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SOUTHERN CHARM

Interior designer Palmer Weiss has suffused a mountain hideaway with an easy elegance straight out of the American South

WORDS JULIET BENNING PHOTOGRAPHY WILLIAM WALDRON/OTTO

HALLWAY
Shiplap adds character. 'This is a new-build home,' says Palmer. 'It was important to me to create an interior that felt established.'
Bench, Noir Furniture; covered in Italy XVII fabric, Arjumand's World





DINING ROOM

Palmer understands completely how art influences the way a house ends up looking. This striking flower linocut is by Alex Katz. Chairs, Hollywood at Home; covered in Nairobi fabric, Rose Cumming

SITTING ROOM

A modern coffee table was introduced as a foil to the antiques, ensuring the scheme does not feel stuffy. Curtain and chair fabric, Katie Leede & Company. Rug, Niba Designs



Everyone's hometown has a special place in their heart, but for interior designer Palmer Weiss her childhood city – Charleston – also plays a strong role in her work. And in this new-build holiday home near Lake Tahoe, California, Palmer's combination of old-world southern charm with a fresh modern approach has worked all sorts of magic.

Alongside architect David Horan, Palmer set about creating an older, more-established look that was distinctly different from those of her clients' neighbours, despite local constraints. 'We had some strict rules to contend with,' she says. 'For example, there were only certain colours and materials we could use. And there were rules about the ratio of glass to wood.' Inside, Palmer started by cladding the

walls with shiplap. 'For me, it's important to create an interior that feels like it has been established for years. The shiplap was an instant way to achieve this.'

Painted in Benjamin Moore's White Dove, the cladding offers the perfect foil to the eclectic collection of art sourced by Palmer. 'I have a background in art, so it's always wonderful when I'm able to use artwork. It is such an important part of the way a house ends up looking and feeling.'

For this project, Palmer bought antique prints, plus the striking, old-fashioned yet fantastical William Skilling painting above the fireplace in the sitting room and the more modern Alex Katz flower linocut in the dining room.

All over the house, Palmer's use of prints adds to its romantic charm, while a profusion of vines on the →



wallpaper in a guest room mirrors nature beyond the windows. The Robert Kime florals in the master bedroom evoke a country garden and the Arts and Crafts wallpaper in the downstairs bathroom suggests a slower pace of life.

Despite her love of antiques and traditional florals, Palmer's work can never be considered stuffy or staid. 'I also pick modern pieces, like the coffee table in the sitting room, to surprise people,' she says. 'That room would look so different with a heavy oak table, for example.' Her choices also reflect a need to create a home resilient enough to cope with children and dogs, often coming in from the snow. 'I love antique rugs and they're actually incredibly user-friendly, which is why I placed one in the office, which has direct access outside,' Palmer says.

Elsewhere, wool rugs in neutral colours from Stark recede into the background and don't steal focus.

Undoubtedly, the hallmark of a Palmer Weiss interior is the influence of her Charleston roots. Whenever the designer is in need of inspiration, she returns to her childhood city where she sources many items for her projects. 'My mother, Kathleen Rivers, is an interior designer and my parents built a country club in North Carolina from the ground up,' Palmer explains. 'I have used the same four-poster bed from their club in the master bedroom here.'

A piece of southern soul transplanted to the Sierra Nevada mountains, this home strikes a fine balance between new and old, elegance and practicality. ☺

■ Palmer Weiss, palmerweiss.com



STAIRCASE

Black accents provide a counterpoint to the white woodwork and panelling.

Mercer 26 pendant, Remains Lighting, Bamboo sofa, G4 Décor

PORCH

The unadorned windows frame the surrounding landscape beautifully.

Cocktail table, Mecox Gardens, Sofa and cushions, Lee Industries



BEDROOM

'The wallpaper makes guests feel like they are in the tree tops in a garden,' says Palmer.

Chippendale wallpaper, Bob Collins & Sons, Jenny Lind beds, Crate & Kids, Wool carpet, Stark



BATHROOM

An Arts and Crafts-influenced wallpaper creates an old-world feel, while a pocket door makes good use of space.

Charles Voysey Poppies reproduction wallpaper, Trustworth Studios.

Woodwork in Hague Blue, Farrow & Ball.

Altamont wall light, The Urban Electric Company

MASTER BEDROOM

Statement designs, including the four-poster hickory and cane bed and oversized pendant, help to fill the large, airy room.

Bed, Rusticks. Pendant, The Urban Electric Company. Blind in Talish, Robert Kime



INSIDER INSIGHT

Interior designer Palmer Weiss reveals her style tips

SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT

The best thing we did was insist on the shiplap. You would have a very different house without it and it wouldn't be as special.

GO-TO COLOUR Acid yellows and greens.

They cut through anything too contrived and make sure an interior doesn't look too old-fashioned.

WHAT'S YOUR INDULGENCE

Monogrammed linens – expensive but stunning.

FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS EXTRA

Paperwhite narcissus in silver bowls.

REAL OR FAKE TREE Real, definitely.

FAVOURITE FESTIVE SCENT

I love oranges stuck with cloves.

YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS

Timeless, colourful, eclectic.