

HOUSE & GARDEN[®] Destinations



CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW Quirky displays at Raoul Textiles. The Belmond El Encanto hotel is one of many luxury offerings in Santa Barbara. Ceramics at Miri Mara. Artefacts in El Cuartel

SEE AND DO

Santa Barbara is full of great buildings. Some of my favourites include the **Vedanta Temple** on Ladera Lane in **Montecito** (with spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean) and the **US Post Office** on the corner of Canon Perdido and Anacapa Streets, designed by Reginald Johnson in the Thirties. It is a Mission Revival building with immense Art Deco lanterns and vein-cut travertine covered interior walls. I love this building because it was built at a time when civic buildings were considered worthy of great architecture and design. You can find some of the city's oldest architecture in the Presidio district (or formally El Pueblo Viejo), where my studio is located. While here, pop into **El Cuartel**, an adobe residence from 1802 and the second oldest building in California. For antiques and 20th century design, I go to **Davis & Taft** in Montecito (davisandtaft.com), where there's always interesting furnishings, sculpture, pottery and artwork. For architectural salvage and Santa Barbara historical ephemera, I love **Architectural Antique & Salvage Co** (architecturalantique.com). I also love **Miri Mara Ceramics** (mirimara.com); the pots remind me of Brancusi and Modigliani sculpture. If I had to say where Santa Barbara's design soul is located, it would have to be at **Raoul Textiles** (raoultextiles.com), Sally McQuillan's shop on lower State Street, where there's an ever-changing presentation of antique and ethnic textiles that are mixed with Sally's own line of hand-printed Belgian linen fabrics. *Elizabeth Vallino Interiors*; elizabethvallinointeriors.com □

BELOW FROM LEFT Miles of Pacific Ocean coastline, lined with sandy beaches, adds to Santa Barbara's appeal. Take a tour around The Mission