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C home

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STYLE SPY

With a penchant for distinctive details, Elizabeth Dinkel guides *C* through West Hollywood's top home decor shops

BY ANDREA STANFORD



Dinkel at her office—a charming 1920s-era West Hollywood bungalow

Elizabeth Dinkel
with Paul Marra

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aised in New York but a California resident for more than 15 years, interior designer Elizabeth Dinkel is a classicist with a twist. "I enjoy working with a broad range of styles," explains Dinkel, who recently completed a regency style home with French influence in Brentwood and a modern getaway in Telluride. "I care about glowing finishes, fine craftsmanship and most paramount—attention to detail," says Dinkel. "I encourage my clients to buy timeless pieces and exceptional accessories, but most importantly to use them!" Those familiar with her affection for hand-painted wallcoverings and exquisite trims may be surprised to learn her dream house is, in fact, the Philip Johnson Glass House. "I am surrounded with so much stuff every day in this business; it makes me crave less in my own life,"

she explains. Dinkel's eponymous West Hollywood firm is (at least by New York standards) walking distance from her favorite decor haunts. Here, she shares a few with C...

¶ Specializing in blending old-world traditionalism with modernist touches, **Paul Marra Design** (868 N. La Cienega Blvd., West Hollywood, 310-659-8190; paulmarradesign.com) is a popular source for mid-century antiques, reproduction lighting and mirror collections. "Paul has the most beautiful and eclectic mix of interesting and well-made objects, and he is so keenly aware of what designers need." Witnessing the two in an animated discussion over a recently acquired lizard occasional table, it is clear they've bonded after years of working together. Still, Marra claims he is not the star in the shop. "Lizzie will call first to see if Lily [Marra's rescued pit-bull] is here before she comes in," he laughs. ¶ Another constant source of inspiration is David Serrano and Robert Will-

son's **Downtown** (719 N. La Cienega Blvd., West Hollywood, 310-652-7461; downtown20.net). Known for the depth and sophistication of their vintage antiques and classics collection, the duo is revered for fearless risk-taking and bold use of color and pattern. "Working with Lizzie is such a joy. She does her homework, knows what she wants and her great personal style translates seamlessly into her amazing design work," explains Wilson. On this particular day, Dinkel is drawn to a vintage writing table and a T.H. Robsjohn-Gibbings double pedestal table. ¶ Design associates from the Los Angeles luxury tile showroom for **Ann Sacks** (8935 Beverly Blvd., West Hollywood, 310-273-0700; annsacks.com) describe Dinkel's style as "fresh, yet rooted in a sense of tradition." Dinkel explains, "Ann Sacks is the definitive source, whether I am working on a traditional or a contemporary project." Indeed the newly relocated showroom houses a limitless array of tile, stone and fixtures ranging from centuries-old limestone to hand-hammered baths. Their signature white subway tiles and hand-stamped flooring tiles by Cowden Bell and are among her favorites.

¶ Owner Sally McQuillan opened **Raoul Textiles** (Trade only; 8687 Melrose Ave., Suite G-160, West Hollywood, 310-657-4931; raoultextiles.com) first independent showroom in March of this year. Showcasing her renowned hand-printed Belgian linens and fine silks, the space is reminiscent of a reading room in the English countryside, down to the overstuffed wingback chairs and timeworn floorboards. The space, which appropriately doubles as the fabricmaker's textile library, is Dinkel's refuge. "To go from the bustling Design Center to this oasis always forces me to take a deep breath," she says. "This spot is such a jewel; the fabrics are timeless but actually have a very modern feel." *Elizabeth Dinkel Design Associates, Inc., 310-278-3700.* ●



Ann Sacks



Downtown



Raoul Textiles



Paul Marz Design



DINKEL'S STYLE IS FRESH, YET ROOTED IN A SENSE OF TRADITION



Paul Marz

Ann Sacks