

## PRO TIPS

### rooms we love

# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Room by room, designer Jaime Zehner is making this California house a home.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MOLLY ROSE

The living room is the first to greet visitors when the door swings open, so designer Jaime Zehner of Southern California's JZ Interior Designs wanted it to feel extra-special. Her clients, a young family of three with another little one on the way, reached out after moving into the Spanish-style home, hoping Jaime could virtually design a few different rooms in the house. "Typically, I don't get to visit every virtual design project, but I was able to walk through this one and visualize how this space and the rest of the home could cohesively come together," Jaime says. "We decided to do it in phases and start with this room to set the tone for the rest of the house."

They had an idea of the ideal layout and, as plans began to form,

Jaime found the coffee table—an exquisite hand-carved piece that looks as though it belongs to the house. "It was the first thing we fell in love with, and we sort of designed this room around that. It has so many beautiful details that we didn't want to distract from it. The modern slipcovered sofas with a bold striped rug worked together to bring a tonal, modern feel that still felt true to the architectural style of the home."

Though relatively formal, the space is still comfortable and welcoming. "It's exactly where you would want to drink your morning cup of coffee, open the doors onto the terra-cotta patio that overlooks the luscious yard on a warmer day, or where you can wind down with a book by the fireplace in the evenings," Jaime says.

**1.** The room is painted in Ballet White by Benjamin Moore, with the beams and trim outfitted in City Loft by Sherwin-Williams. For furniture, Jaime thought beyond the big-box stores. "I love looking to Etsy or local flea markets for reclaimed benches or unique pieces that can be incorporated into spaces so that we can blend in the new and the lived-in textures," she says.

**2.** The white slipcovered sofas are from Restoration Hardware, and a striped Jenni Kayne x Lulu and Georgia rug adds dimension. Pillows were sourced from Etsy, Shoppe Amber Interiors, and from Jaime's trip to the Las Vegas Market.

**3.** Much of the smaller decor and accessories came from Jaime's small online store ([shop.jzinteriordesigns.com](http://shop.jzinteriordesigns.com)). "We specialize in designing the kind of home where you can feel and believe the real elevation happens in the fine details," she explains. "We obsess over the finishing touches, and we live for one-of-a-kind found pieces to bring to your home."

