

In the bright, airy living room: Armadillo rug on the floor, beneath a coffee table from Restoration Hardware. A chandelier from Currey and Company hangs above Lee Industries sofas and Redford House side tables. Rose Tarlow performance fabric is used to upholster the chairs.



PHOTOGRAPH BY NICOLE DIANNE

TRANQUIL IN GRANITE BAY

DESIGNER RACHEL MADDEN
REBUILDS HER OWN HOME

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LOCATED IN THE TRANQUIL community of Granite Bay, California, 30 minutes north of Sacramento, designer Rachel Madden's latest project was not just any home renovation—it was her own. A complete tear-down and rebuild, this personal project allowed Madden - the founder of Rachel Madden Interiors - to bring her signature aesthetic and design philosophy to life, guided by her naturally intimate understanding of how she and her family would live in it.

The home, which is adjacent to expansive trails and lakes, is situated close to the water. It was originally a

modest ranch-style house, built and inhabited by the same owner for decades. While Madden had previously undertaken small redesigns in her past homes, this was by far her most ambitious personal endeavor.

“We knew it was going to be our forever home, the place we would raise our kids,” said Madden, who had moved with her family from Marin County. “I knew I was going to touch every single surface, do all the space planning, and get everything exactly as I wanted. We created a canvas to paint the furniture, art, and decor, and the final product is so beautiful.”

Before embarking on the full-scale renovation, Madden and her family lived in the house for a year as renters, giving her the opportunity to space-plan and



develop a clear architectural vision. The first step in the process was constructing a 1,100-square-foot ADU on the grounds, which served as their temporary residence during the two-year build.

The original home, a low-pitched, single-roofline ranch, was completely reimaged. Today, it stands as a stunning 4,000-square-foot residence that Madden describes as “a mix of farmhouse with a cottage spin—sort of an East Coast Cape Cod/Nantucket feel.” The former garage was transformed into living space, and every window and door was placed with purpose to frame the lake views.

One of the guiding principles behind Madden's design was ensuring that interior design and

architecture worked in harmony from the outset. “Every space was designed with furniture layouts in mind,” she explains. “Interior design should be considered alongside architectural plans from the very beginning.”

With this philosophy in mind, Madden collaborated with trusted professionals she had worked with before. The architectural plans were developed by Leonard Woehler, principal at LRWoehler & Associates. The general contractor was Kenneth Development, based in El Dorado Hills. Madden's years in the industry also meant she could pull from a well-established network of vendors and artisans to bring her vision to life.

ABOVE A welcoming outdoor space is created using a pendant from Palacek, dining chairs from Four Hands, and a dining table from Woodbridge. Walls of moss rock are in the foreground.

OPPOSITE For the breakfast nook: a custom dining table from Community Manufacturing, dining chairs from Made Goods, a lantern from Currey and Company, wall sconces by Visual Comforts, and a sideboard from Four Hands.



Madden's personal aesthetic—warm, inviting, and a balance of classic and contemporary—comes through in every detail. “I wanted to bring in some old-world charm,” she says. “With new builds, there’s always the challenge of making it feel like you’ve been there a while, so it’s not just a square white box. It needed to have character and warmth.”

Architectural details abound, from carefully considered trims and millwork to custom cabinetry and oversized, thoughtfully selected windows. Finding the perfect windows alone took weeks. The interiors feature muted shades, organic materials, and vintage artwork, creating a lived-in yet sophisticated feel.

For furnishings, Madden made the bold decision to start fresh. “We ended up selling everything we had previously and got all new furniture, a lot of it custom,” she says. “I really wanted to go all in.”

Madden’s approach to designing her own home allowed her to tailor it specifically to her family’s lifestyle. All bedrooms, including the primary, are clustered on one side of the house, while the television is deliberately placed in a dedicated media room rather than having television sets scattered throughout the home. “I’m a big proponent of having just one TV in the house, and not in the living room,” she notes.

The family room holds a Verellen sofa, Megree and Co Ottoman, and a vintage cabinet/chest.



LEFT Kitchen pendants are from Top Original, counter stools are by Lee Industries, faucets are by Perrin and Rowe and the pot filler is by Waterworks. Kitchen cabinets are painted in Edgecomb Gray by Benjamin Moore.

BELOW Madden was able to plan for every small detail, down to storage and display, based on how her family lives.

A standout feature is the prep kitchen, an extension of the main kitchen that enhances functionality. “It’s an amazing design feature,” Madden says. “The kids use it for baking, making smoothies, and preparing their lunches, while I use it as a prep area for larger meals.”

The home’s transformation extended beyond its walls to the landscape. Madden worked with Red Leaf Developments Inc. in Loomis to revamp the outdoor spaces. The property originally sat on sloped land, requiring fill work to create a level foundation for a porch and patio.





ABOVE At the outdoor fire pit: chairs by Summer Classics and lanterns by Bevelo. Bluestone bands are set in the concrete.



LEFT Wall sconces by Visual Comforts. **OPPOSITE** In the primary bedroom - Rowe chairs, a rug by Annie Sielke, pendant by Palacek and curtain fabric by Kerry Joyce. The bed is custom made.

“The outdoor space is just as important as the interior,” Madden says. “We are constantly outside, lounging on the outdoor couches and dining in the fresh air.”

Now, two years after moving in, Madden remains as enamored with her home as the day they completed it.

“It’s really amazing to be able to design your own house, to shape every detail, how it flows and is laid out,” she says. “It’s exactly what I wanted. I’m still pinching myself.” **CH**

