

A CLASSIC PALETTE

Splendid, ever-changing hues from a dramatic mountain backdrop, inspired two design *auteurs* to infuse and furnish their Palm Springs home with color

Owners: Patrick Mundt and Rich Young

Interior Design: Rich Young and Classic Chic

Builder: Roe Messner Construction

Photographer: Taylor Sherrill

Text: Jan Silver Maguire

As nightfall's magic hour descends, the light bathes this California classic exterior in cool hues of purple and blue, igniting a fire-like glow in spacious interior living areas. Daylight reveals the 'true' home color palette — a vibrant, terrestrial mélange of Clay Pot, Burnt Watermelon, and Desert Sand.

When Classic Chic CEO Patrick Mundt and his partner, Rich Young, purchased their new home in the Los Compadres neighborhood of Palm Springs, it was, in Patrick's words "basically a shell — no color, just gray walls and cement floors." As they "strategized" for the initial design phase, they became increasingly mesmerized by the mercurial hues of the dramatic mountain and golf course vistas flanking their new 3,800-square-foot residence.

"We were here at all hours of the day," Mundt recalls. "In the mornings, the golf course is just golden with the sunrise; the ponds and grass are gorgeous. As the sun rises more, the front mountains turn into beautiful oranges, purples, magentas, and fiery reds — the surroundings are always changing all day long."

"I think living in Palm Springs is all about the beautiful mornings and glorious sunsets that we have here on the mountains," says Young, who owns a small publishing company, but shifted into an alternate creative mode to choose and oversee execution of much of the home's interior design elements. "The color palette of oranges, reds, desert tans, and sky blue really sums up Palm Springs."

Right: *Cosmic Ascent*. Revered by the artist as transcendental icons, birds and butterflies are a hallmark of Hunt Slonem canvases. "He's a very spiritual person," says Mundt, who acquired the inspirational *Monarchs* directly from the celebrated artist.

Below: Turquoise waters and an indigo sky offer captivating reflections and a flawless frame for outdoor seating areas and the master suite.



To realize their vivid interpretation of the desert landscape in a home they aptly define as “California contemporary classic,” the intrepid design duo drew primarily from the resources of Classic Chic, an elegant design emporium which Mundt brought to the desert six years ago from Laguna Beach. Today, Classic Chic — located in the Atrium Design Center of Rancho Mirage — encompasses a 12,000-square-foot showroom featuring custom and top-name furniture and home accessories, as well as a knowledgeable staff of innovative interior design consultants. The Classic Chic experience extends to Mundt and Young’s Palm Springs residence where they occasionally host open houses for customers. A growing collection of contemporary art adorns several interior (and patio) walls, including an elegant Erté; a modern masterpiece titled *Monarchs* by Hunt Slonem; two striking oils by local artist Peter Carter — *Reeds* and *Fire and Water* — and a whimsical, tri-color, welded-steel triptych by San Francisco-based sculptor Dan Das Mann.



Right: A welded steel triptych by San Francisco-based sculptor Dan Das Mann accentuates the chosen color motif. Mundt and Young discovered this whimsical work of art at Sherwood Gallery in Laguna Beach.

Opposite page: A spherical chandelier from Cambridge West in Palm Desert illuminates patterned silk chairs and the circular glass dining table; the custom base from Classic Chic sports an eye-catching metallic finish. Lenox china, heirloom sterling silver, and a tasteful centerpiece of white orchids and desert succulents, courtesy of Joey Lizotte, Artisan, complete the elegant setting.



The dynamic design duo, Rich Young and Patrick Mundt, in front of Hunt Slonem’s *Faces*, an abstract raked-oil depicting people from the artist’s life.



The personalized color scheme of vibrant jewel tones and desert tans proliferate throughout the house, which also features a casual den, three guest rooms, a master bedroom overlooking the pool, five bathrooms, and an office adjacent to the scenic eighth hole of a public golf course.

Their expansive modern kitchen — perfect for entertaining (“anything over 20, it’s 1-800-catering,” quips Young) — includes Russian Volga blue granite counters, an abundance of orange-hued maple cabinetry, a sunny breakfast nook, and an indoor/outdoor Thermador grill overlooking the pool and elevated Jacuzzi. “With our bifold doors that pocket out to the bar area, this is great for hors d’oeuvres and grilled vegetables,” Young says. “It’s very workable and truly a gourmet kitchen — perfect for inviting a visiting chef in for a fun ‘cooking class’ party for friends.”

Adjacent to the kitchen, the spacious great room — a showroom in itself with 16-foot ceilings — proffers both casual comfort and fine dining with a fiery red silk, overstuffed sofa, and a circular glass dining set. Illuminated at night by a spherical chandelier and a backlit onyx-crowned buffet, the setting provides the perfect vantage point to view several elegant furnishings from Classic Chic, as well as highlighted pieces imbued with sentimental value.

Glass and light are ubiquitous, inviting nearly invisible thresholds to indoor and outdoor living. Exterior walls painted in shades of terra cotta, watermelon and desert sand, as well as a spectacular view of Mt. San Jacinto, playfully highlight the cerulean reflections of the pool and elevated Jacuzzi. In the poolside powder room, blue tones proliferate in the smoked glass vanity and mosaic-style tiled shower.

An in-ground fire pit and graceful edging of Carolina cherry trees complement the tranquil outdoor milieu.

Though their design styles differ — “Rich prefers Tuscan, I enjoy cleaner lines,” says Young, “so this house was a nice balance”— their Palm Springs haven is a uniquely personal and harmonious tribute to the vibrant colors in nature. ■

Entertaining options are endless via the Thermador indoor/outdoor grill that overlooks the wet bar and front loggia. Local artist Peter Carter provides a vivid rendition of nature’s capricious colors in *Fire and Water*, an oil on canvas gracing the outdoor fireplace.



Right: As the pleasant glow of a corner lamp beckons invitingly, clean lines juxtaposed with vivid colors dominate this view of the master suite bordering a translucent pool.



Featuring multi-hued glass shower tile and an opaque vanity in smoky blue cradling a stainless steel sink, the poolside powder room is a rhapsody in blue.

