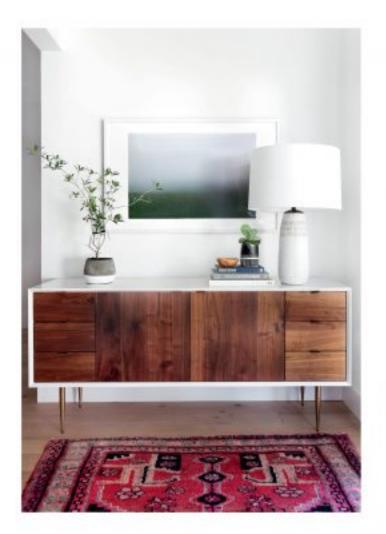




Lifestyle









MODERN CLASSIC

"It's all about finding a nice balance and flow between [old and new]," says Lewis, who decorated the ranch-style home with patterned rugs, lush greenery and statement lighting.



Fabulous and Client Pretty Much Perfect would pique your interest.

Fortunately, when the designer in question is Los Angeles-based Amber Lewis, behind every client name is a home brimming with laid-back, eclectic style. In fact, Lewis's look is so unique and well honed that it brings people to her. "My style has evolved with the places I've lived and travelled to. Now clients see my style and come to me for it."

That was the case for business owner Christina and her magazine editor husband, Josh (aka Client Freakin' Fabulous). They gave Lewis

carte blanche to overhaul their ranchstyle home in Costa Mesa, a beachside town 45 minutes south of LA.

"[Christina and Josh] had full faith in me," says Lewis. "They were the definition of an easy client. I had a fun time designing with Christina. She was also into the process of the project."

The process, in this case, was extensive. The house had a boxy layout in need of reconfiguring, and required new windows to bring in light, not to mention fittings and furnishings for almost the entire house - all with the constraints of a tight budget. "They really didn't like anything [about the original house]," admits Lewis.

Like many modern collaborations, Lewis and her client kicked off their journey with a shared Pinterest board. "Christina was Pinterest-obsessed," >

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says Lewis. "But she found some of my favourite pieces in the house [there]."

Once Lewis understood the couple's style, she worked to avoid that "we bought the whole showroom look" by meshing new buys with second-hand finds. Next came some of Lewis's signatures, like almost-blinding white walls, brass fixtures and ethnic cushions.

In fact, it was a love of cushions and an overflow from her projects that encouraged Lewis to start up her online store, Shoppe. It's been so successful that the designer now runs a bricks-andmortar showroom that houses her office.

While Client Freakin' Fabulous have recently welcomed a baby and called on Lewis to deck out their nursery, next up for the designer is an overhaul of her own home. And given that she's a "control freak", the client name she gives herself might already be set in stone!

"I wanted the house to represent the owners – they live near the beach, but have a little edge, so I wanted an eclectic feel"

- Amber Lewis, interior designer







