

here's an ineffable quality to a Suzanne Rheinstein interior. The New Orleans native and Los Angeles transplant specializes in what you might call undecorated decorating. Her rooms draw on all the expected haute elements—custom curtains and upholstery, hand-painted wallpapers, and top-drawer antiques—but they come together in an understated way that seems to have been built up by clients over generations. "I aim for spaces that feel curated rather than installed," says Rheinstein.

The inveterate shopper—and owner of West Hollywood emporium Hollyhockfurnishes personality with one-of-a-kind finds that channel her clients. In a modern Bel Air, California, living room from her recent book, Rooms for Living (Rizzoli), she placed a lacquered tansu chest and a 17th-century English chair underneath a midcentury work by Cuban artist Cundo Bermúdez. "I don't do period rooms," she says of her reliance on storied furniture, "but neither would I pull together something contemporary without antiques." A meticulous edit instills a soothing sense of calm, and Rheinstein is never a stickler for tying up every last possible loose thread. "A little imperfection gives a room ease and grace."

SECRETS TO TIMELESS STYLE

- "I often use floral fabrics and handblocked prints with the negative side facing up. It gives you a lovely and nuanced watercolor effect."
- "I like flowers best when they're plucked and arranged without too much fuss. You don't need a cutting garden; just snip what you have. A tangle of ivy or branches can look divine."
- "A black-green bronze is a great color to paint things that you want to fade into the background but still look good. I do it on baseboards to anchor a room in that Georgian way, or use it outdoors on metal railings. It's also handsome for unifying a chockablock group of antique garden furniture collected over time."

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