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NATURAL STRENGTHS

FASHION DESIGNER JENNI KAYNE USED BOLD STROKES AND ELEMENTAL MATERIALS TO FIT OUT A MODERN FAMILY HOME THAT DELIVERS A MASTER CLASS IN ELEGANT SUMMER STYLE.

BY SHAWNA COHEN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LISA ROMEREIN/OTTO

Jenni Kayne's attention to detail as a fashion designer is remarkable. Her fall 2014 collection includes standout pieces such as a menswear-inspired jumpsuit that is tastefully seductive, with its plunging-V neckline and strategically placed buttons. The D'Orsay flats, for which she's best known, strike that perfect balance between sexy and cool. It's no surprise then that Kayne's home in Los Angeles reflects that skill in playing with juxtaposition—rustic with refined, rough with smooth. The sprawling space gives a first impression of casual summer living, but a closer look reveals meticulously considered design details. In fashion, Kayne has achieved the holy grail of "effortless chic," and the same can be said for her home design aesthetic. Each room in her house is elegant, yet comfortable, thanks to her keen eye, and she's not afraid to mix natural materials like salvaged pine and rough oak with white upholstery and steel-framed doors to create polished contemporary spaces that are exceptionally welcoming and livable.

Left: Two massive doorways extend the living space, visually and literally, into the garden. Rough-oak beams framing those doors and the windows, along with the salvaged-pine ceiling, are a pleasing stark contrast to the elegant lines of the sofas and quartet of marble-topped coffee tables. Woven chairs, atypical seating choices for a formal living room, synchronize nicely with the expansive view to the patio.



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Below: The monolithic two-sided fireplace—a focal point in the patio—was crafted with board-formed concrete, which has a weathered, textural wood-grain quality that works well with the oak-framed doors flanking it. There's a precision to this outdoor living space—the columnar fireplace and the rectangular patio floor set out on a pristine lawn. Materials used in the living room—blond wood, white upholstery and woven furniture—are also used here, creating a seamless transition.



Above: Rather than create a formal dining room, Jenni Kayne (right, with her family) stayed attuned to the spirit of the design aesthetic and opted for a more casual dining space by incorporating it into the living room. Three large images, side by side on the wall, provide a striking backdrop, while the burlap-look pendant lamp echoes the earthiness of the pine ceiling. The square-base dining chairs generate a beautiful grid pattern on the floor; it's an impactful touch that nevertheless appears effortless.



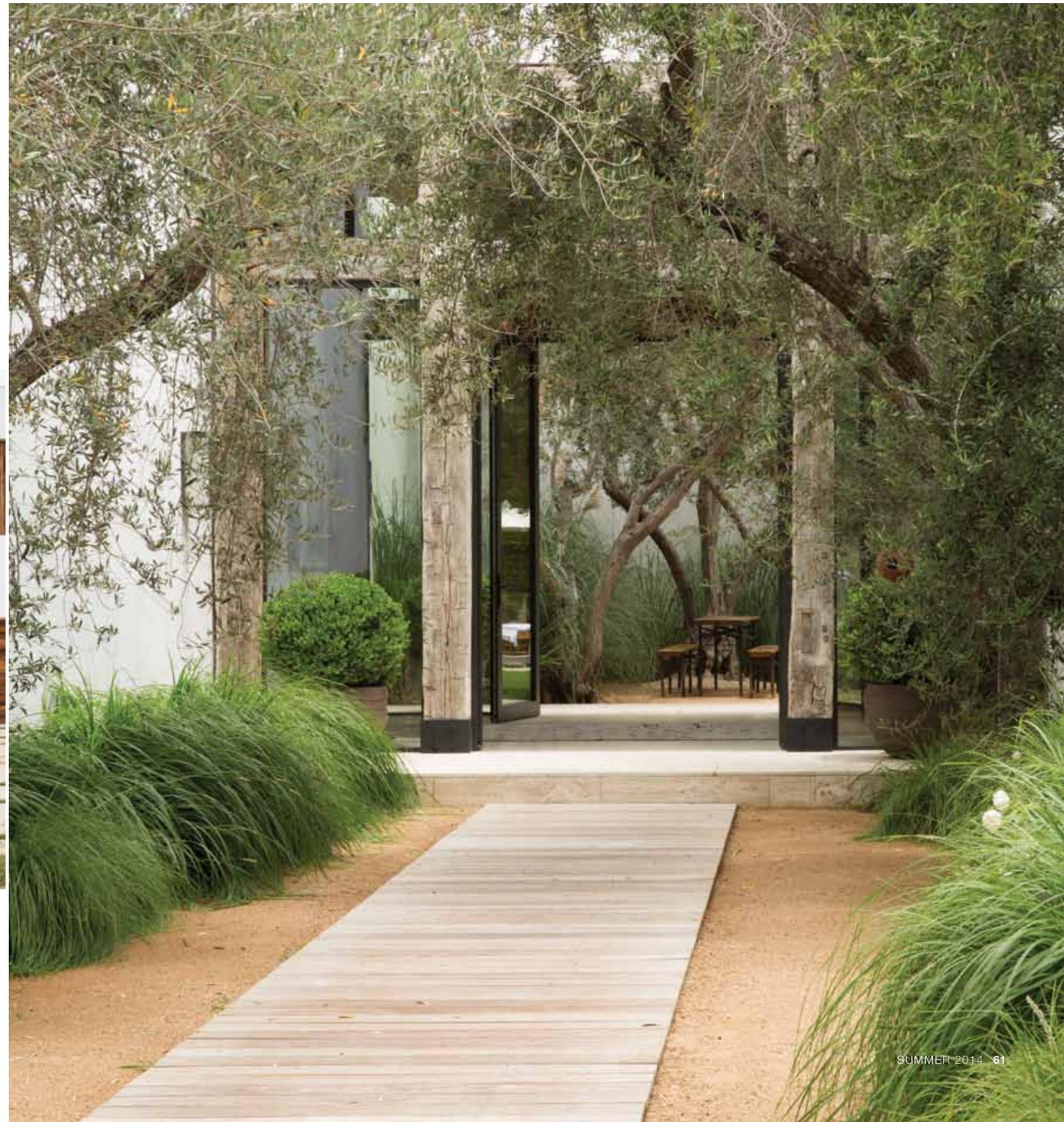
Modern steel-framed doors, though prominent in the space and eye-catching, are not intrusive; instead, their grid-like look is a perfect frame for the view of the garden. Here, Kayne continues to juxtapose contrasting pieces and materials—a flokati rug on the modern lounging chair with a steel base; the rustic wood of a built-in cabinet and the L-shaped seating area; the round table with a tripod base of rough-hewn wood. A faded antique rug adds refinement.





Left and below: The geometrical quality of the exterior—rectangular shapes and steel-framed gridded windows—offers a preview of the modern design aesthetic embraced by Kayne in this home. Yet the contrasts here, as indoors, of smooth (white stucco) with rough (wood-plank siding) provide a softening effect that alleviates the hard edges. The orderly layout of the garden, with its tidy rows of raised planter boxes and clearly delineated paths, enhances the meditative qualities of the space.

Opposite: A simple wood-plank path, bordered by drooping grasses and a dense canopy of trees, leads to an entranceway framed by oak beams and, beyond it, to an intimate garden room.





Above: Black walls in the den set off an intimate conversation area formed by the white-upholstered sofa and chaise, and the antique rug. A sleek glass-topped coffee table features an unconventional base of twisted driftwood.

Right: French doors with a black steel framework draw the eye to the serene scene outside—a reflecting pool, the ceramic cylinder table and a pair of woven-wire chairs that echo the seating in the living room.

Opposite: The kitchen is all white, and yet there's nothing cold or austere about it; in fact, the ambience encourages intimate dinner parties wherein guests can help with food preparation over cocktails. Kayne created a relaxed space by forgoing overhead cabinetry and leaving the ceiling line open, opting instead for simple floating shelves. The floor-to-ceiling cabinets have glass doors—a design element that reinforces the openness. A pine ceiling warms up the space, and vintage-look light fixtures and the stainless steel range hood offer an industrial vibe. The symmetry achieved by the precise positioning of the pendant lights and the lineup of stylish counter stools adds a comforting sense of order.



Kayne's penchant for order is manifested throughout her home, balanced by a thoughtful attention to pleasing design details that transform each room into a gracious, welcoming space.



Left: Kayne's meticulous, minimalist aesthetic prevails in the master suite, which is spare but inviting. Oak ceiling trusses lend a rustic charm to an otherwise modern space.

Below: An elegant grouping of curved sofas and ottoman-table provides an intimate sitting area within the bedroom.

Opposite: The large tub in the master bath fronts wall-to-wall glass doors, but the screen of trees outside proffers a sense of enclosure. Here, Kayne opted for elegance with a massive light fixture that, along with marble flooring and the free-standing faucet, evokes '20s-style Hollywood glamour. A side table added to the mix resembles a carved-out tree stump, its sensuous shape mirroring the graceful curved lines of the tub.

