

BRING YOUR STYLE HOME

# domino

WINTER 2020

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RENOVATION  
ISSUE

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# COMING HOME

**Reno  
Breakdown**

**LOCATION**  
Laurel Canyon,  
Los Angeles

**YEAR BUILT**  
1951

**SQUARE FEET**  
Approximately 1,950

**TIMELINE**  
3 years

**TOP PRIORITY**  
Give an impersonal  
bachelor pad some  
much-needed  
warmth and color.





**History Buff**  
 “The conundrum of the house was to infuse old-world charm into this modern shell in a way that honors what it is,” says Taylor. Carving out layered, lounge-y nooks did the trick.

“I had a fantasy of watching my kids play as I cooked,” says Heather Taylor. Three years ago, the textile designer and her husband, Alex de Cordoba, were happily living and working in a West Hollywood cottage with daughters Scarlett (now 6) and Marigold (3), but needed more space for their family and growing business—the stylish yet trend-proof tabletop and home decor line Heather Taylor Home.

A third-generation Angeleno, Taylor had always been enamored of the rustic charm of Laurel Canyon, so when a listing for a mid-century modern property with a green-as-can-be yard popped up, she and de Cordoba wound their way up into the hills to see what it was all about. “It looked like a cold crash pad for a bachelor who spent all his time locked up at the office,” she says of her first impression of the single-story, 1,950-square-foot house. Still, Taylor saw potential. A series of owners had renovated much of the character out of the structure, but that gave her carte blanche to



**This page, from top:** Pacifica Outdoor Pendant Lamp from \$248 [serenaandlily.com](http://serenaandlily.com); Kayu Teak Dining Table \$2,795 [dwr.com](http://dwr.com); Country Plaid Tablecloth from \$186 and Seat Cushions in Milos Fabric [heathertaylorhome.com](http://heathertaylorhome.com); Hee Dining and Lounge Chairs \$195-\$295 each [hay.com](http://hay.com); Block Island Coffee Table \$595 [dwr.com](http://dwr.com). **Previous spread:** Cement Tile [granadatile.com](http://granadatile.com); Bench Cushions in Juniper Fabric and Gingham and Juniper Tablecloths from \$186 [heathertaylorhome.com](http://heathertaylorhome.com); Salt Chairs by Ton \$175 each [dwr.com](http://dwr.com); Sandbar Tray \$128 [serenaandlily.com](http://serenaandlily.com); Jute Bouclé Rug [westelm.com](http://westelm.com).

# COZY COMFORT



Taking cues from her favorite childhood spaces, textile and home goods designer Heather Taylor transformed a minimalist mid-century pad into a family nest in Laurel Canyon.

*Photography by Justin Chung*

*Words by Crystal Meers*

*Styling by Scott Horne*



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Ball Crisscross Bubble  
Pendant Lamp by  
George Nelson \$395,  
Grasshopper Floor  
Lamp by Gubi \$1,075,  
Line Credenza \$2,995  
*dwr.com*; Sofa upholstered  
in Noor Fabric by Lisa  
Fine *lisafinetextiles.com*;  
South Seas Coffee  
Table \$898 and Albion  
Mohair Throw \$448  
*serenaandlily.com*;  
Matin Table Lamp  
from \$175, Bella Side  
Table \$295, New Order  
High Bookshelf \$1,295  
*hay.com*; Asymmetry  
Ceramic Table Lamp \$179  
*westelm.com*.

### Country Cool

"I want the girls to be inspired by colors and patterns the way that I am," says Taylor. Each room sets the foundation for that common interest to grow.

#### This page, from top:

Assorted Linens  
[heathertaylorhome.com](http://heathertaylorhome.com);  
Bassine Broom \$31  
[junehomesupply.com](http://junehomesupply.com);  
Birchwood Porch Broom \$72  
[nickeykehoe.com](http://nickeykehoe.com); Peg Rail  
from \$29 [pegandrailusa.com](http://pegandrailusa.com);  
Leather-Handle Basket  
\$80 [westelm.com](http://westelm.com). **Opposite:**  
Handmade Ceramic  
Candlestick Holders from  
\$95 and Antique Rosa  
Daisy Planter from \$47  
[nickeykehoe.com](http://nickeykehoe.com); Floral  
Tableware [the-ivy-restaurants.myshopify.com](http://the-ivy-restaurants.myshopify.com).



infuse it with her special brand of colorful coziness. And the floor-to-ceiling windows that connected the living and dining rooms to a covered patio and lush backyard offered the promise of quintessential California indoor-outdoor living. "I felt like I could make my dreams of us all being together in the same living space but each able to do our own thing a reality," she says. "I just had to knock down this enormous wall."

While the home had a relatively open floor plan, the aforementioned wall cordoned off the galley kitchen, leaving it near-sliver width. For a mother with a young family *and* an avid hostess who has built her company around gatherings, the obstruction simply had to go. "Once we blew through it, the house instantly transformed," says Taylor. To bring back some of the definition the wall had provided, she replaced the wood floors with milk chocolate brown and dusty rose tiles in a classic checkerboard. Trading out black countertops and dark wood cabinets for fresh white wood and gray marble lightened things up considerably, while adding open shelving—where she mixes everyday dishes with ceramics collected over the past decade, including floral serving pieces from L.A. interiors gem Indigo Seas and blue speckled dinnerware from friend and potter Adam Silverman—brought more color into the picture.

At the other end of the room, an oddly shaped breakfast nook original to the property (which came complete with a custom table and wholly unmemorable beige cushions) now provides a quiet area for morning coffee. "I grew up with a window seat in my bedroom, so I wanted this spot to have that same magic," explains Taylor. As a nod to the traditional-with-a-twist look she loves, she mounted decorative Rebekah Miles plates and Pomelo bowls on the wall, and went matchy-matchy by using one of her own fabrics-by-the-yard in a juniper pattern for the roman shade and banquette cushions. Even the wee mudroom got the special HTH treatment, becoming an orderly landing spot for aprons, jackets, and shoes, along with a prettier corner to do laundry and set aside linen shipments (which was especially true during the early days of COVID-19, when Taylor launched her Masks for All initiative from her garage; the company has sold and donated more than 150,000 masks to date).

While the mid-century bones lend a light and airy feel to the house, Taylor worked with friend and longtime collaborator Sarah Shetter to make sure there would be a variety of gathering spaces. Thoughtful furniture choices and a smart layout divide the main area into two: the living room—where a modern floating fireplace once featured





### Hearth and Soul

Adding a mantel to the fireplace, warm wood accents, and earthy-hued gingham prints gives the space a timeless, lived-in feel.

**This spread:** Andros Downlight Wall Sconces by A19 from \$112 each [ylighting.com](http://ylighting.com); Round Coffee Table \$4,700 and Spindle Back Viewing Chair \$3,975 [nickeykehoe.com](http://nickeykehoe.com); Belgian Roll Arm Sofa [rh.com](http://rh.com) upholstered in Gingham Fabric [heathertaylorhome.com](http://heathertaylorhome.com); Telescoping Floor Lamp \$299 and Pure Ceramic Clay Jug \$40 [westelm.com](http://westelm.com).

## 4 Tips for Renovating a Family Home

1.

### Visibility Is Key

A layout that lets parents keep an eye on their kids while everyone does their own thing? #FloorPlanGoals. Think about how you'll use the space and how kids like to play, then configure the rooms accordingly.

2.

### Invest in Items That Age Well

Taylor goes for designs that can withstand wear (and maybe even come out better on the other side). "I have a few white pieces left over from my life before kids, but things like our sturdy jute rugs will always look good," she explains.

3.

### Make It Yours

When choosing custom elements such as tile, have fun with unique combinations of colors, shapes, and patterns. "A moment of whimsy can stay in your child's mind and remind them of home forever," according to the designer.

4.

### Bring in the Things You Love

An avid reader, Taylor made a point of installing large bookshelves in the living room: "In our world that is so techy, I want the girls to grow up with actual books and enjoy reading them."



