

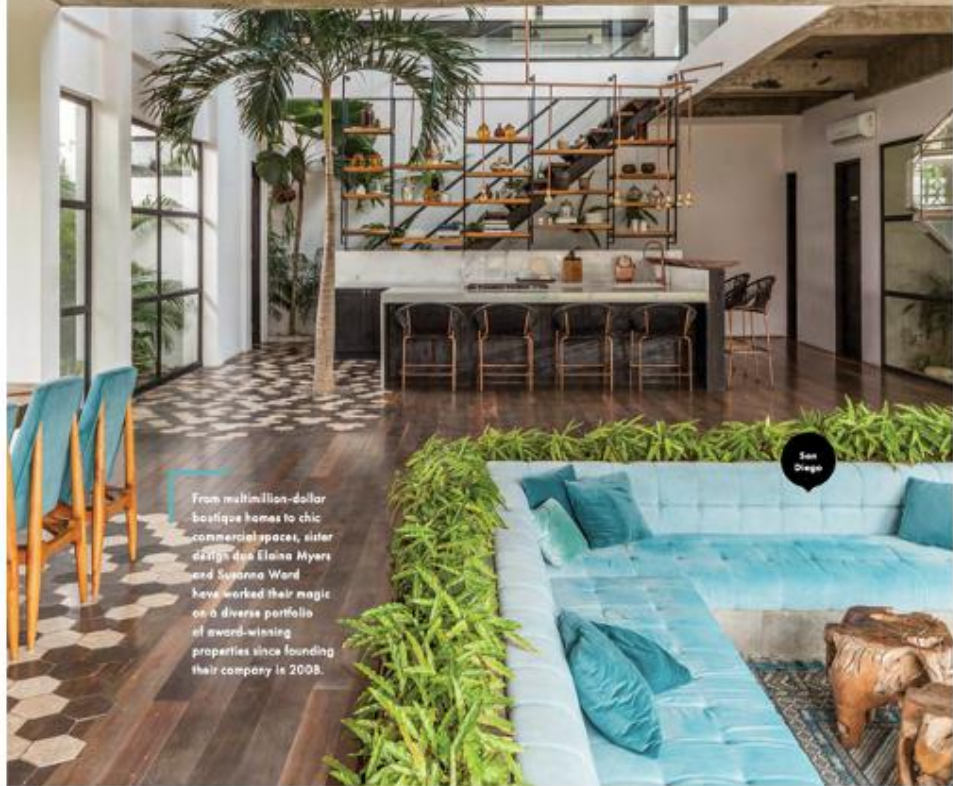
HOW TO MAKE

Totally Tropical

A Globally Inspired Aesthetic Anchors the Exquisite Interiors of **Design 4 Corners**

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PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY: **BALI INTERIORS - SHEILA MAN, TARYN KENT AND CHRIS LITTLECHILD**



From multimillion-dollar boutique homes to chic commercial spaces, sister design duo **Elaina Myers** and **Susanna Ward** have worked their magic on a diverse portfolio of award-winning properties since founding their company in 2008.

San Diego

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—Susanna Ward

“As designers, we pride ourselves in having a broad sense of style, but all our designs have a well-traveled look to them.”
—Elaina Myers



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Names: Elaina Myers and Susanna Ward
Job Title: Designers and Owners of Design 4 Corners

W With a client list that spans both coasts and beyond (the sisters have designed houses in Miami, San Francisco and Hawaii, in addition to here in Southern California), their eye for finding and incorporating layered global elements into modern spaces is eclectic and in high demand. “As designers, we pride ourselves in having a broad sense of style, but all our designs have a well-traveled look to them,” explains Myers. And her decade spent living, working and starting a family in Bali helped cement the Design 4 Corners’ worldly-meets-modern aesthetic—something the brand is very well-known for.

“In Bali, we were designing for indoor-outdoor living, which fits perfectly here in California too. Every shop is filled with antiques or incredible pieces by artisans from all over Indonesia that helped us develop a knack for blending the old with the new,” she says. While Myers ran the Bali office, working on major projects across the island, including boutique hideaway The Mandala Home and private residence Villa Caca, Ward ran the California office, often flying out to source furniture and decor. One of their earliest projects saw them ship 11 containers of treasures back to California for a client in La Jolla.

Typically only taking on ground-up construction projects, the sisters occasionally also design on a room-to-room basis if the client and their vision feel like the right fit. A master bedroom, bathroom and walk-in closet (The Suite Life) for someone who turned out to be a “dream client” is one such case in point. “Interior design can be complicated, so you have to jive with the client, but the most important part about designing a space? Who is going to be inhabiting it,” explains Myers. “Once you have gotten to know the client, the rest becomes intuitive, and the intended design comes alive.” In addition to helping people create gorgeous homes with their tasteful use of color and texture, the sisters have lent their talents to commercial spaces too. Most recently, Another Salon in Solana Beach, Swirl Boutique in Carlsbad and the oh-so-Instagram-friendly restaurant The Waverly in Cardiff-by-the-Sea. A boutique hotel in Bali was in the works until the pandemic hit last year, causing developers to pause the project.

When it comes to working styles, both being fire sign Aries means things can get intense—but in a good way. “We are both passionate and have gotten really good at fighting for something we feel is the right direction—as well as listening and seeing the other side,” shares Ward, who adds that they both agree the install phase is the most rewarding part of the design process. “This is where we add all the finishing touches that really make a space come alive. It’s the jewelry of the home,” she says.

Words From the Wise

• Myers and Ward have a rule: listening true to themselves, which, in turn, what drove their designs. Their father used to tell them, “Confidence is the highest form of intelligence.”

Runs the Gamut

• While the sun is known for their laid-back, island-meets-modern style, their portfolio extends beyond with projects like So Bern Falls, a rustic home nestled in the hills of San Diego or the Surf Shack, an ode to social surf culture.



HOW TO TRANSFORM YOUR SPACE INTO AN INDUSTRIAL-CHIC ISLAND OASIS

The Sister Duo’s Step-by-Step Guide to Mixing Worldly Style With Modern Design

W While the siblings are no one-trick ponies when it comes to design style, they undoubtedly made their mark and won fans around the world for their well-traveled luxe yet laid-back aesthetic. And make no mistake about it: this look is equally as stunning in a bohemian holiday home on Bali as it is in pied-à-terre by the beach in Southern California. Here are their key style steps and must-include elements to nail industrial-meets-island chic.

Step 1:

• “Let the environment inspire you. When it comes to infusing industrial design, we prefer to let natural colors and materials speak for themselves. This could mean working with or incorporating elements made from concrete and natural woods or accessories like a jute rug.”

Step 2:

• “Foliage plays a huge role in all of our designs, especially in The Mandala House and Villa Caca projects. Plants in any space must be intentional though, and that doesn’t have to mean adding live ones—it could be as simple as going with a palm tree wall paper in a bathroom or bedroom.”

Step 3:

• “Use natural and locally sourced materials as hard accents whenever possible. In Bali, we were able to source teak flooring and a bathtub carved from lava stone. Copper is another great material to use in any industrial design (think everything from pendant lights to fixtures and fittings), as it will patina nicely over time and look beautiful.”



“Once you have gotten to know the client, the rest becomes intuitive, and the intended design comes alive.” —Elaina Myers

Step 4:

• “The details are important. Source colorful textiles like unique patterned and textures to use as throw blankets or accent pillows.”

Step 5:

• “We love mixing old and new. Antique furniture, especially in Bali, carries so much history and always tells a story. From floor rugs and chairs to light fixtures and accent decor, incorporating older finds you’ve made locally or brought back from a trip with newer pieces creates character and depth.”



“The details are important. Source colorful textiles with unique patterns and textures to use as throw blankets or accent pillows...” —Elaina Myers and Susanna Ward