



Home & Garden



HOUSE
MAKEOVER



FLIP THE SCRIPT

*An out-of-the-box designer gives a
lackluster beach cottage a good
dose of grown-up surf style.
By Chantal Lamers*





DISPLAYED COLLECTIONS ADD A GRAPHIC PUNCH TO BUILT-INS.

MIXED PATTERNS

In the kitchen, Clasen chose texture over color, placing V-groove oak above black-stained slab cabinetry, then balancing the finishes by layering on marble galore. The foundation comes by way of the herringbone wood flooring that inspired the family to make the home their own.

PLAYING WITH SCALE

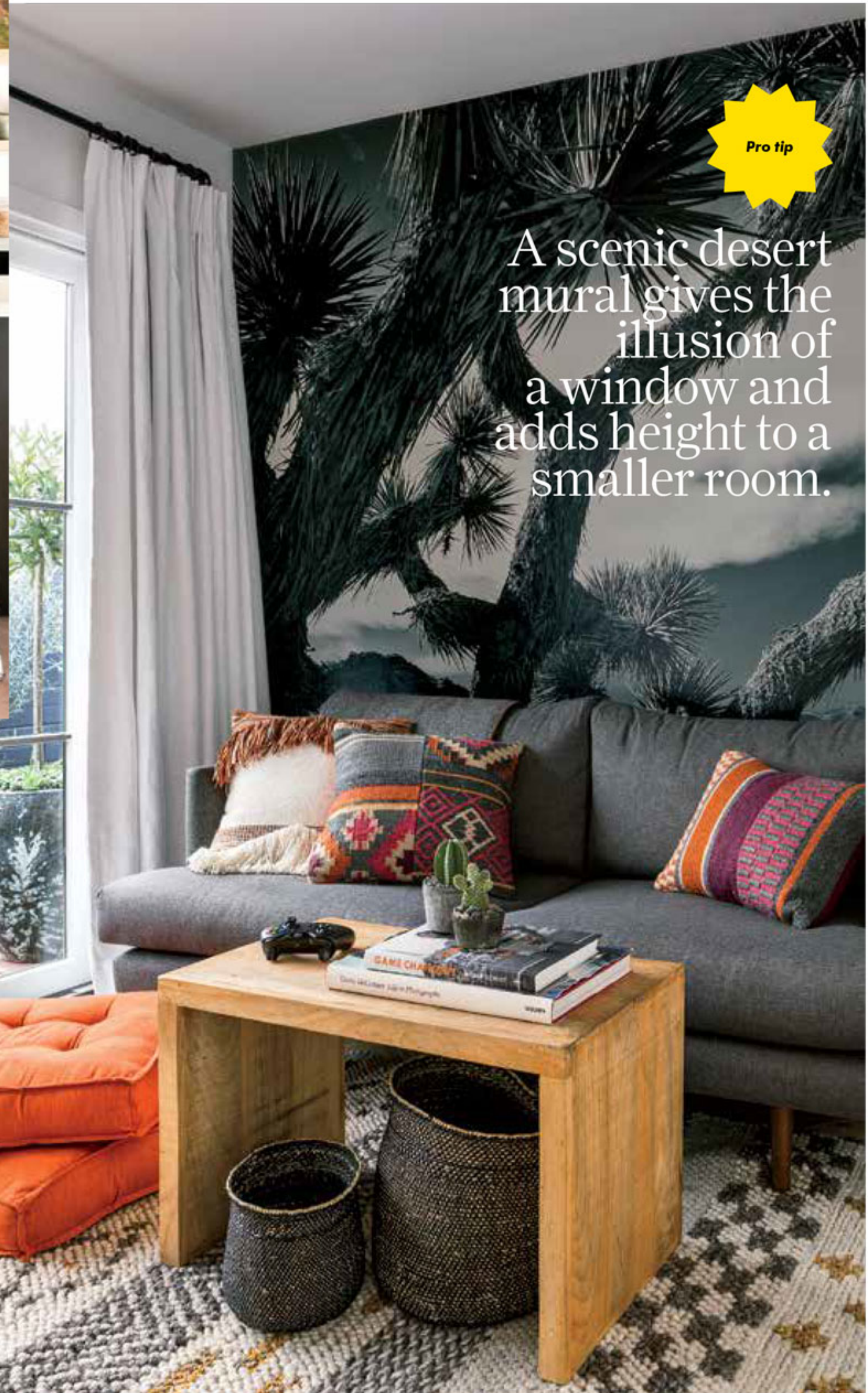
A bold wall mural, with its watercolor effect, and large light add dimension to the dining room. "I love to take one element in a room and really go outside standard sizing," she says. "It feels cool to see an oversize fixture stand out and take over as the artwork in the room." *Soft Gray Watercolor Wall Mural*, from \$35; *muralswallpaper.com*. *Large Dome Copper Pendant (similar)*, \$472; *shadesoflight.com*. *Eames Wire Chair (DKR.0)*, \$593; *dwr.com*.



OPEN SHELVING PROVIDES A BREAK IN THE CABINETS AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A BURST OF COLOR VIA PLANTS, ART, AND POTTERY.



PROP STYLING: MERISA LIBBEY



Pro tip

A scenic desert mural gives the illusion of a window and adds height to a smaller room.

THE HANGOUT

To offset the snug shared spaces, the couple agreed to let their son Rees take over an 8-by-9-foot room, where he packs in as many as seven friends to play video games. *Joshua Trees in grayscale*, from \$192; *magicmurals.com*. *Striped Chunky Sweater Wool Brayden Area Rug*, \$399; *worldmarket.com*.

When

Raili Clasen bought a 1950s beach bungalow on Lido Isle in Newport Beach, California, she never imagined herself actually living in it. The trashed property came with good bones and instead was meant to be her showcase flip, a way to put a unique and fun twist on the man-made island's more traditional turnkey listings. "The one aha was the pitched living room ceilings with open beams that were untouched. That was the clincher," says Clasen, who likes to balance modern sophistication with a not-too-serious surf style. "I wanted the project to feel like it was truly designed."

But her vision for the home, set among the more than 900 tightly packed houses across the island's 100 acres, changed after contractors wrapped a laborious two-month herringbone hardwood-floor install on the first floor. Suddenly, she couldn't shake the feeling that she was home. "All arrows were pointing in the direction of moving in," says Clasen, a former surf-industry executive for companies such as Quiksilver, Roxy, and



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ILLUSTRATED TEXT ADDS A PERSONAL TOUCH TO OFTEN-OVERLOOKED CORRIDORS.

Paul Frank. And so rather than picking more universally appealing finishes and fixtures, she altered course slightly and began designing with her husband, Ryan, senior sales director for Vans, and 15-year-old son Rees in mind.

Despite the 2,000 square feet they had to work with, communal quarters were tight and felt “off.” Unfettered, she reconfigured the U-shaped kitchen by demolishing the wall separating it from the living room and removing an exterior doorway where the range landed. Punching an opening into the living room added light, bar seating, and a much-needed connection between the two spaces.

In the living room she added vertical cedar siding over the fireplace to echo the ceiling’s original paneling, peppering them up in Decorator’s White by Benjamin Moore. She also juxtaposed the once-brick fireplace in a sleek, polished concrete that adheres to her chic, laid-back code and the home’s overall air.

“Naturally,” says Clasen, “When it all came together we looked at each other and said, ‘Um, we are definitely moving in.’” ▲

S DIGITAL BONUS Discover more ways to bring beachy vibes into your home: sunset.com/beachstyle.



Layers of earthy sage tones in the bedroom evoke a calm sanctuary.

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MAKE A STATEMENT

The couple considered everything from rows of skateboard decks to vintage bicycles to fill a soaring 20-foot hallway. Inspiration came via an Instagram post of a tally and the simple phrase “Count Your Blessings,” by Costa Mesa artist Matt Allen. Clasen called Allen five minutes later to commission him to replicate the illustration. *Blessing art print, \$15; matt.allen.com. Random Light, from \$721; dwr.com.*

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KEEP IT CASUAL

Cloudlike wallpaper pairs well with an unfinished, cozy pile of bedding. *Altitude Green Wallpaper Mural, from \$35; muralswallpaper.com. Washed Linen Duvet Cover Set; from \$79.99; hm.com.*



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CUSTOM WOOD MIRRORS ARE SUSPENDED OVER WINDOWS WITH STANDARD COTTON CORDAGE IN A ZIGZAG PATTERN.