

MODERN TRADITIONAL

Or maybe we should call it traditional with a twist; this dining room designed by Esteban Interiors in La Jolla offers some unexpected surprises.

At first glance this may seem a rather proper traditional dining room but look just a bit further and you see an eclectic mix of modern and traditional pieces that create the perfect balance of dignified exuberance. Elegant Captain's chairs are given an edge with the unexpected use of linen upholstery on the front and cowhide on the back. Organic textures are carried through on the walls covered with grass cloth above the wainscoting. The classic draperies are actually made from 100% bamboo fabric from Designtex. The final twist comes from the Moooi chandelier, when turned off the Mylar shade acts as a mirror reflecting the surrounding room but when lit you find a beautiful classic chandelier inside.

CALIFORNIA VINTAGE

This delightful dining salon is brought to us by Brandon A Smith of d.coop, a spatial design company in San Diego. We asked Brandon how he came up with this charming design.

Being that our house is a Craftsman bungalow built in

1915 and dripping with vintage detailing, my partner and I wanted to steer clear of typical Mission style furnishings when it came time to begin furnishing our home. Instead we've opted for what I've called California vintage, a blend of Mid-Century Modern, Provencal French, and a little kitsch thrown in for good measure.

Because we try to entertain friends as often as possible, creating a comfortable environment where we could all sit a spell with wine and good food became paramount. The banquette is actually an oversized fern green Chesterfield sofa from Mitchell

+ Gold. The chairs were a random find at an antique store in Little Italy. Eastlake in style, they are completely original and their small scale and carved detailing complement both the size and scale of our dining room.

For me, creating a relaxed, comfortable environment full of details which might spark a conversation, random thought, or bit of wit is extremely important when working with dining environments. From Gabe the Green Flocked Pig to the Benjamin Franklin creamer from my Mother-In-Law, random items tucked into the plant and candlescape work to balance and bring the setting to life.

We had so much fun chatting with these designers that we could not contain it on these few pages. Please check out www.sandiegopremier.net for extended interviews from Neil Alan Designs and d.coop.

