

The title is set against a background of several thin, black, overlapping circles of varying sizes, creating a modern, geometric feel.

colorful + character

BOLD, SUBDUED,
OR SOMEWHERE
COMFORTABLY IN
BETWEEN, COLOR
ADDS LIFE AND ENERGY
TO ROOMS THAT ARE
POWERFUL, PERSONAL,
AND PROFOUNDLY LIVABLE.



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Art Centric

Inspired by the client's bold art collection, Bonesteel Trout Hall creates a house of color and bravado that enlivens a traditional new build in Pacific Palisades, California

art isn't usually the starting point of the entire design scheme in Heidi

Front sitting room Classic furniture pieces such as the blond wood console, the rum-color leather chesterfield, and the pair of caned armchairs are freshened with art such as the Ryan Mennealy ceramic lamp and the Bernardo Siciliano painting above the sofa. **Preceding page** The hand-painted Porter Teleo abstract watercolor pattern on the drapes and Roman shades and the trio of custom-made sculptural redwood drinks tables energize the traditional architecture of the sitting room.

Bonesteel and Michele Trout projects. It's often the ending point or, rather, the dessert to the main course of hardworking elements such as the floor plan, furnishings, finishes, and fabrics that typically happen earlier in the game. Yes, art is treated with importance, so much so that the designers often work with an art consultant in choosing just the right pieces.

All that changed, however, when the designers set their eyes on this particular client's big, bold, and colorful paintings from well-known artists such as Bernardo Siciliano and Frank Richard Myslive. These lively pieces from their art-aficionado client spoke so loudly to Bonesteel and Trout that they couldn't help but start with the art. "It's the opposite way we usually work, but I think it makes the rooms more exciting," says Trout.







"I think it's why we were able to bring this house so much life."

The biggest and boldest of the collection—an almost wall-size urban land and seascape painting by Siciliano—was the designers' clear choice to set the tone for the house. They hung it in the front sitting room, visible when walking through the front door.

Painted with broad swaths of color—layers of indigo, midnight, oceanic, and sky blue contrasted by rusty metals and setting-sun ochers—the painting (aptly titled *The Bridge*) bathes the pale gray room with rich, dramatic color. From there, the room's shapes and shades borrow directly from the painting's palette and texture. A russet leather chesterfield hosts a hand-painted pillow in ocher, orange, and blue. The custom-made redwood drinks tables—made to look like a trio of geometric polished wood sculptures—continue the industrial art theme. "We wanted them to be chunky pieces of art," Trout notes.

Opposite the chesterfield is the room's furniture pièce de résistance—a luscious emerald green sofa made from a brilliant textured fabric and dotted with acid-yellow throw pillows that reflect light from the large bay window. Hand-painted curtains in an abstract brushstroke pattern of inky black and bright Yves Klein blue frame the windows, allowing the tree-lined views to be living works of art. A strikingly modern pendant light with a jewel at the top illuminates the setting and confidently balances and brightens the strong furnishings below. "We customized the brass fixture with shiny black paint to make it bold and modern," Trout says. "Because the bridge painting is so bold, we decided to be very bold in every single piece in this room."

Just across the foyer from the graphic and lively living room hangs another oil painting, which inspired the pale-hue dining room. The piece by Myslve, a renowned 20th-century American painter, quietly informs the room. Curvaceous forms and a slightly subdued color

***Dining room** Brushed, buffed, or burnished brass in the light fixture, console lamp, dining table base, and nailhead trim on the dining chairs adds both sparkle and strength to the mellow-hue room.*

***Front sitting room** An indigo rug complements the warm terra-cotta tones in the rarefied, hand-dyed Thai silk fabric cushions and the chesterfield.*



The cool thing about this project is that the client said, 'You're the director of this movie,' and then ended up not changing one thing."

—designer Michele Trout

Breakfast nook Filling the rectangular breakfast niche with a large oval Eero Saarinen table gives the built-in banquette area a space-age upgrade. Periwinkle blue Peter Fasano fabrics bring a lighthearted charm to the area.

Kitchen Large circular shapes—the pair of oversize pendant fixtures above the island, the round ceramic tray from Nickey Kehoe, and the Ryan Mennealy ceramic vase with cutouts—modernize the kitchen. **Bar** Bonesteel Trout Hall designers customized a bland bar by wrapping it in soft gray wool and upholstering new custom-made shelves and chairs in a masculine black-and-gray tattersall check for a cozy, clublike effect.

Landing Employing large brass circle pulls and a custom teal blue finish, the designers created a console strong enough to hold its own under an Edward Hopper-esque oil painting.





Soft edges

To take the “square” out of traditional, Bonesteel Trout Hall often uses rounded shapes to add a sense of modernity and levity to a space. Throughout their client’s Pacific Palisades house, deliberately curvaceous furniture and accessories were chosen to warm up the squared-off edges and add an ever-so-slight tip of the hat to Art Deco and Streamline Moderne eras—giving the new house a subtle sense of history. Curving and circular forms in the Ryan Mennealy ceramic pieces, the custom pulls, and globe pendants add interest, modernity, and sensuality to otherwise square spaces.





palette—with pale yellow-greens and warm grays found in the silk mohair upholstered armchairs and the plush rug beneath the pale blue painted-glass dining table—were chosen to play against Myslive's art. Crisp black—in the chair legs and a 1940s-style console beneath the painting—offers a modern counterpoint to the more muted tones and finishes.

Art references take up residence throughout the rest of the house, as well—entry, bar, even the playroom and the breakfast area, where draperies have a painterly quality.

Master bath *The bath needed little extraneous decoration except for the globe pendant above the soaking tub, intentionally repeated from the kitchen to create continuity.*

Master bedroom *The custom, curvaceous master bed is upholstered in Rosemary Hallgarten ombré alpaca linen.*

Sitting area *The hushed tones for this relaxing spot in the master bedroom were taken directly from the artwork above the sofa.*



Upstairs, the theme continues in the master bedroom, where the custom-upholstered bed frame—a work of art in itself—was a challenge to create. Hand-painted ombré-faded fabric was carefully placed to produce a calming, misty effect.

Just as a master canvas is completely covered in well-thought-out color, form, and texture, so is every surface of this newly built traditional house made modern by the artistic alchemy of Bonesteel and Trout.

