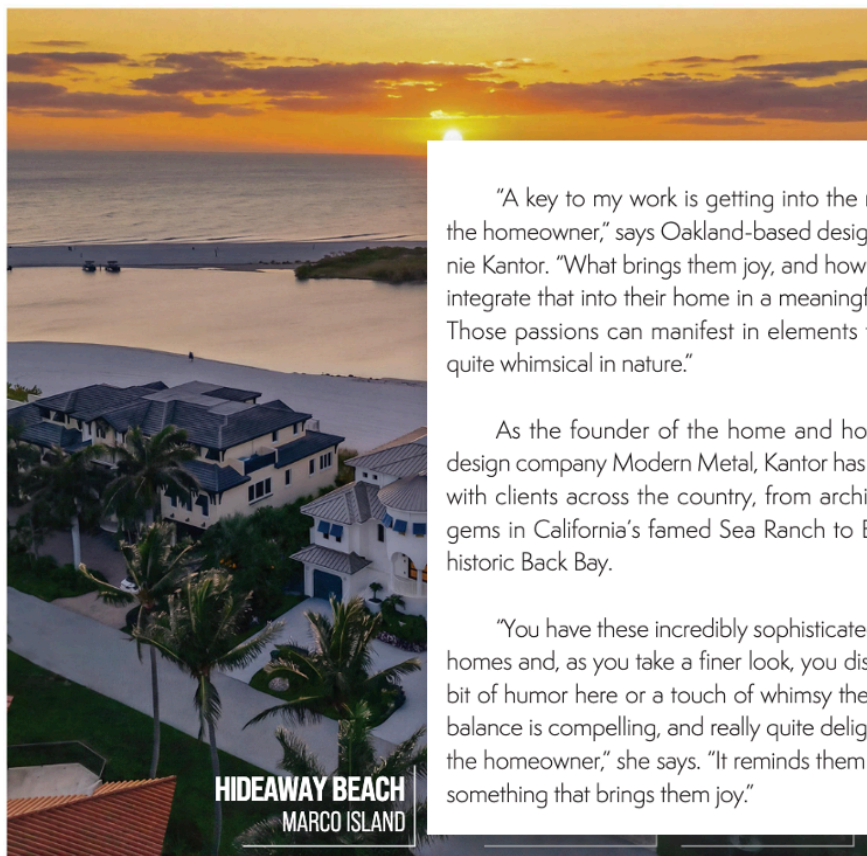


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"A key to my work is getting into the mind of the homeowner," says Oakland-based designer Annie Kantor. "What brings them joy, and how can we integrate that into their home in a meaningful way? Those passions can manifest in elements that are quite whimsical in nature."

As the founder of the home and hospitality design company Modern Metal, Kantor has worked with clients across the country, from architectural gems in California's famed Sea Ranch to Boston's historic Back Bay.

"You have these incredibly sophisticated luxury homes and, as you take a finer look, you discover a bit of humor here or a touch of whimsy there. That balance is compelling, and really quite delightful for the homeowner," she says. "It reminds them daily of something that brings them joy."

The Rise of Joyful Luxury: Whimsical Design

By Eric Grossman

Leading designers share their approach when it comes to incorporating playful designs in luxury living spaces.

Often within the luxury design space, creative amenities are not exclusive to humans. As a recent example, Kantor points to a dog den-meets-custom cabinetry solution she designed for a modernist home in Palm Springs.

"You have the surprise and whimsy of discovering this cabinet is in fact a cozy home for the owner's beloved pups. It has the function of both a dog den on one side and food and water storage on the other," she explains. "As you look closer, you also realize that the modernist design of the metal cabinet inserts is inspired both by the iconic George Nelson Marshmallow Sofa — a perfect nod for this Modernist Palm Springs home — and a wink to the fluffy, cloud-like fur of the resident dogs. It's an impressively unique feature that is used daily and brings delight to the homeowner each time."



Pickleball Palace

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