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ACTRESS SAMIRA
WILEY'S LA HOME



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A STAR IS BORN

Actress Samira Wiley's LA home has stepped out of the shadows and into the limelight with chic schemes that have understated drama

WORDS VIVIENNE AYERS STYLING LISA ROWE PHOTOGRAPHY SAM FROST

HALLWAY

The geometric wallpaper creates a chic backdrop, while a fresh green leads the eye up the stairs.

Modern Stone wallpaper in Ecru, August Abode. Wall in Teresa's Green, Farrow & Ball

HOUSES

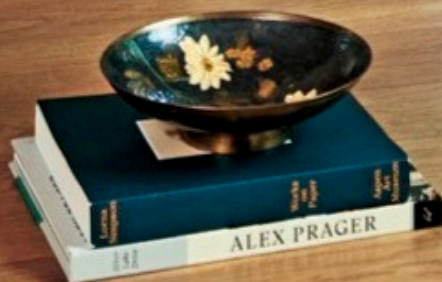
DEN

A velvet sofa sets the luxurious tone. Samira, who has won numerous accolades for her role in *The Handmaid's Tale*, is an avid chess player. Jamaica (School Girls, Montego Bay) photograph by William Waldron. Los Liones wallpaper, August Abolte



SITTING ROOM

The couple, who met on the set of *Orange Is the New Black*, wanted this to be a more formal yet comfortable space 'for conversation and games with friends'.
Sofa, Lawson-Fenning.
Photograph by Ludwig Favre



No white walls' was the key request when Stefani Stein was brought on board to transform the Los Angeles home of *Orange is the New Black* and *The Handmaid's Tale* actress Samira Wiley and producer and director Lauren Morelli.

The house, which Stefani describes as 'a bit of a hodgepodge architecturally', combines elements of Spanish Revival with 1970s Californian ranch style. The couple fell in love with it for its lovely sense of flow. 'There is an openness from room to room, but it isn't fully an open concept – the rooms and spaces are still defined,' says Stefani. However, a prior renovation had stripped away much of its charm.

Having designed Samira and Lauren's previous home, Stefani worked closely with the couple again and soon established their 'strong desire for colour and comfort, for a dichotomy of classic and contemporary mingling together and for lots of added depth and detail'.

Colour was key to the aesthetic, with the palette transitioning from room to room. 'Infusion of colour is Lauren's happy place, while Samira leans towards calmer earthy and classic shades,' says Stefani. She chose base colours inspired by nature that lend a comforting feel, reminiscent of an older, lived-in home. 'Creating spaces that had dusty hues and earthy elements, paired with dramatic moments and cheerful accents, struck a chord for both Samira and Lauren,' Stefani adds.

'As a result of the layout, you could see two or three rooms deep from any vantage point within the home. A cardinal step in my process was thoughtfully working through the colour specifications to ensure each

view felt both complementary and contrasted. I often start my designs with textiles, but for this project I considered the foundational colours of each room first.'

Stefani was also mindful of keeping key features whenever possible. 'I realised that the shiplap, which had originally seemed rather uninteresting to me, could actually work with the new design direction by being painted in the same colour and finish as the walls. I wanted to centre the designs around adding to the spaces rather than subtracting from them.'

The house felt as though it was lacking carpentry and joinery, so Stefani cased the bare openings between the rooms, which provided a sense of continuity and enabled her to make distinct colour transitions. She also designed custom bookshelves and storage to house the couple's impressive collection of tomes.

'The home was missing the thoughtful touches that make it special too,' says Stefani. Some blonde wooden elements were replaced with solid walnut in a hand-aged finish, while other surfaces feature more dramatic options such as marble and handmade tiles. Vintage lighting was introduced for extra character, as well as custom lighting. Furnishings meander from modernist to antique, with a sprinkling of both vintage and statement items to keep things fresh and unexpected.

'I love learning the little nuances of what makes each client individual,' says Stefani, 'exploring what home and sanctuary mean to them and what will make the space the story of its inhabitants.' 📸

■ Interior design, stefanistein.com; landscape design, wildfloradesignstudio.com

"CREATING SPACES WITH EARTHY ELEMENTS,
DRAMATIC MOMENTS AND CHEERFUL ACCENTS
STRUCK A CHORD WITH BOTH SAMIRA AND LAUREN"





KITCHEN

The custom moss green tone of the cabinetry delivers richness and a wonderfully calm look in equal measure.

Orsini bar stools, Lawson-Fenning. Mariposa pendants, Pottery Barn

KITCHEN

Sunlight flows in through the windows of the breakfast nook, which is furnished with Wishbone chairs and a vintage table.

Guillermé et Chambron table. Morentz. Lantern. The Urban Electric Co



SITTING AREA

Unique pieces, like the fire's honeycomb-patterned metal tiles, ensure the classic scheme has flair.

Rivera **sofa**, Croft House.

For an August Abode Archer **coffee table**, try 1stDibs.

Ava **wall sconce**, Lostine





NURSERY

Knotty pine is the perfect organic backdrop for the more whimsical pieces. Bespoke chair upholstered in Janas by Zak+Fox



MAIN BEDROOM

The combination of panelling and limewash paint is a textural feast. Panelling in Breakfast Room Green, Farrow & Ball. Nightstand, Faithful Roots. Limewash paint, Portola Paints & Glazes



MAIN BATHROOM

A wooden washstand lends a country feel to this space. Mirror, Michael S Smith at Paynes Gray

MEET THE DESIGNER

Stefani Stein shares her style inspiration

GO-TO COLOUR I'm partial to green, which may be quite obvious from this project.

SECRET ADDRESS I adore Martin & Brockett, an off-the-beaten-path shop here in LA. It has its own furniture designs, paired with a fantastic curation of vintage finds and contemporary art.

BIGGEST INDULGENCE Where to start? I think the French breakfast table, Jason Craighead art and Archer marble coffee table are all standouts.

FAVOURITE DESIGNER/BRAND I'm rather partial to August Abode.

INSPIRATION SOURCE I often look to nature for ideas for my designs.

DESIGN HERO I've long admired the work of Albert Hadley. As for current designers, I'm always surprised and delighted by Billy Cotton's interiors.

OBJECT YOU WILL NEVER PART WITH My lovely vintage celadon crackle-glaze Marbro lamp with a bas relief dragon peeking around the top will always be special to me.

PATIO

The feeling of being on holiday was the brief for this space. The brief was met with plenty of lush, potted foliage.

Sofa and ottoman, August Abode. For a Van den Andersen turtle stool, try 1stDibs

