

## Roxanne Hughes Packham

*Following In The Footsteps Of A Creative Family*

BY KAVITA DASWANI | PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK LOHMAN

DESPITE A FLOURISHING BUSINESS WITH AN ENVIABLY varied portfolio - a wine country retreat in Santa Ynez, a Cape Cod style house in Los Angeles - Roxanne Hughes-Packham dallied with the idea recently of dancing away from her design practice.

“Over the years, I always thought I’d phase out of designing about this time in my life,” said Hughes-Packham, who is based in Camarillo, “However the idea of home and it as a place of respite, aside from even the design of it, has fascinated me. Gracious spaces and the atmosphere of welcoming spaces have always been entrancing to me.”

The thing that convinced the designer to keep going, however, was the 100th birthday of her grandmother. “Coming to the realization I might have 50 years left...in those years, I wanted it to mean something,” she said.

Consequently, Hughes-Packham segued into an even more fulfilling field - designing spaces where the need was primarily for shelter and safety, like comfortable rooms at the Ventura

County Medical Center in Ventura where doctors could rest while on grueling pandemic-related schedules, or designing the interiors of James Storehouse in Newbury Park, a warehouse open to foster



**BELOW** A favorite transitional kitchen designed in collaboration with a client, studio manager Judy Samsky, this city kitchen features a Le Corneau range and cabinetry designed by Roxanne and Mark Mulchay of California Designers Choice Cabinetry. Features include Allan Adler silver, Vietri & Astier de Villatte pottery, marble work by LI Modern Marble, Kravet fabric, and furniture and antiques from Summerland Antique Collective. The contractor was Bill Roffel. **OPPOSITE LEFT** Designer Roxanne Hughes Packham. Portrait by We Heart Photography.







**LEFT** The views in the designer's own Santa Rosa Valley home called for simple window treatments so the sweeping valley vistas were the focal point. The space features plenty of white, dark wood, rattan plates and linens. A French table and chairs are a gathering point in the room, and the Spanish antiques were acquired when the designer lived in Spain.

**BELOW** The interiors of a yacht in Newport Harbor, the designer's hometown, were done in a combination of navy, silver and teak.



families. In all her philanthropic endeavors, Hughes-Packham was able to rely on the generosity of suppliers that she's worked with for years - Nicky Rising, Thibaut, Eastern Accents.

For Hughes-Packham, her philanthropic ventures in many ways cap an already illustrious career that she came to in a somewhat circuitous way. Born and raised in Newport Beach, she says she found herself gravitating towards design when she couldn't settle on a major at USC, and concurrently took design classes at Woodbury University in Los Angeles. That leaning towards creativity is in her blood; her great-grandfather Porter Blanchard was a famed silversmith with a studio on Magnolia Street and an integral part of the Arts & Crafts movement; and her grandfather Allan Adler created silver offerings for the likes of Errol Flynn and Frank Sinatra from a location on Sunset Boulevard. Her company, Sunset and Magnolia, was named in tribute to her lineage.

But still, she was initially unclear about what type of design to pursue. "After I graduated from USC, I studied fashion design," she said from her home in Camarillo, Ventura County. "But I ended up not really liking it. It was so fast-paced, and it didn't feel as much like I was making any difference in anybody's life."

Then came an opportunity for Hughes-Packham to move to Spain with her husband, who was in the military, and stationed near Sevilla for three years.

"I soaked in everything there," she said. "I fell in love with European design. When we moved back to California, I incorporated that casual livability that the Europeans have, where they design for themselves and not to impress others."

A friend loved what the designer had done with her own home, and enlisted her to help design a 1,200 square foot home that needed to house a family of six.

"I needed to make every space work," she said. "It was like designing a New York apartment. Every bed had to have storage. More jobs followed, serving to establish the designer's reputation for versatility and an approachably elegant aesthetic."



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"I've had so many clients, but there's not one specific thing that appears in all my work. I like creating spaces for what the family needs it to be." One client asked her to do a Federal style house, based on the classic architecture of the early days of the United States from the late 1700s to around 1830.

"I had to do so much research," she said. "I bought 25 coffee table books and studied it like crazy. We found a lot of authentic pieces from the East Coast, and created a really one-of-a-kind, singular home."

While those intriguing projects continue to come in, Hughes-Packham is more focused than

ever on service; outfitting the 4,000 square foot James Storehouse for social workers and foster families, to picking up everything from homewares to computers, she is also looking forward to an upcoming home for foster kids who have aged out of the system. Much of her interest in those projects, she says, is inspired by her clients.

"The one thing a lot of them have in common is a deeper sense of purpose," she said. "They contribute to their communities. I want to be able to take the idea of creating beautiful living spaces, and applying that to everyone." ❧

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**ABOVE** A guest room in the designer's home was outfitted with plaid curtains brought back from her travels. A lamp is made using a Moroccan vase purchased during a trip to the country. Obsessed with beautiful fabrics, some of these plaids were brought back from travels in suitcases. The lamp made from a Moroccan vase was purchased when visiting the country. The grasscloth is by Thibaut, pillows from Leontine Linens in New Orleans and the bed, bedding and pillows from Serena & Lily.