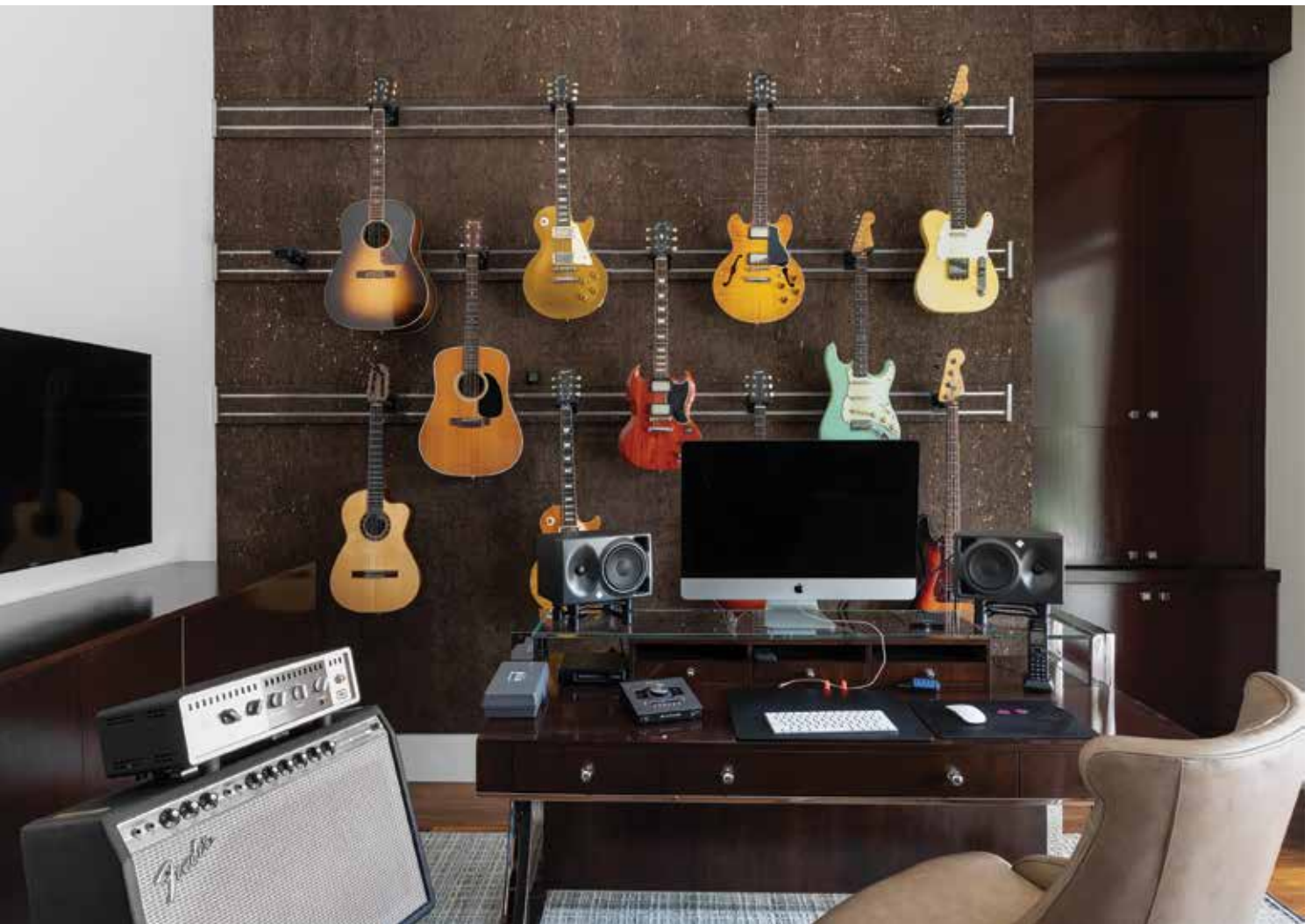
“We loved working with this family,” Shoener says. “It was a joy when we installed [the design] and saw their faces.”

The creators of the design were equally pleased with it. “Each room has a function, and your favorite changes depending on your mood and the time of day,” says Lagdameo. “The family room is about being together; the bedroom is for relaxing and unwinding. The furnishings outside are comfortable, and there you just want to be lazy. We designed the house before the holiday season, and we were geared to celebrations, but when we photographed it, the house seemed special for summer. It’s designed for their lifestyle all year long.” ♦

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Adding interest to the home’s neutral palette are texture and details like the chevron pattern in the dining room rug (top) and the channel stitching on the back of the chairs around the table. In the master bedroom (above) easy-care, luxurious-looking Perennials fabric covers the chaises, which invite relaxation.



The owner's office (above) provides a showcase for his guitar collection. The great room (below), which includes a dining area and a serving cart, opens to a patio, accentuating the sense of indoor-outdoor living.

