

# CALIFORNIA HOMES

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THE ARTS & DISTINCTIVE DESIGN

## MOUNTAIN **MODERN** IN TAHOE

*Design in...*

LOS ANGELES  
SAN FRANCISCO  
SANTA BARBARA

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# STRADDLING THE LINE

A CONTEMPORARY HOME IN THE HILLS OF MALIBU IS FILLED WITH NATURAL LIGHT

TEXT BY KAVITA DASWANI | PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOMINIQUE VORILLON

The dining room and living room share one large open space. The dining table and chairs are by Max Alto and the pendant above the table is from Hudson Furniture. The rug is a custom design by THINKPURE for Christopher Farr. The art above the B&B Italia console is Robert Kingston.





The modern L-shaped home wraps the rectangular pool and faces both the Pacific Ocean and the Malibu Hillside. The outdoor sofa and chairs are Kettal and the chaise lounges and ottomans are Paola Lenti.



Hanging above the living room sofa is a painting by Udo Noger. The Leonard Sofa from Minotti provides generous and comfortable seating, along with two Quinn chairs and the Still Side Table, also by Minotti. The B&B Italia lacquer and metal coffee table comes with a leather ottoman that is perfect for a foot stool or extra seating in front of the fireplace.



The spacious kitchen opens to the pool on one side and a large terrace with mountain views on the other. The kitchen table is from Usona and the leather chairs are Aero Saarinen.

**K**ELLY SCHANDEL concedes that, faced with the prospect of conceptualizing the interior of a Malibu home, most designers might instinctively think: 'beach house'.

But the founder of the Santa Monica-based design house thinkpure veered somewhat away from that, instead electing for a modern and crisp setting that perfectly complements the contemporary style of the approximately 5,000 square foot home, and the pristine natural light that surrounds it.

"Even though it's in Malibu, it's so far away from the ocean, up on the

hillside, that it doesn't feel like a beach home," said Schandel. "It's too refined. So I wanted to do something with clean lines that was comfortable and elegant."

The clients - a couple who split their time between Southern California and Sun Valley, Idaho, enjoy the outdoors as much as they do entertaining a sprawl of grown children and extended family. Schandel said she aimed to straddle the line between masculine and feminine aesthetics.

"The husband is a cyclist and very athletic, so the space couldn't be too feminine," said Schandel.

As a result, the designer alighted on a palette predicated largely on

pallid and subtle blues and greys. These teamed well with the rich woods in the house created by architect David Montalba, founding principal of Montalba Architects in Santa Monica.

"There was wonderful teak mill work that had already been installed," said Schandel. "It provided a beautiful canvas for the furniture that we chose."

The seating in the living room is from venerable Italian brand Minotti, with an L-shaped settee and a pair of club chairs in differing shades of grey around a coffee table and ottoman by B+B Italia. Art in the living room includes pieces from Andrea Ramras and Udo Noger.

The streamlined, modern themes extend to the dining room, which

flows out from the living space. The focal point here is a Max Alto rectangular dining table made of brushed black oak, surrounded by Febo dining chairs that feature intriguing details like tone-on-tone raised stitching.

"It's stitching that is really designed to be seen," said Schandel. "It's another design element."

Overhead is a light fixture from Hudson Furniture that is a trio of large loops suspended by a pair of hefty chains.

"The client had actually seen the lighting a couple of years earlier and loved it. There is a certain timelessness to it," said Schandel.

The dining ensemble sits atop a custom-designed rug which