



BALI TIE

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UPON PURCHASING A HOME in the new development of Encinitas Ranch in 2006, Colleen Cormier was asked to pick out materials for her yet-to-be-built kitchen. She opted for heavy slate on floors, dark wood cabinets, beige walls and dark granite countertops. In 2013, she decided that look was “oh so seven years ago,” and her agenda became the complete opposite.

“She said, ‘I want light, white, fresh, fun, modern,’ so those were our goals and our intention,” interior designer Susanna Samaniego says.

A whitewashed, engineered-oak floor with 10-inch-wide planks sets the tone for a rustic, beachy feel, while glacier-white moldings, cabinetry and engineered-quartz countertops give the room exuberant energy.

“The most interesting part of this kitchen is the backsplash that is made up of hand-painted tiles from Mexico,” Susanna says. “Each tile is unique and gorgeous, but there are two basic designs: a wavy flower pattern with multiple rounded edges and one that is more like a cross with pointed edges. It’s high-end and we

broke the budget on it, but it is the statement piece.”

Adding a bit of madcap fun are Balinese-inspired, wooden, swivel barstools with dark iron-like bases.

Another nod to Bali is the hand-carved, solid-wood light fixture, hung by a metal chain over a Saarinen Tulip table and Eames chairs.

“I chose the lamp for an Old World Balinese look, but gave it a modern twist with the chain,” Susanna says. “The tile is very Old World too. This kitchen is a great blend of Old World meets modern.”

Above: Designer Susanna Samaniego wanted to bring more of the hand-painted Mexican tile used on the backsplash into the rest of the kitchen, so she used it to embellish the base of the island. To add oomph over the island, she replaced teeny lights with a trio of heftier, hammered-tin pendants.

Facing page: A never-used sliding-glass door was swapped out for a large window and a built-in bench that is upholstered with a chevron print. The pillow fabric adds a pop of color.