

Santa Barbara

Magazine



Special
ISSUE

Design

MARTYN LAWRENCE BULLARD gets creative at the HOTEL CALIFORNIAN.



Making an Entrance

Martyn Lawrence Bullard's high-drama effects at the Hotel Californian plus sustainable modern living and decor must-haves



“To have a signature style means you’re trapped into a look, and I don’t want to be trapped. To stay relevant, you have to stay pliable. Design is a daily adventure.”

Room & Board Redefined

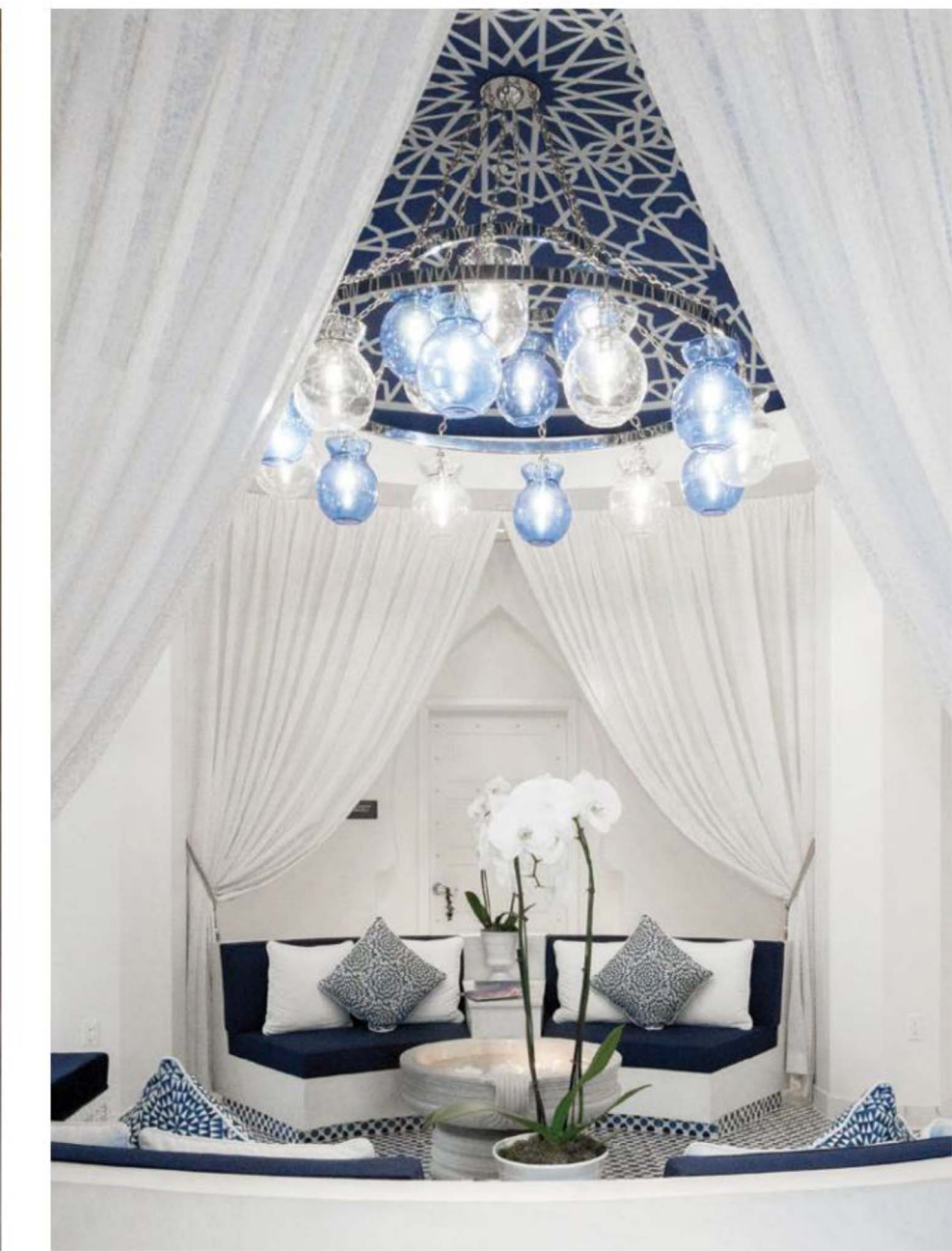
In remaking the 1925 **HOTEL CALIFORNIAN**, designer Martyn Lawrence Bullard, martynlawrencebullard.com, came on board to infuse the seaside inn’s 121 rooms and interiors with his iconic yet unpredictable style. For a city steeped in its architectural heritage and look, Bullard says he wanted “to give Santa Barbara a new edge that was fresh and exciting.” To do so, he paired the hotel’s Spanish colonial revival facade with modern Moorish designs—think a psychedelic dose of black and white from floor to ceiling with an array of eclectic antiques.

The lobby alone is a graphic international experience with Moroccan tiles, Indian screens, and tables from Spain and Portugal. One could get dizzy taking in all the zigzags and metallics over a Negroni in the bar, but Bullard says he never does—the trick is mastering the right mix of graphics for the specific space. For a designer who outfits interiors from urban discos to ancient Umbrian castles and whose clients range from 19 to 91 years old, he has an unmistakable style, but don’t call it signature. “To have a signature style means you’re trapped into a look, and I don’t want to be trapped,” he says. “To stay relevant, you have to stay pliable. Design is a daily adventure.” 36 State St., Santa Barbara, 805-882-0100. JENNIFER BLAISE KRAMER

THEHOTELCALIFORNIAN.COM

SANTA BARBARA





Clockwise from top left: Graphic tile work runs inside and out; black-and-white artwork pays homage to Santa Barbara; **MARTYN LAWRENCE BULLARD** sits on a velvet chair in the mesmerizing lobby; the **MARRAKESH-STYLE SPA** is also open to the public for treatments; gold fixtures and oversize Moroccan mirrors dazzle in the hallway. **Opposite:** The **LOBBY** is black and white and striped all over.