

PRO TIPS

before & after

QUIET TIME

Just west of Silicon Valley, interior designer Bynn Esmond helps a family blend form and function in their forever home.

- INTERIOR DESIGN BY BYNN ESMOND DESIGNS
- PHOTOGRAPHY BY AGNIESZKA JAKUBOWICZ
- STYLING BY FORSLUND FLORALS AND DESIGN

“Approximately nine years ago, the clients bought their forever home and immediately began the remodeling process,” recalls interior designer Bynn Esmond. “Several years in, without an interior designer on the team, the interior had not been finalized and the contractor was in the process of retiring from the industry.”

The home was down to the studs and the homeowners realized that the scope and breadth of the project warranted Bynn’s expertise. “They wanted their home to be truly custom and designed specifically for their daily use and lifestyle—clean and low maintenance were their main directives,” she says. For the next four years, she worked closely with the couple to iron out every detail. Visually, they had a strong desire to minimize use of colors, patterns, and textures, so Bynn emphasized neutral, tone-on-tone colors and muted decor.

Aesthetics aside, there was an element of technology that had to stay at the forefront. “Despite their proclivities, the clients were true to their engineering and minimalist roots and preferred function over form in all manners of decor and feel,” she says. “In full recognition and appreciation for the engineering thought process of my clients, I tailored our weekly brainstorming sessions to be both collaborative and methodical.”

High-tech equipment was brought in to run and monitor the house. “We utilized cutting edge solar technology, Tesla Powerwalls, security and monitoring, and a built-in data center running Lutron HomeWorks, which enables the homeowners to seamlessly control all aspects of the home—lighting, temperature, and window coverings.”

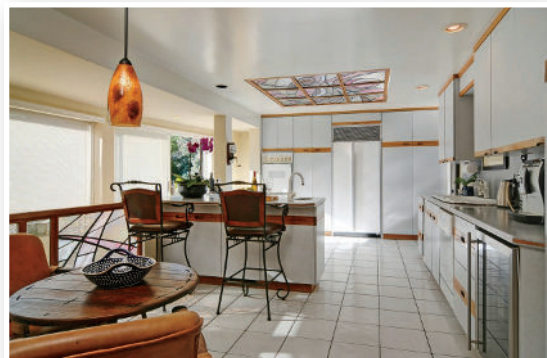
Week by week, considerable time was spent ensuring every wish-list item would be checked off. “I enjoyed working with them very much, and through this journey with them have really gotten to know the family well,” Bynn says. “Though it has been a long journey for me—as well as the homeowners—the home is one they are proud of and one that is truly unique to them.”



1. The kitchen was intended to be the heart of the home but was designed to be minimalist with European “hidden kitchen” elements. They used Neolith porcelain slabs for the countertops, backsplash, and even the walls. “To warm up the all-white space, we used a beautiful wenge wood with a special epoxy coating for the breakfast bar,” Bynn says. “This exotic wood was an obvious choice because the grains are very vertical and tight, without crazy wood grain patterns.” Appliances are by Miele and Wolf, the sink is by The Galley, and the plumbing fixtures are from MGS and Baril.

2. The bar has a modern industrial aesthetic. “Structural requirements necessitated steel beams and posts,” Bynn explains. “We incorporated these elements by wrapping them in blackened steel to continue the pattern.” The walls are painted in Benjamin Moore’s Simply White.

3. Two wenge-wood pocket doors lead to the living room. “One of my favorite elements is the blackened steel fireplace that nicely ties in the staircase and bar downstairs,” the designer says. “It contrasts perfectly with the concrete panels used on that wall.” The house is also equipped with Kolbe windows, Centor accordion-style patio doors, and light fixtures from TechLighting.



BEFORE

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AFTER

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