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EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN | SAN DIEGO

THE SPACE WHISPERER

Interior designer Christie May gleans inspiration from each home or venue, then works her bespoke, innovative magic



“From the time I was a child, I could walk into a room and feel the space—what was working, what needed to be changed,” says interior designer Christie May. “After nearly 20 years in this field, I’ve honed that skill even further.”

Founded in 2014, May’s Solana Beach-based firm, Rockwell Interiors, is a full-service boutique design haven with a fresh, innovative approach specializing in new construction and full remodel projects. May’s aesthetic celebrates clean, modern lines and luxe detailing with a touch of whimsy and a bit of an edge. Broad architectural and construction knowledge and experience allow the Rockwell team to streamline every aspect of a project.

Yet no two projects are alike, says May. “Everything we do is fully custom. We love getting inspiration from our clients—and from their home or venue—then crafting a one-of-a-kind design filled with beautiful finishes, thoughtful details, and smart solutions,” she says. “Our goal? Spaces that feel fresh, unique, and modern—never trendy.”

May’s talents are on full display in a recent full gut renovation of

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: In this Solana Beach home, the clients’ love for art and whimsical design is on full display in a thoughtfully designed living space. May’s finishes—including oversized, textured pendants above a live edge table—act as art themselves. The green kitchen includes an expanded footprint and pass-through window to the home’s inner courtyard. A sophisticated yet playful tropical print adorns the walls of a bathroom. Cedar shake siding adds warmth to this outdoor living space while thoughtful lighting and furniture enhance a relaxed feel.

an iconic Solana Beach home. The clients, an eclectic and artistic couple with three young children, wanted an eco-friendly, nontoxic home with a hip, modernist edge that reflected their family’s love of tropical travel. A green kitchen was one of the clients’ main requests, allowing May, the architect of the project, to let her creativity fly.

“We reconfigured walls, created new spaces, removed false beams, raised ceilings, enlarged windows and doors, changed every finish, and crafted a bifolding pass-through window from the kitchen to the home’s peaceful, leafy exterior,” she explains. Post remodel, this high-end home is a neighborhood showstopper.