

The grand salon with Finley Design sofas, table, and chairs. Lighting by Tom Dixon. Branch light over table designed by Finley Design and created by Christopher Pascand.





MODERN LUXE LIVING

A SEAMLESS BLEND OF AN INDOOR/OUTDOOR LIFESTYLE
IS THE SHOWCASE OF THIS DESIGNER'S HOME

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WHEN AMY FINLEY HAS A VISION FOR A PROPERTY, SHE HAS MORE TO CONSIDER THAN THE AVERAGE DESIGNER.

Often living in the home for a period of time before putting it on the market, she has to ensure that the space works not only for the next homeowner, but also that it can comfortably fit her own family, which includes five children ranging in age from 2 to 13.

“This house was really built as a spec, but my husband really liked it,” says Finley, who worked on the project with Larry Case of Case Group Architects. “I was pregnant with our fourth when we began building it, and our house had gotten too small.”

They moved into the home in Rancho Santa Fe, California—the designer’s first attempt at modern—on Christmas Eve 2006, and, thanks to mild weather, the family has been able to take advantage of the indoor/outdoor lifestyle that was so important for the owner of Finley Design, located in Del Mar, to incorporate into the estate.

“When you live in California, you’re outside 24/7,” she says. “The house was designed for no thresholds, and there are these giant French doors that open up so those rooms can become indoor/outdoor rooms,” she says of the 12,000-square-foot home that has seven bedrooms, nine bathrooms, and a guest house with kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, salon, and private patio. “Any room that opens directly to the outside is my favorite room in the house.”

One of those rooms is the grand salon, bathed in soft, reflective light, thanks to fixtures by Tom Dixon of London. The focal point of the room is a grouping of six ottomans covered in purple cotton velvet. Stacked three by three with wedge pillows separating the sides, the setup allows the adults to relax by the wood-burning fireplace while the kids can get comfortable on the opposite side, which faces the flat-panel television.

“It’s a big playset for the kids, but it’s also really great for parties,” says Finley, who was born and raised in Carlyle, Illinois, the daughter of an artist mother and a sculptor father.

The formal salon also opens to the outside, with three French doors softened by silvery curtains. In fact, the entire room is cloaked in resplendent silver for a dramatic effect that complements the more serious rooms.





Opposite from top left clockwise: The entrance view of Malaga from the front drive through the courtyard. The Portuguese limestone was used from the front entrance to the back patio of the home. A view of the hall from the formal salon to the front door. The formal salon, located off the library, has a silver-leaf fireplace and Spiridon lighting. Furniture designed by Finley Design.

This page: A view into the formal salon from the back patio. The doors have no thresholds and there is no obstruction in the center, as the home was built for southern California indoor and outdoor living.



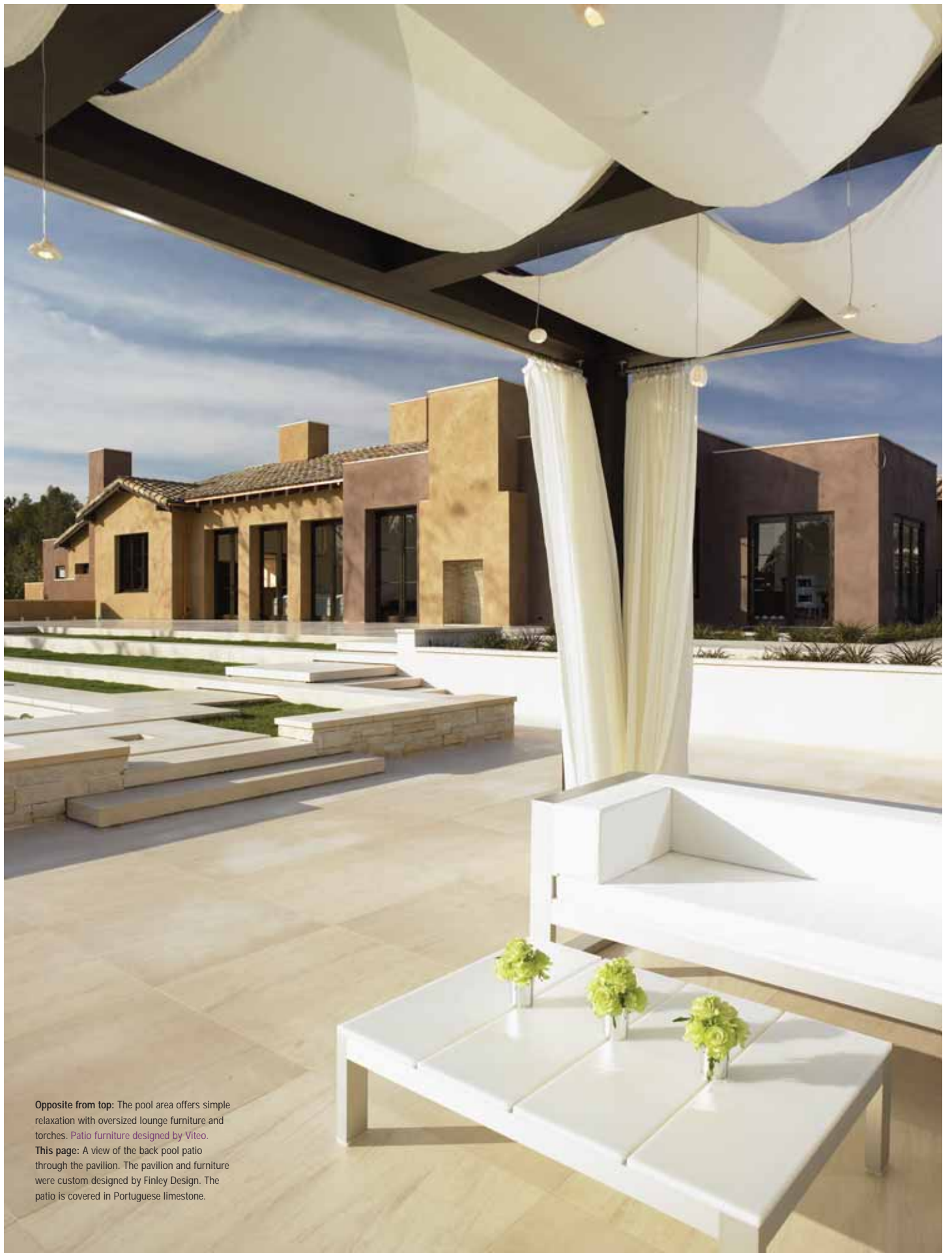
“The ceiling was silver-leafed, and I decided to do silver fabric as well,” Finley says. “Using all the same color can be very dramatic, and it turned out to be very dreamy. I started placing the tube lights in strategic spots and decided I wanted more of them. We had to do some interesting transformers in the attic, but with the low-wattage bulbs, it looks so pretty at night.”

In the corner of the formal salon sit unique lights that were silver-leafed inside to contrast boldly with their black exterior. Filled with distilled water, the half orbs glow when lit. “It’s a really crazy effect,” Finley says.

Just outside is the patio, which runs along the formal salon, the grand salon, and the breakfast salon. Daintily positioned along the patio are sitting areas designed by Viteo, an Austrian designer of outdoor furniture that Finley Design represents in the United States. “They’re called cube stools and the tables have LED lighting, which looks really cool at night,” she says. “We have them all over the place.”

Straight out from the patio is the oversized pool—a simple, rectangular structure—set on one of the property’s main terraces. Luxurious white double lounges flank one side of the pool, dotted with tall white torches.

“We did an oversized pool because of the five kids,” Finley says. “This one really fit the space well. There are two sycamore trees that we built the entire house around, and they are at one end of the pool and the pavilion is at the other end.”



Opposite from top: The pool area offers simple relaxation with oversized lounge furniture and torches. Patio furniture designed by Viteo.
This page: A view of the back pool patio through the pavilion. The pavilion and furniture were custom designed by Finley Design. The patio is covered in Portuguese limestone.



This page clockwise from top left: The master suite has a custom platform bed designed by Finley Design. Detail of the silver-leaf ceiling. The modern lines of the master bathroom complement the master bedroom. The backyard and patio with large oversized silver planters located off the master suite. Opposite page: A freestanding bathtub in the master bathroom.



The pavilion is Finley's most-used room. "We wanted to do a great space where you can hang out and sun, catch a siesta in the afternoon, or have a great cocktail party," she says. The furniture, developed for hotels, is sturdy yet great for lounging, and the space can comfortably seat 50. The designer added radiant heat, perfect for a late dinner party. Draping in the ceiling along with the billowy curtains gives the space that ambience that Finley was after. "It's got a great feel and it's of the moment. You feel like you're on vacation out there. We pull the curtains closed for more shade and it's a dreamy area. My kids will mellow out with me there."

Another great spot for mellowing out is the master bedroom with a floating platform bed positioned in the middle of the room, made of dark woods and contrasted strikingly with white linens. "It's set on an elevated floor side, and the back of

the bed creates a walkway to the bathroom," she says. "I integrated interior curtains, which we like to pull at night so we can leave the curtains to the outside open. It's a calming, beautiful bed that always has a lot of kids crawling on it."





The petite salon is a private sitting area for the dining room. Furniture custom designed by Finley Design. The lighting is by Luzifer and the vases in the fireplace are by Rina Minardi.







The centerpiece of the kitchen is an island with a thick onyx countertop that is illuminated. Overhead dangles a sculpture by an artist from Venice. “We did a skylight above the island, and I decided to commission the artist to do a piece that hung down from there so you could still get the natural light during the day but it would shade the area,” Finley says. Along one wall is a stainless countertop, which Finley notes is perfect for preparing meats and being able to “bleach the whole thing down.” The couple often hire chefs to cater and also have a family chef, and Finley says it’s a good-working kitchen for them. “It’s spacious and they love working in here,” she says.

Looking out from the kitchen are sweeping terraces, set off on either side with expansive staircases that end at the walkout basement doors. “We wanted to get as much light into that area as possible, and the terraces turned out to be a really sculptural element,” Finley says. She also decided to attach a drop-down screen against that wall of the house, turning the terraces into an outdoor theater for movie-watching at night.

The basement holds the indoor theater, along with a game room with pool table and two offices.

Although the house is currently for sale while the Finleys build a new home to love—and eventually sell—the designer says it’s not all that difficult to leave the space that was the first project she had taken on without a partner. “As a designer, it’s always exciting to do the next house,” she says. “It’s a nice bonus to my profession to live in the house and see firsthand what works and what doesn’t work. This has been a comfortable place. It’s very modern and formal in a sense, but it’s also friendly. We live throughout the entire house—with the doors open, of course.” ■



This page clockwise from top left: View to the terrace off the kitchen. The Gaming Salon with pool table and bar. Pool table by Blatt Billiards. Theatre down in the basement.

Opposite page: The kitchen has custom-built cabinetry, a custom La Cornue stove, and a 2-inch-thick illuminated onyx island.