



PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST

JUGGLING A NEW BOOK WITH HER NEW BABY, L.A. INTERIOR DESIGNER RUTHIE SOMMERS SHOWS NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN. BY JENNIE NUNN

Ruthie Sommers is a self-proclaimed “rearranger.” The Los Angeles interior designer and owner of design boutique Chapman Radcliff Home can’t recall a time growing up in Charlotte, NC, when she wasn’t fixated on furniture placement. “My best friend and I were always moving things around in the house when my parents were out of town,” says Sommers. “We even moved a walnut double-dome secretary across the room that we definitely weren’t supposed to.”

Today, Sommers is busy transforming the interiors of beach bungalows and Beverly Hills homes for a long list of prominent clients. She got her start by working for New York designer Juan Pablo Molyneux and as a store designer for Ralph Lauren, before designing on her own in NYC for four years. But moving to California in 2001 was like “enrolling in design school 101,” she says.

Her new book, *L.A. House: Reinventing the Well-Lived Life*, to be published by Harper Collins later this year, highlights the work of her favorite designers, including Albert Hadley,

India Hicks and Bunny Williams, as well as local inspirations from Peter Dunham to Suzanne Rheinstein. “I wanted this to be a decorator’s notebook of sorts, acknowledging all the people who have inspired me along the way,” says Sommers, who now balances four to five projects a year with managing the store and mothering her newborn daughter, Eloise. “I think it’s good to always stay on your toes,” she says. “I don’t want to get too far away from hanging the curtains and going to the design center.” ■



“I like to paint plein air oils,” says Sommers, “and I love to buy student artwork for my store and clients.” ABOVE: She lent her painterly style to a master suite in a bungalow update. ABOVE RIGHT: Bright accents of color add to the airy aesthetic of a Sag Harbor beach house. RIGHT: Charcoal gray walls create a dramatic backdrop for a discreet bar in a Beverly Hills home.

