

# MAKING HISTORY

AN ACCLAIMED LOS ANGELES ARCHITECT TEAMS UP WITH A LAUDED  
INTERIOR DESIGNER TO CREATE A HOME WITH AN OLD WORLD-INSPIRED VIBE

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# “When I look at this house, it’s a wonderful collaboration between designer and client.”

—INTERIOR DESIGNER ANNETTE ENGLISH

It’s not exactly common for family members to live next to each other, let alone in different houses on the same property. Yet it’s exactly how the story unfolds for Los Angeles-based architect Richard Landry, AIA, of Landry Design Group, who enlisted interior designer Annette English, founder of the eponymous L.A. design firm, to work on a home in the gated community of Summitridge near Beverly Hills. Landry and English, who have worked together on numerous projects including a 34,000-square-foot residence for actor Mark Wahlberg in Beverly Park, were up for the task for creating a ground-up home for an expectant daughter and her husband on a 10-acre lot with her father. “They are super close and wanted to live close to one another, so it’s very special,” adds English.

The 6,000-square-foot, two-story guest house residence constructed with limestone walls and an old world, mediterranean-inspired feel was designed around an existing oak tree on the property. “It looks like it’s been there forever, and anchored in history,” explains Landry who incorporated the tree into the courtyard design. “We didn’t want the guest house to be too imposing next to the main house, and we weren’t trying to copy the main house. We thought, ‘what if it looked like that building was there 300 years ago?’, and as if the building was there long before the house.”

For the interiors, English created a palette consisting of soft oatmeal tones, soft blue and gray tones, and hints of green and brown. “We wanted to keep it fresh, light, and youthful, and the client wanted it to be casual, comfortable, and nothing too precious, with carefully placed pops of color that come in the form of accent pillows and accessories,” adds English of the

castle-like residence. “Her favorite style is Cape Cod, and she had also lived in a house in Surrey, England built in the 1800s, and she loved that style, and wanted to tie it all in. She loved creaky floors and crown mouldings, and I think the French oak hardwood floors have that look.”

In the living room, (beamed ceilings extend as high as 16-and-a-half feet), English strategically placed custom-built wrought iron chandeliers to create volume, but positioned them low enough to encourage an intimate environment. She also selected a distressed wood console by Rose Tarlow, Kneedler-Fauchere chairs, and a side table by Michael Smith for Jasper. “There’s this Old World meets new quality, and the furnishings are light and fresh and more youthful,” adds English. “This style of architecture could potentially go into heavy velvets, and I think we brought a bit more with mixing patterns and textures.”

The Master suite in soft gray and blue tones is a serene retreat for the couple with a custom-designed bed flanked by a flowery, linen canopy, bedside tables by Century Furniture, and an upholstered bench by Formations. “It’s a very comfortable space that you want to hang out in and read a book,” says English. The adjacent bathroom was designed around a custom mosaic tile floor pattern and appointed in soft grays and whites to match the Master suite. In the boy’s room, English and her team created a youthful, but grown-up space with hardwood floors (a departure from most kids rooms lined with wall-to-wall carpeting), a comfy Moroccan-inspired area rug, and a playful, custom Big Ben-style clock made by Grimaldi International. “We had never made a clock before, and the client wanted a mix of Big Ben and Peter Pan,” adds English.

“When I look at this house, it’s a wonderful collaboration between designer and client,” adds English of the year-and-a-half-long project. “We started when the client was pregnant and was looking for a home for their young, growing family. I think this house is filled with love, and there’s kind of this energy there. It kind of just wraps its arms around you when you enter.” **CH**



**LEFT** “The stone fountain is located near the front door and is a nice break on the façade of the exterior,” says English. “The sound of trickling water can be heard and enjoyed whether you’re at the front entrance, the front courtyard, or the back yard. It’s a timeless, traditional element.”





**ABOVE** "The client wanted something that has traditional charm, but that felt updated and fresh," says Landry of the crisp kitchen with upholstered bar stools and wrought iron pendant lamps from Formations. "The house is really bright and open." **RIGHT** "The Californian Mediterranean architecture influences the great room with the use of stone walls and dark-beamed ceilings," says English of the living room with a custom-designed sectional sofa and coffee table. Chandeliers are from Reborn Antiques. "Given the client's desire for a Cape Cod influence, we were able to create this with the addition of painted casework in the great room, kitchen, and dining banquette. The steel doors and windows are the perfect backdrop for the magnificent views and gently invite the outdoors in, quintessential to the California living we so enjoy in L.A."







**LEFT** "We kept the bedroom experience light and airy by keeping the molding paint colors light and adding a soft, colored wallpaper to the walls," explains English. "We customized the headboard and canopy and with these elements we feel that this room speaks to the client's love of the Cape Cod style. The colors are soft and serene and create a lovely sanctuary." **ABOVE** "The mosaics add sophistication while the white-washed ceiling beams give off a casual vibe," adds English of the master bath. "There's a harmonious dialogue between the two elements."