global warmth

Interior designer and shop owner Isabelle Dahlin drew design influences from around the world for her welcoming California retreat.

Isabelle Dahlin calls her style easy eclecticism. It's a look inspired by her life: the simplicity and clean lines she grew up with in Sweden, the textures and patterns she's encountered on trips throughout Europe and Morocco, and the attention to light she appreciates in the California region she now calls home. This mix defines Isabelle's Los Angeles home furnishings boutique, deKor, and is reflected in the 680-square-foot second home she shares with her husband, Brandon Boudet, 90 miles north in Ojai. Here, lively patterns against a white backdrop create a space that's both laid back and inviting. "I wanted the entire home to feel like a casual, warm place that you never want to leave," she says.
"I'M NOT AFRAID OF MIXING DIFFERENT TIMES AND ERAS AND TEXTURES. IT ALL COMES DOWN TO A FEELING."

ISABELLE DAHLIN

BALANCED UPDATE

To refresh the tiny kitchen, Isabelle and Brandon splurged on cement floor tiles with a Mediterranean vibe (granadatile.com) and balanced the budget by painting, rather than replacing, the existing cabinets. Brandon, a chef, salvaged butcher block for the island top and found an old iron table to double as extra prep space and a bar cart.

RERAINT WITH Style

Isabelle believes in editing what you have on display. "I feel strongly that a space should enhance your well-being. For me that means less is more," she says. "You don't have to fit everything in. Negative space gives you room to breathe. A home styled with a million things can look good, but once you sit in it you start to get a little crazy, a little overwhelmed. It's sensory overload."