



shades of white

SERENE SPACES FOR EFFORTLESS LIVING

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photography by mark lohman



ZEN ELEMENTS

JODI AND JOHNNY GOLDBERG'S SPRAWLING CALIFORNIA PROPERTY EXUDES A POWERFUL SENSE OF TRANQUILITY. BUT NEITHER THE RANCH-STYLE HOME NOR THE SURROUNDING GARDENS WERE ALWAYS THIS IDYLIC.

After losing their longtime family home to the catastrophic Montecito mudslide of 2018, the couple moved to their present Santa Barbara residence, where Jodi applied her magical makeover formula to transform the interior and tame the wild grounds. "I was grateful to have this project to focus on. It helped us to heal from the loss of everything we knew and loved," says Jodi, who owns Jodi G Designs, an interior and landscape design firm in Santa Barbara.

ABOVE Lush and verdant plants, vines, and trees cloak this enclave in privacy. Oversized chairs work well for this space and create a comfortable spot to read, listen to birds sing, or watch the sky at dusk.

OPPOSITE Jodi made a lot of changes to the landscaping to make it her own. "I added olive trees for privacy, potted plants, fountains, and, of course, Buddha. I made sure to create a drought-tolerant garden that's easy to maintain."





ABOVE "This marble Buddha was a special house-warming gift from a friend to bless the house," Jodi says. "His necklace is made of irregular pearls with a selenite crystal pendant. Selenite is believed to have cleansing qualities and dispels negative energy, hence bringing calm and protecting the home." The two gold crystal hearts that lay in front of the Buddha were also a gift to Jodi from a friend because of their meaning. "She says I remind her of love and hearts symbolize this sentiment."

Jodi has always been sensitive to space and light and how they impact one's emotional and environmental wellness. "I wanted to create an organic, light-filled sanctuary," she says, adding, "The key points of spaces designed with a holistic approach are functionality and energy flow. For me the process is very intuitive." And that feeling of wellbeing is exactly what was achieved with her soothing palette of whites and creams, layered with natural textures and finishes, brought to life with collected and meaningful art and textiles.



RIGHT The home has been designed to encourage engagement with the outdoors. The living room opens to a terrace complete with a comfortable seating area surrounding a fireplace, overlooking the garden below. "We love to sit out here to work, relax, dine, watch the sunset, and take in the ocean views," Jodi says.



LEFT Above the original fireplace a piece by San Francisco-based artist Trudy Lynn Elliott features vintage ivory African mud cloth with cowrie shells, white rooster feathers, and white spindle shells. Jodi commissioned the mirror from a local artist who collects driftwood from Santa Barbara and near-by beaches. Floor pillows and a pair of low chairs add to the relaxed feel and tie in with the various natural elements of the space.

ABOVE Jodi found these two stacked bone pieces from Africa through a curator in Los Angeles.



OPPOSITE ABOVE "The dining-room area called for a massive piece," says Jodi, who selected a live-edge organic Suar table from Indonesia. "The movement and aesthetic of the table captured my attention," she adds. In the background a stripped and stained palm-tree trunk from Bali makes an exotic sculptural statement. "I was drawn to the piece because of the color and size. It adds a unique grounding element," Jodi says.

OPPOSITE BELOW LEFT A sculptural teak-root console displays sacred items collected by Jodi from her travels. The wall hanging by artist Trudy Lynn Elliott is made with ethically sourced shells and feathers. A faux zebra hide accents the foyer's inviting and spiritual mood.

OPPOSITE BELOW RIGHT "I love how when someone opens the front door, they are greeted by the beautiful table and ivory faux-fur chairs. This dining scene helps set the tone for the entire house," Jodi explains.

ABOVE The wide-open main living space facilitates an uninterrupted flow from one room to the next and to the outdoors. "It was designed for entertaining family and friends," Jodi says. "My husband, Johnny, and I wanted a beautiful space that we could live and play in. We envisioned an organic living area with a seamless connection from inside to out." Jodi is careful not to over-complicate the space, relying instead on natural elements that come together in layers of texture and neutral hues.

"The large sofa was the perfect addition to the open living room," she notes. "I love a sofa with a chaise to comfortably curl up and watch a movie." For contrast and texture, she chose African mud cloth for the pillows. "It has been a favorite go-to textile in my design practice for the past twenty years," she points out. A wool rug offsets the sleek glass of the coffee table and helps warm up the expansive space. "It's also soft and comfortable on bare feet—a must!" Jodi adds.

RIGHT Jodi updated the kitchen with the black accents from the lighting, hardware, and barstools. The wall hanging holds a special meaning. "An Australian woman founded a company to help sustain the lives of the women of the African village where it was made," Jodi explains.





ABOVE Set against the linen-upholstered headboard, pillows in Jodi's signature African mud cloth add gentle ethnic touches to the neutral room.

RIGHT Cherished gifts from friends and family as well as pieces collected from faraway lands, including some crystals, sit close by on a simple bedside table. "I have always been drawn to crystals because of the energy they give off and the calming presence they provide," Jodi says. "When I travel I can't help but collect new ones."

FAR RIGHT The leanly furnished master bedroom takes on a Zen persona with its simplicity and meditative elements that reflect Jodi's mindful approach to living. Large windows draw nature inward, enhancing the peaceful and stress-free feeling. The quiet decor is intentional and the room includes eco-friendly materials like the custom hand-carved bench made by Jodi's favorite Santa Barbara woodworker.





OPPOSITE A spa-worthy freestanding soaking tub is the focal point of the bathroom. An antique console balances the modernity of the space. The delicate sculpture of a woman is very dear to Jodi, as it was a gift from her mother, who has since passed. The tribal feather and beaded artwork establishes a connection to the rug.

ABOVE "In the past, I never really included blues in my designs. But recently I've really enjoyed bringing the color into spaces," Jodi says. "One of my favorite ways to incorporate a pop of blue is through indigo fabrics, like the pillows and throw in this room." Above the bed a traditional tribal African juj hat symbolizes prosperity. "I love integrating these hats into my designs to bring texture, culture, and personality to a room," Jodi says. Though the nightstands are made with reclaimed wood and the lamps are new, the colors and shapes work harmoniously together.

The main open-plan living area includes a spacious living room, dining room, and kitchen, each opening onto a terrace overlooking the gardens and the ocean beyond. Having the inside flowing seamlessly into the outdoors was important to Jodi, who cherishes the connection to nature.

Both Jodi and Johnny, who is known professionally as Johnny G and invented fitness programs Spinning, Kranking, and In-Trinity, often work from home, so Jodi made it a priority to design inviting spaces where they could let their creativity flow.

Throughout the house, raw materials, patterns of light, and furnishings with straightforward lines lend a sense of aesthetic calm. Jodi casts aside clutter yet keeps rooms highly personal with meaningful pieces that reflect the couple's philosophy of peaceful living.

Visually balanced, gently contemplative, and thoughtfully furnished, Jodi and Johnny's home is a study in serenity where nature, culture, and harmony are purposefully and skillfully united. "It's our Zen retreat," Jodi says.