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Storybook Charm

DESIGNER ALISON PICKART'S FAMILY COTTAGE IN ROSS

TEXT BY KENDRA BOUTELL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY R. BRAD KNIPSTEIN

ABOVE "Living in California, we viewed our landscape design as an equal project to the building of the house, in doing so, we have a true 'indoor/outdoor' flow that we use throughout the entire year," says Pickart.

LEFT By the fireplace, a pair of acrylic and faux fur stools from Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams add a place to perch. Elegant sconces designed by Michael Amato illuminate the area.

Pickart is known for her ability to establish a fluid relationship between interior design and architecture.



the strapping and window trim while she painted the front door persimmon. The interiors received the same treatment of strong neutrals with pops of bold color.

On the first floor, Pickart reconfigured the rooms replacing the small service kitchen with a spacious double story one. With two children at home and two grown, this is the center of the house. An enthusiastic hostess Pickart exchanged the existing mid-century appliances for a Wolf stove, Sub Zero refrigerator and Miele dishwasher. The colors of the grey and white checkerboard marble floor repeat throughout the space. Pickart contrasted this with raspberry linen from Designers Guild slip covered on the counter stools.

For more formal occasions friends and family congregate in the living or dining rooms. A Carrera marble mantle acts as the focal point of the living room. Across from the fireplace, Pickart placed an English styled sofa juxtaposed with a sleek coffee table from Amy Howard. The same eclectic mix continues in the dining room where Cantilevered Chairs by Mart Stam surround her husband's heirloom pedestal dining table. Pickart added whimsical touches with a sea urchin pendant light and Ironies' Honeycomb Sculpted Resin Console.

Beyond the dining room, an outdoor cobblestone fireplace provides an inviting area for al fresco parties. Being able to share their completed home with others was essential for Pickart and her family. "Having a 'gathering place' where all of the people in our life would feel comfortable was important for us. We love to hang out and entertain friends and family in significant ways and in small." she says. CH

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CHARMING STORYBOOK COTTAGE located in the Winship Park neighborhood of Ross intrigued Marin designer Alison Pickart. Constructed in 1932 as a summer retreat from foggy San Francisco the two-story house remained untouched since the 1950's. Pickart and her builder husband, Ken bought the property in 2011. They lovingly restored and remodeled the dated residence upgrading it to a 21st-century family home. Pickart is known for her ability to establish a fluid relationship between interior design and architecture. In addition to her own firm, she is Principal of Interior Design at Sutro Architects. Opening the cottage to the outside, she replaced the windows and doors to allow more, light while respecting the architectural style.

Pickart painted the exterior a rich beige, Stony Ground from Farrow & Ball. To create a cohesive color scheme, she applied similar shades to

BELOW Christopher Farr's Bark Grasscloth in color Slate envelops the dining room. It is the perfect backdrop for an extensive collection of art, antiques and oddities.

OPPOSITE The designer describes her cottage as "comfortable, beautiful, curated... welcoming."





ABOVE The Hamilton Lantern by Urban Electric Co crowns the kitchen. Rustic accessories from Hudson Grace add texture to the room.



ABOVE From upstairs, an office loft balcony allows a view down into the kitchen and back yard.

LEFT Throughout the circa 1932 house, the designer maintained the storybook elements of the architecture while upgrading the function of the home.

BELOW LEFT Next, to the master suite the office loft allows for additional space. Pickart notes, "We are usually at capacity with family and friends."

BELOW RIGHT The upstairs master bath echoes the same soothing blue gray color palette of the adjacent bedroom.

OPPOSITE In the master bedroom, an abstracted landscape by Carolyn Emole adds a moody touch.

