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CHRISTIE MAY

She earned her chops under one of San Diego's most in-demand interior designers. Now, Christie May is an unstoppable force on her own with Rockwell Interiors (rockwell-id.com). Just two years in, her boutique design studio has brought modern-glam good looks to everything from a next-level cocktail lounge in North County to high-end homes across the city.

"I appreciate all styles," says May, formerly a lead designer at Jules Wilson I.D. for seven years, where she helmed residential and hip, smaller-scale commercial projects. "I like to put my own spin on things. If a project is really modern, I wouldn't hesitate to throw in an antique piece so it doesn't feel sterile. If it's traditional, it's never by the books."

May, who named her fledgling firm after her three-year-old son, Hudson Rockwell, adds elements of unforgettable flair to every space. At Shelter, a hip Encinitas hangout, she hung large chandeliers, an especially dramatic accent when

the retractable ceiling is open. In a kid's bathroom, she customized a Japanese ceramic tile and paired the eye-catching black-and-white pattern with an emerald-green vanity. She has a particularly deft hand when it comes to finishing touches like wallcoverings and hardware.

"I make a statement but keep it timeless," says May, who posts her greatest hits on Instagram (@rockwell_interiors). "I recently put a white hex tile in a shower, but used black grout and a different scale for the floor and alcove. Then I capped it in marble, giving it a high-end look. The little details are what I love about design—pulling out the tricks to make it dynamic."

One thing May doesn't do? Repeat performances. "Each project is a chance to create something new," says the designer, whose current roster includes a midcentury-modern Point Loma house and a new build she's overseeing from start to finish in Kensington. "I never like to do the same design twice. I won't even use the same fabric!" ■

GLAM SLAM From left: A recent Rockwell Interiors project in Cardiff is decidedly Hollywood glam; designer Christie May strikes a pose.

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