

On the Rise

Emerging interior designer Chelsea Ruitenbergh draws upon California's diverse landscape for her inspired residential and commercial design projects.

by ALLISON MITCHELL

For San Diego-based interior designer Chelsea Ruitenbergh (chelsea-interiordesign.com), creativity is in her bones. "I grew up on the East Coast and was always around design as a kid. My dad had a retail design firm that evolved from my grandfather's seasonal window display company. Being around that early on made me realize how much design can influence the feeling and energy of a space," says Ruitenbergh, who studied fashion in school and spent four years in product development at rag & bone in New York City. "That really shaped how I now think about quality, from selecting materials to working with high-quality and ethically run factories," she recalls.

After moving to the West Coast, Ruitenbergh began cutting her teeth in the commercial design space, recently finishing the new LongevityRx wellness clinic in Rancho Santa Fe and the Sun Gold Point diner in Bird Rock. "My approach is designing in rhythm with nature. I'm really intentional about using natural materials and pulling colors from the California landscape; there's something incredibly grounding about it," she says. "Aesthetically, my work leans organic, modern and coastal-inspired. I'm drawn to layering materials that feel warm, tactile and timeless, with a good mix of modern and vintage."

For inspiration, Ruitenbergh finds herself looking to Yond Interiors, Heidi Caillier, Jenna Barton and Nina Freudenberger. "They all do color, pattern and texture play so well!" she shares.

As for what's next, growing her business and finding the right piece of land to build a home on is high on her list. "I'm excited to expand further into residential design while continuing in the commercial space," adds the creative.

Here, Ruitenbergh rounds up the pieces inspiring her now.

PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE LEA



"Wool rugs always! They are naturally stain- and water-resistant. This is one of my favorite rug vendors, which is certified B Corp." *Armadillo Malawi rug in Mushroom, armadillo-co.com*



"I love to keep lighting low and not turn on any overhead lights at night, so table lamps are the best way to do that. The stripes and texture on this one are amazing." *Ceramicah Tera stripe lamp, ceramicah.com*



"This chair has a stunning shape and is the perfect spot to curl up with a great book. I would even take it a step further and add a custom fabric to it." *Lawson-Fenning Ojai lounge chair, lawsonfenning.com*

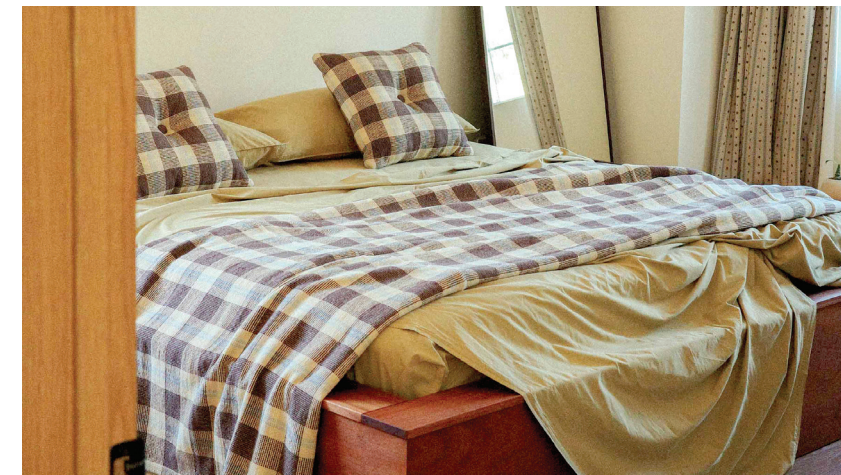
PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRANDS



"This chunky mirror is so good. Hang it over an entry table or to add some extra oomph to a powder bath." *Rachel Donath Dora mirror, racheldonath-trade.com*



"This type of decor I think of as jewelry for the home—a subtle ode to coastal living." *Slow Roads vintage souvenir shell napkin rings, slow-roads.com*



"With summer around the corner, I always swap bedding to a linen duvet and sheets with a cotton throw blanket." *Morrow Mina bed cover, morrowsoftgoods.com*



"I love a simple dining table. Pair it with some vintage chairs—chef's kiss." *House of Léon Topa rectangular dining table in Warm Oak, houseofleon.com*