

# INSTANT CURB APPEAL





High style, low fuss-that was Rachel and Michael Graves's goal for the exterior of the 1951 ranch house they purchased last summer in Ojai, California. "We needed to bring it back to its roots with clean lines, modernist color, and a general midcentury vibe," Michael says. The couple—who owns the home-goods store Summer Camp (shopsummercamp.com)—shares their budget-minded formula. - Chantal Lamers



#### PAINT

"Choose a color that's noticeably different than the previous hue for maximum impact," suggests Michael. The couple opted to treat the trim in the same moody shade for consistency and easy application. Benjamin Moore Aura in Soot 2129-20, \$75; benjamin moore.com.

#### DOOR

"Nothing drags down a house like a tired front door," says Michael. In keeping with their streamlined sensibility, the couple picked a mahogany one with slats of frosted glass and accented it with matte black hardware. Milan Round Keyed Entry Lever in iron black, \$48; kwikset.com.

#### **PLANTS**

Sculptural, drought-tolerant greenery was the ideal counterpoint to the house's dark finish. "We went with cactus to continue the midcentury look," Michael says. Pea gravel tops the previous mulch-anddirt mixture.

#### **FIXTURES**

The couple installed the new lighting themselves, replacing an old gaslantern post with a Plexiglas fixture and pairing a brass globe light with brass address numbers as a finishing touch. Powell LED Wall Sconce in aged brass, \$119; lights.com. Architectural Mailboxes Brass 5-inch Floating House Numbers in antique brass, \$5.79/each; amazon.com.



## 3 QUICK **FIXES FOR INDOORS**



#### 1. TILE

The big fall reveal from Sunset fave Fireclay Tile comes in 24 stunning colorways and mix-and-match matte and polished finishes. The inspiration for this glasstile collection came from John James Audubon's 1821 painting Great Blue Heron. From \$35/sq. ft.; fireclaytile.com.



#### 2. STONE

Caesarstone's versatile new quartz marries casual sophistication with earthy elements. Excava 4046, \$25/ sq. ft.; caesarstone.com.



### 3. WALLPAPER

The latest pattern from Half Moon Bay designer Kate Miller-a painterly take on the California poppy-is a lovely motif for a contemporary dressing room. Botanica wallpaper in ink, \$65/yard; elworthystudio.com.