

MANHATTAN BEACH MODERN / CLASSIC COAST INTERIORS

OCEAN HOME

The Luxury Coastal Lifestyle Magazine
FEBRUARY + MARCH 2025

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SEASIDE TRENDS

ON THE COVER: KAA designs a contemporary house on Manhattan Beach, California.

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editor's letter

■ NOTES FROM THE COAST

SAFE HAVEN

Dear readers, As we go to press with this issue, it is mid January, and the fires continue to blaze in Southern California. More than 23,000 acres were destroyed in the Palisades fire alone. One of our freelance writers, Jennie Nunn, lives in Santa Monica, and her husband, a firefighter, has seen the devastation firsthand.

Managing editor Melissa Gillespie has been on the ready to evacuate as new fires have broken out near her home in San Diego. And my brother Thomas and his family have been affected by the unforgiving flames. We think of all of you living through this time and send our positive thoughts and prayers.

We honor California's coast on the cover with our feature highlighting a Manhattan Beach design by KAA, a leader in modern architecture in California. Another California coastal beauty is a design by Safdie Rabines Architects. On Mission Bay in San Diego, the contemporary design has 180-degree views of the beach. Members of the architecture firm were careful to maximize views for this pie-shaped lot adjacent to a public boardwalk.

We also visit traditionally inspired interiors on Bethany Beach in Delaware by Purple Cherry Architects. The design is comfortable, functional, and beautiful with just enough coastal nods to let you know you are at the beach.

We hope this issue full of dreamy coastal designs offers inspiration in your own coastal home design projects.

Nancy Berry

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Design by Safdie Rabines Architects



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contributors

■ MEET THE TEAM



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Contributor Jennie Nunn is a former staff editor at magazines including *7x7*, *California Home+Design*, *C Magazine*, and *Sunset*. Her work has appeared in numerous publications including *AFAR*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Luxe Interiors+Design*, the *Denver Post*, *5280*, *Fodor's Travel*, and *Ocean Home*.



J. MICHAEL WELTON

As an architecture, art, and design writer, Welton has written for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *Dwell* magazine. He is architecture critic for *The News & Observer* in Raleigh, North Carolina, and is author of *Drawing from Practice: Architects and the Meaning of Drawing Freehand* (Routledge: 2015). He is also the editor and publisher of a digital design magazine at architectsandartisans.com.

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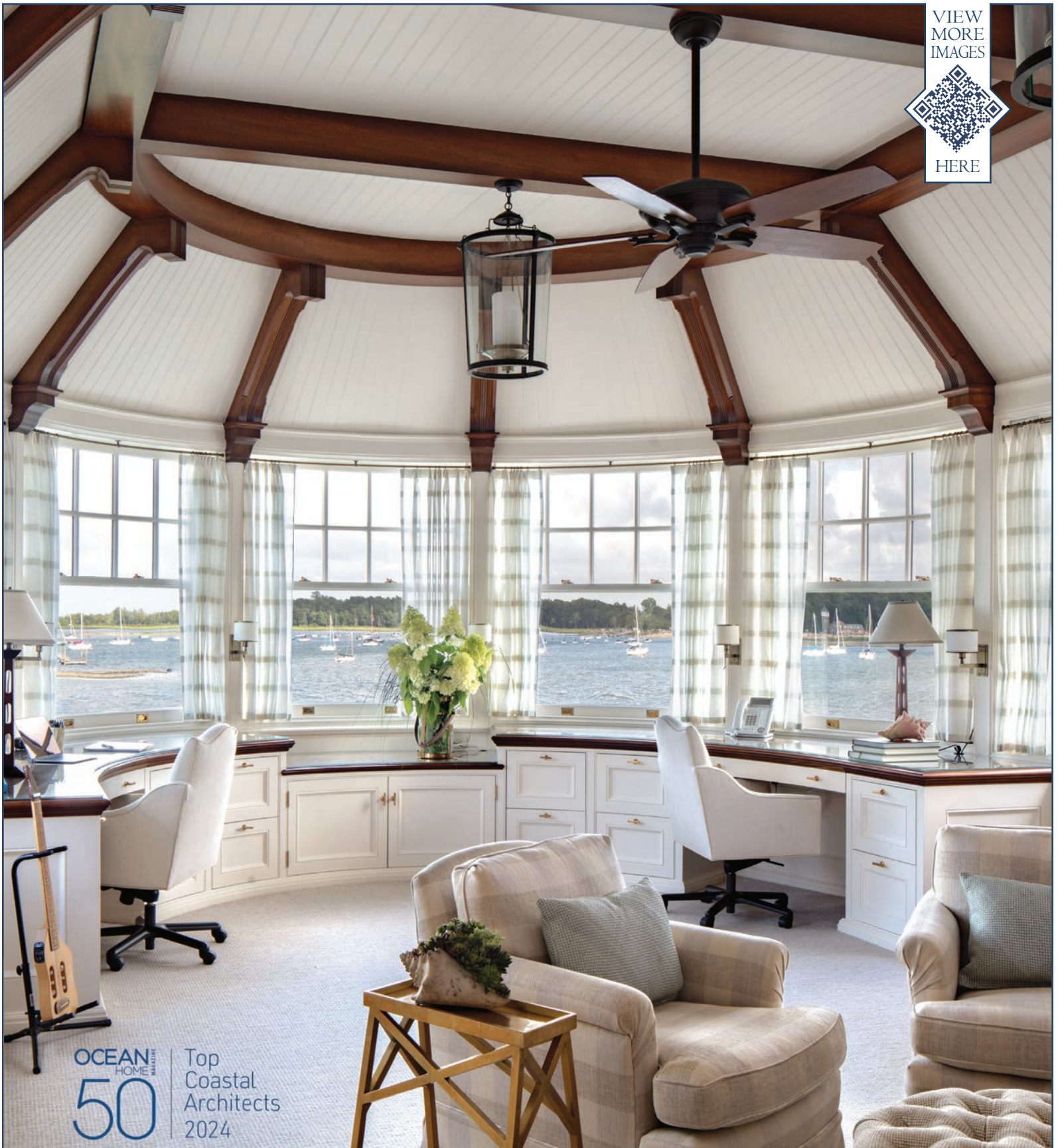


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■ INTERIOR DESIGN

WATERFRONT REDO

TAYLOR HART DESIGN MAKES
OVER A PROPERTY WITH STUNNING
WATER VIEWS IN ANNAPOLIS.

BY NANCY A. RUHLING
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PEAK VISUALS



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The kitchen and dining room, which had been separated by a wall, are now in an open plan.



From the front door, you can see all the way to the water.

Below, White semi-gloss paint was used strategically to define areas of the house, which is paneled in southern yellow pine.

Houses and families grow up together, and in the process, inevitably some changes need to be made.

When the Annapolis couple bought their shingle-style waterfront home on Little Aberdeen Creek in the Ferry Point neighborhood of Maryland's capital city, their three daughters were young.

In the beginning, the girls were more than content to sleep in the same bedroom and to spend their idle time playing with their toy horses in the sunlight that lived on the home's expansive second-floor landing.

As they grew, the girls were longing for their own space. That's when Deanna Gurri, of Taylor Hart Design, stepped in to assist, ultimately seamlessly carving out extra bedroom space without neglecting the beautiful post-and-beam structure of this 4,500-square-foot post-and-beam house, which is in a traditional New England Coastal style.

Eventually, the project expanded to include renovating the kitchen, enclosing an uncovered breezeway to create a much-needed mudroom, upgrading all the rooms, overhauling the back porch, adding a covered exterior entertainment area and revamping the hardscape of the swimming pool.

Details, such as the window seat that was added to the den, and the banquette that sits in the dining room, bring added functionality.

Often the hub for friends and extended family, the home hosts poolside gatherings, brunches on the back porch, and ladies' nights and girls' social events. What's more, the family dog can often be found napping serenely on the sofa. So the owners placed a priority on practicality, adding indoor/outdoor carpets and stair runners, performance fabrics, and natural solid-surface counters and hardscapes.

"They truly appreciate their natural surroundings, and they wanted the interiors

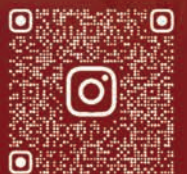




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to reflect what's right outside their door," says Laurie Hart, founder and principal of the eponymous firm.

Keeping true to the bones and spirit of the house was integral to the redesign, which can best be described as an elegant and elevated iteration of classic coastal cottage style.

"We wanted to honor the way the house was built," says Gurri. "We were thoughtful about what we chose to touch and what we chose not to touch."

The biggest challenge was determining a treatment for the southern yellow pine paneling that wraps the walls and beamed ceilings of the house like a warm, comfortable blanket. A complement to the home's hickory floors, it sets the mood and style for the entire structure.

The Taylor Hart team decided to refresh some sections of the paneling with semi-gloss white paint that gives a crisp, fresh spin on the look.

"We were very strategic about which sections we painted," Gurri says.

Thus, it is white paint that delineates the kitchen and the new dining room, which open into each other, creating a prime entertaining space. The dining room's freestanding banquette is upholstered in

Clockwise from top left, Taylor Hart Design redesigned the pool's hardscape.

The den has a new window seat that includes storage drawers.

The back patio, where the girls like to hang out, has wicker furniture, a sectional sofa, and a TV concealed in a cabinet.



fabric in an oatmeal colorway that's topped with a blue/brown/plum batik print that brings in colors from the kitchen's backsplash and the adjoining living spaces.

White also makes an appearance in the woodwork around the front door and in the entry hall and the living room.

The oldest daughter's new bedroom, carved out of that second-floor landing that the girls claimed as their own, is a teen's dream come true.

The walls are painted in glass-slipper blue, the bedstead is iron, and the highly textured rug looks so much like beach sand

Left to right, The new mudroom was created by enclosing an outdoor breezeway and adding a door.

The new bedroom, painted glass-slipper blue, features a private balcony with a water view.



that you can't help but run your bare toes through it. A waterfront private balcony, large enough for a table and a pair of chairs, brings the beach home.

One of the more colorful—and most used—new spaces is the mudroom, which features soft-blue cabinetry and a porcelain tile floor with swirls of a similar shade.

The real beauty of the furnishings, some of which are vintage pieces collected through the years, is that they are durable enough to withstand use by an active family that loves boating, fishing, crabbing, kayaking, and jet skiing.

The newly designed outdoor patio, outfitted with all-weather wicker chairs, a sectional sofa and a TV placed inside a cabinet, is one of the girls' favorite hang-out spaces for movie nights with friends.

The new space, Gurri says, has been very well received. The more usable layout, the capturing of improved water views and natural light, and the elevated finishes are some of the client's favorite design elements.

The proof of the success of the redesign lies in the way the family members and their home now can live life to the fullest. ♦



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From lounge chairs to tabletop grills and fireplaces, here's the latest in outdoor décor and essentials. **BY JENNIE NUNN**

1. Vent Free Outdoor Fireplace, Ortal, ortalheat.com.

2. Chicago Large Outdoor Planter, Arteriors, arteriorshome.com.

3. Luma Lounge Chair, Tuuci, tuuci.com.

4. Teak Jack Outdoor Coffee Table, Dixon Rye, dixonrye.com.

5. Hampton Outdoor Sectional in Palisades with Natural Acacia Wood Finish, Rove Concepts, roveconcepts.com.

6. 31-inch Tabletop Grill, Thaen, thaancharcoal.com.



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"I love this room's composition," says Lina Galvão.
"It feels very balanced and thoughtful."

"I love the built-ins with the double arches, which add tons of architectural interest and a definitive focal point," says Erin Coren.

—Erin Coren (left) and Lina Galvão, cofounders, Curated Nest, Greenwich, Connecticut



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FAMILY FIRST

A Greenwich, Connecticut-based design duo overhauls a main living space with comfort, storage solutions, and a bit of glamour. **BY JENNIE NUNN / STYLED BY CURATED NEST**

To reinvent their home in Rye, New York—with a room fit for gathering with friends, game nights with family, and ample storage space—a couple turned to interior designers Erin Coren and Lina Galvão, cofounders of Curated Nest in Greenwich, Connecticut. "Both the husband and wife are busy doctors, with two kids, who love to entertain," explains Coren. "The vision was to create a functional and elegant family room that the family could live in and easily enjoy the day-to-day without being too precious or fussy about messes or spills.

For the family room, the goal was to create a luxurious

yet timeless space that seamlessly blended with the adjacent kitchen. Utilizing a neutral palette with hints of salmon and built-ins awash in charcoal for contrast, they transformed the space into a haven for relaxation and cultivating meaningful memories while incorporating durable fabrics and storage solutions. "This family loves board games and spending quiet time together, so we gave them plenty of storage and surface area to lean into their favorite activities," adds Galvão. They also designated a focal point to further define the space from the kitchen. "The fireplace wall offered the

perfect opportunity to create custom built-ins and a new porcelain fireplace surround," says Coren. "The intention behind the charcoal color on the millwork was to add depth to the space and to draw out the beautiful marble veining in the adjacent kitchen."

To provide sufficient seating options for the family's needs and accommodate guests, they chose an L-shaped sectional sofa along with a tufted velvet swivel chair. "We designed the furniture layout to preserve the beauty of the fireplace wall, with the TV on the long wall facing the sofa," says Coren. "Given it's a family room, we wanted cozy furniture only. The L-shaped sectional and plush accent chair give the family plenty of opportunities to curl up and watch movies."

1. Blake 4-Door Cabinet in Taupe Gray, Villa & House, vandh.com.

2. Springsteen Chair Muslin Champagne Swivel Chair, Arteriors, arteriorshome.com; Custom upholstery: Gainsborough Velvet in Salmon, Schumacher, schumacher.com.

3. Custom pillow, Pillow Punk, pillowpunk.com; Fabric: Yves in Charcoal, Clarke & Clarke, Kravet, kravet.com.

4. Arabascato Visio porcelain, MSI Surface, msisurfaces.com.

5. Levi Sconce, Troy Lighting, Hudson Valley Lighting, hvlgroup.com.

6. Custom built-ins, DTF Rosemount, dtfrosemount.net designed by Curated Nest, curatednest.com; Healing Circle Cabinet Pulls in Satin Brass, San Diego Hardware, sandiegohardware.com; Paint: Wrought Iron 2124-10, Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.com.

7. Griffith Chandelier, Arteriors, arteriorshome.com.

8. Bone Table Lamp, Hable, Visual Comfort & Co., visualcomfort.com.

9. Moreau L-Shaped Sectional, Rowe Furniture, rowefurniture.com; Fabric: upholstered in a performance weave custom fabric by Kravet Smart collection, kravet.com.

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"I love the fact that the kitchen does not feel standard with added elements that make it feel really original and special. From the rustic beams and the pop of wood on the perimeters of the cabinets, to the texture of the barstools, they all really complement one another beautifully."

—Christine Vroom, principal designer, Christine Vroom Interiors, Redondo Beach, California



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SPANISH INFLUENCE

A Redondo Beach-based designer creates a warm and inviting kitchen with rustic wood beams and brass elements for a modern, Spanish-style home framed by ocean views in Palos Verdes Estates. **WRITTEN BY JENNIE NUNN / STYLED BY CHRISTINE VROOM / ARCHITECTURE BY PRITZKAT AND JOHNSON / CONTRACTOR TRACY ELY**

1. Custom White Oak Cabinetry, Custom Visions. "Not only are these top quality, but the finish turned out perfectly—a nice golden warm tone to blend with our brass finishes," says Vroom. "I wanted the back wall to have a contrasting finish, and are so happy we did."

2. Taj Mahal Quartzite,

Ollin Stone, ollinstone.com. "We love quartzite—it's the ideal stone for clients who like natural, but durable," says Vroom. "The finish is leathered which brings in texture again, and it's really a gorgeous element to bring this kitchen together."

3. Cutting board, Accent Décor, accentdecor.com. "We have a

mini love affair with a good cutting board," says Vroom. "We found these at the Vegas Design Market and knew we had to snag some."

4. Hand-hewn Douglas Fir Beams Designed by Tracy Ely. "He is a talented craftsman," says Vroom. "Each beam is individually distressed from solid beams and then stained

to perfection with a grey-toned brown."

5. Plantation Pendant by Chapman & Myers for Visual Comfort Signature, visualcomfort.com. "We wanted something open and airy, but also substantial," explains Vroom. "We found these pendants and knew they would be the perfect piece to highlight the kitchen."

6. Tile in Ozark, Fireclay Tile, fireclaytile.com. "We knew we wanted green, but finding the right green is always the trick," says Vroom. "We wanted a deeper sage-

olive, and found this candied green brick. This timeless color is a showstopper and brought beautiful life to the kitchen."

7. Taft Pull-Down Kitchen Faucet, Newport Brass, newportbrass.com. "The Taft is one of my favorite faucets," admits Vroom. "It has a classic silhouette, and a pretty, little knurled detail on the handle."

8. Simply White OC-117, Benjamin Moore, benjamin-moore.com. "It's a classic warm white," explains Christine. "It never fails in a

home when you want that creamy white."

9. Vase, Long Beach Antique Market, longbeachantiquemarket.com. "It's a cute little golden vase with a fun shape and a gorgeous color," adds Vroom.

10. Stratton Barstool, Williams Sonoma, williams-sonoma.com. "We searched for a while to find the perfect barstool," recalls Vroom. "They just had the right texture and really interesting two-tone woven backs. They were a clear winner, and we love them."

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Marble pieces, including the fireplace mantel, rest beautifully in the living room's mix of ivory textures and walnut, giving the space a hint of drama.



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■ INTERIOR DESIGN

SOUND DESIGN

DESIGNER AMY KALIKOW BALANCES COMFORT
AND STYLE IN THIS LONG ISLAND INTERIOR.

BY MARY GRAUERHOLZ
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RIKKI SNYDER

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Designer Amy Kalikow worked with cabinet and kitchen designer Christopher Peacock on the kitchen, which includes custom surfaces of walnut and white lacquer. Below, The home, set on the tip-end of Cow Neck Peninsula, offers views of Long Island Sound from all points.

For homeowners with a young, active family, a child-friendly house can mean different things: extra spaces for children to grow or room to run outdoors. For a professional couple relocating from New York City to Sands Point, a Long Island village, the request was more direct.

“They wanted nothing precious and delicate,” recalls designer Amy Kalikow. “It was very intentional.” With three children of middle-school age, having interiors that were sturdy was a must, says Kalikow, the principal of Amy Kalikow Design. Kalikow’s challenge was to devise interiors that could withstand running and tumbling, but which were also “elegant and graceful,” as she says, for this very social couple, an attorney and financial advisor.

Today, the new house, on a three-acre lot, is airy, light-filled, and welcoming. Children



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Clockwise from top left: The clients asked Kalikow to design a “wow factor” in every room. The shelving and backdrop of the bar off the living room pour on the elegance. The living area and dining room have spectacular looks, but are made for heavy traffic and lots of family. For a relaxing space for the adults, the library is a perfect place to have a drink and enjoy the piano. The home’s three-acre setting, fronted by Long Island Sound, is expansive and luxurious.



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have plenty of play space, on the first floor and in the kitchen-living area, while adults have their own spaces to congregate. Perhaps best of all, the interior of the home, located on a cul-de-sac at the tip-end of Cow Neck Peninsula, offers views of Long Island Sound from all points. “It’s like you’re on a boat,” Kalikow says.

The couple asked Kalikow for a “wow factor” in every room, and Kalikow delivered it by setting a timeless, understated backdrop to carry visual statements. The dazzling moments start in the entry, constructed entirely of marble, which Kalikow chose herself and designed. The black and white scheme segues to the all-white foyer, setting the tone for elegance with a touch of drama. “It’s a touch of Park Avenue in the suburbs,” Kalikow says.

The entry originally offered a conundrum. As the designer says, “the couple wanted something special, and we struggled with the lower entry and step-up, and the long halls. In the end, it was perfect and really set the tone for the house.”

The kitchen has a deft blend of Kalikow’s effect and the work of kitchen and cabinetry designer Christopher Peacock. The custom surfaces, walnut and white lacquer, are graceful and practical, with cutting board endcaps on the double islands. The border of the walnut trim continues to adjoining

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collaboration with: Jaimie Baird
stylist: Austin Whittle
photographer: Nicole Franzen

custom dining table -
cerused windfall white oak
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spaces, opening the area even more. All the appliances are energy-efficient; and heating and cooling systems offer optimal energy performance.

Kalikow worked hand in hand with architect Scott Fisher of Mitchell Wilk Architecture and builder Daniel Zarabi, often engaging together on finer points. For instance, when she saw the trim and wood paneling in the dining room, the designer asked for wider panels with a more contemporary feel. She also handpicked the finishes on the wood and stone for the fireplaces, and oversaw the custom stone vanity in the formal powder room, with integrated drawer and sink. “There was nothing in the house that I didn’t touch,” she notes.

Second-floor bedrooms are quiet and elegant. The master bedroom has its own sitting room, while the children have their own den with desks. The husband’s office offers a 360-degree view of the sound.

The bottom floor is about playing and relaxing, with a movie theater, sauna, gym, and guest room, as well as a cabana that leads to a swimming pool. The exterior emphasizes the waterfront beauty that encircles the house. Glass railings on decks maximize views.

Clockwise from left:
The stairway’s custom-made railing is crafted of stained walnut. The daughter’s room is light and bright in shades of gray and white. The children’s den is a space for the family’s three children to hang with friends or do their homework.



Kalikow, from her design studio in Manhattan, reflects on the origin of the project and how it unfolded. “I almost didn’t take the job,” she recalls. “They sent images of more traditional styles of décor, which I do not do. I sent them my vision for the house, and they loved it and took a leap of faith.” ♦

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT amykalikowdesign.com; mitchellwilk.com; peacockhome.com



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CHILD'S PLAY

FAR STUDIO CREATES A HOME ON THE WATER FOR A YOUNG FAMILY.

BY MARY GRAUERHOLZ

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRIAN WETZEL

Interior designer Brittany Hakimfar of Far Studio loves a project that's filled with temptation.

In one airy Palm Beach home that Hakimfar designed, each room turns into a sensory romp: A creamy custom-made marble dining table begs to be experienced. An exquisite area rug on a warm oak floor is as enticing as a treasured book. And then there is the irresistible eye candy of the millwork, designed by Hakimfar herself.

This is only a taste of the delights in the two-story Palm Beach home, which is at once luxe and hardy, perfect for a young family with children. After relocating from

New York City, the homeowners embraced the Palm Beach, Florida, lifestyle: the glimmering water, the lush greenery, the ease of opportunities for the children to play or swim in the pool in the back property.

Hakimfar, who operates Far Studio outside Philadelphia with her husband and business partner Ben Hakimfar, completely understood the homeowners' desire to have a beautiful interior but one where kids could truly play. (The Hakimfars have three young children themselves.) "The couple wanted a light and bright home, but warm, not like a beach house; they wanted

a family home," she says. "Lots of our clients have kids. It's important to create things that stand the test of time."

Far Studio got into the project on the ground floor, which delighted Hakimfar. "We were hired during construction, which was perfect," she says. "We got to make a lot of design decisions. The homeowners really trusted us." Her purview included choosing or custom-designing every piece of furniture and many of the architectural features, in conjunction with the homeowners, including flooring and specially built pieces such as the Hakimfar-designed cabinetry in the dining room, the custom millwork in the family room and office, and shelving in the kitchen.

Walking through the entry of the Palm Beach home, the impact is subtle yet powerful. Hakimfar's love of timeless colors, natural materials, and eye-catching vignettes defines every room, all of which are on a foundation of organic, modernist design.

In the first-floor great room, custom pieces



include the sofa and a travertine coffee table handmade by Stone Tech—Hakimfar’s “go-to” fabricator for stone—and the sweeping, colorful rug, custom made by Kravet. In the dining room is the stunning marble table, also designed by Hakimfar, and crafted by Stone Tech. Over the dining table is a chandelier by Apparatus, a lighting manufacturer in New York City. Throughout the main floor, drapery is a misty dream of sheer white linen.

The first-floor powder room is anchored by a stunning custom fluted marble vanity. The kitchen, a palette of white shades, features a



Soft shades set a soothing, creative mood throughout the first floor. The marble dining table was custom designed by Hakimfar and crafted by Stone Tech.





A burnt-orange chair in the office is Hakimfar's way of 'breaking the rules' a bit. Curated vignettes of art, furniture, and sheer drapes are eye-catching and calming.

backsplash in Bedrosians' Cloe Collection. Just beyond the spacious windows is the swimming pool, with a line of comfy chaise lounges and another table under the portico for outdoor dining.

The first-floor office gave Hakimfar a chance to "break the rules" a bit. Dark and a little moody, it is one of the designer's favorite spaces. "In a house that is this light and bright, it's always good to have a room that's a bit moody," she says. Custom millwork and a modernist accent chair and footrest, both custom-fabricated in burnt orange, are heart-skipping pops of interest. "We leaned into the drama here, something that's not expected in Florida homes."

A staircase leads to the second floor, which holds three bedrooms.

The home is a pastiche of Hakimfar's

most-loved sentiments surrounding the world of style and what home means. "I love interiors that are timeless, textured, layered, and livable," she says. "When I'm designing, I want things to be beautiful and practical."

Hakimfar came to her success naturally, and it shows. Certainly, her education in interior architecture, and time spent working in a large Los Angeles design firm, to give her an advantage. And word of mouth has brought many of her clients (including the Palm Beach homeowners). Today, assisted by several designers and artisans across the country, she approaches every project with an artful eye.

"It grew organically," the designer says of Far Studio. "And it came faster than I was expecting. But no one was doing design the way I was." ♦



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■ DESTINATION: MEXICO

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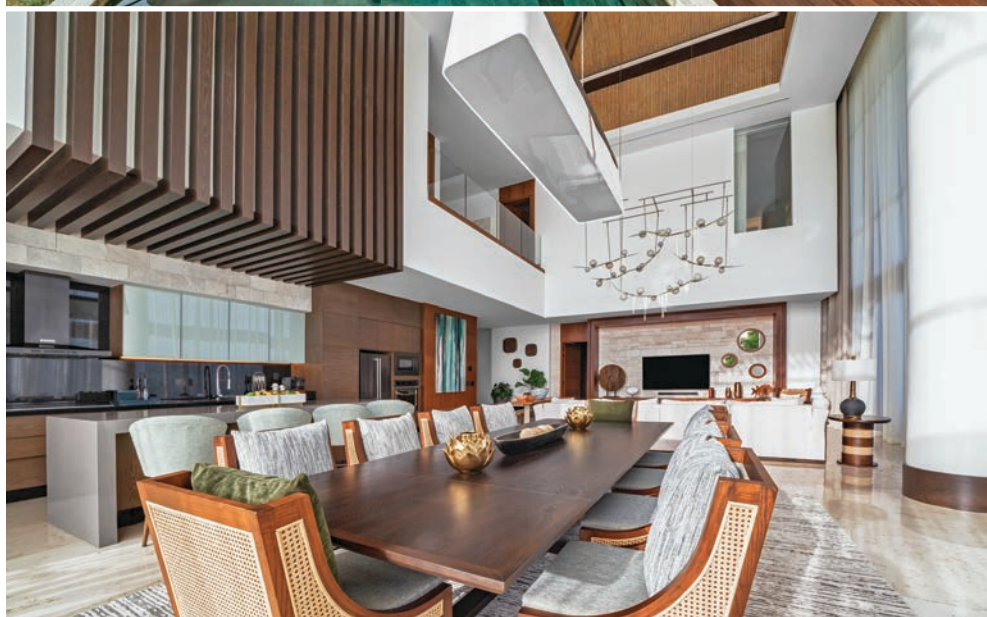
THE ESTATES BY VIDANTA IN NUEVO VALLARTA, MEXICO, SERVE UP ELEGANCE AND LUXURY IN A DREAMY OCEANFRONT SETTING.

BY MARY GRAUERHOLZ



The Sierra Madre Mountains, which follow the Pacific coastline, provide stunning views at The Estates by Vidanta in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico.

Opposite, In the Empire Suite, a swimming pool stretches almost the length of the deck, perfect for unwinding or practicing your strokes. Dining is a dream for your party of travelers. For pure relaxation, a private chef is available to prepare and serve your meal.



Take a breath and meditate on a picture-perfect ocean getaway, complete with warm tropical breezes under a pearly-blue sky. Your only worry is how to juggle a drink and a good book in your hands. Now, imagine that scenario embellished with spectacular dining, endless entertainment options, amenities galore—and your own private butler trained by the British Butler Institute—and you’ve reached nirvana.

This is life at The Estates by Vidanta, an elegant property in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico, where relaxation is as luxurious as you can imagine. Located just north of Puerto Vallarta on the Pacific Ocean, The Estates has a sumptuous vibe that simply doesn’t stop. Imagine what 5,000 staff members can

accomplish at this expansive resort, set on more than 2,500 acres. While most guests have an ongoing membership, villas are also rented by the night.

Arriving at The Estates, after leaving my cold, gray-sky life behind, my world became all about maximum luxury and pampering. Suddenly, like jumping into a beautiful pool, I was immersed in the moment.

The resort’s location, on the Pacific Ocean with views of the Sierra Madre Mountains, is supreme. Five high-end luxury towers are set among great swaths of untouched greenery. You begin to see that the resort is true to the words of a staff member who greeted me upon my arrival: “Welcome to your lost paradise in the jungle.”

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In my villa, I head for the balcony—complete with a dipping pool and comfy deck chairs—and set my gaze on unending masses of trees, dotted with bright flowers whose colors stunned my winter-weary eyes, while birds sang sweet songs.

The villas at The Estates are architectural beauties, with a modern, warm tone. Soft hues and luxury fabrics mean that your best life can be simply sitting and admiring your surroundings. The Jacuzzi tub was waiting, with a small table of high-end bath salts and beauty products. Entrancing art and tropical touches adorn the walls.

It was perfection. And then it got even better when I pick up a message: Was there anything I needed? It was my butler, ready to serve. How about reservations for a meal? Or arrangements for special services such a tour of the famous chocolate room? Perhaps cold drinks brought to the room? Yes, yes, and yes, please.

Food and artful table settings are a prime focus. From the resort's welcome drink—of pineapple juice, ginger, lime, and soursop (a cousin of guava)—to fresh fish dinners with salad from the resort's own garden, each meal was wonderful. If you don't want to leave your villa for a meal, a chef can prepare it in your room. Our private breakfast of fresh fruit, just-baked croissants and breads, and Eggs Benedict perfectly prepared on the spot, was as beautiful as it was delicious. The spectacular cinnamon rolls are a must-try. Coffee, from beans grown on the property, is rich, dark, and delightful.

The Empire Suite, with four bedrooms, is perfect for friends or family to gather, with plenty of space for everyone.

More pools and views await when you step out of your suite.

Interior décor is impeccable, with mesmerizing colors, fabrics, and artwork.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY THE ESTATES BY ROBERTO H. VIDANTA



The clubhouse pool is a serene spot to tuck into. Nearby is a livelier pool where children can play and adults can mingle.

With almost 20 restaurants, The Estates offers options ranging from low-key casual fare to fine dining. Each one was a stellar experience. A tour of the chocolate room is bursting with creativity. Here, the lead pastry chef, Fidel Baeza, creates art with delicious handmade chocolate that has to be seen (and tasted) to be believed.

The opportunities at The Estates to be outdoors and active are stunning. Golfers will be very happy: The expansive property offers two premier courses as well as a 10-hole, par-3 course and the new Vidanta Golf Academy. (Vidanta will host the Mexican Open by PGA in 2025.) Nearby, the Par Tee Zone offers InRange technology, a hyper-accurate radar ball-tracking game (fun even for us novices) and excellent food (serving the best fish tacos I've ever had).

Tennis players are in very good hands here, with encouraging, expert pros. Eight pickleball courts serve this booming sport. Swimming options range from exquisite pools, perfect for socializing or quiet serenity, to nearby Aqua Park, with wave pools, slides, and other active options.

If your taste is more low-key, a stroll through the culinary gardens will wake up your senses. Or ride the gondola, linking the widespread areas of Vidanta, with a bird's-eye view. Among the sights is a closeup of an amazing suspension bridge, over the Ameca River, which connects two parts of Vidanta. The Vidanta Concert Series, held in the Vidanta Vallarta Esplanade, is a music lover's delight. One recent concert featured Marc Anthony, the "king of salsa," in a sold-out performance.

Opportunities for wellness and body care abound at The Estates. The spa—tucked in a private spot—is a luxurious cocoon of sensory experience. After putting myself in the hands of Esmerelda, a top-of-the-line masseuse, I was relaxed, refreshed, and ready for the rest of my sunny stay at The Estates. Note to self: Find the butler. ♦

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT vidanta.com/en/web/nuevo-vallarta/the-estates or call 800-292-9446.

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Unique-to-Amrit amenities include the indoor-outdoor 17,000-square-foot Aayush Hydrothermal Experience. The guided experience features hot and cold replenishment pools, a hydro-reflexology path, an arctic chill fountain, an effusion shower, a salt inhalation chamber, sauna and steam rooms, and a lap pool.

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SINGER ISLAND SPA

INSIDE THE GROUNDBREAKING SPA AT
AMRIT OCEAN RESORT IN FLORIDA. BY MARIETTE WILLIAMS

Florida is known for its tendency to do things on a grand scale. From Orlando's Walt Disney World, the largest theme park in the country, to the countless beaches that line its coasts, the state isn't known for skimping on pleasures. In May 2024, Florida welcomed a new addition to its list of attractions: Amrit Ocean Resort. Situated on Singer Island, just 20 minutes north of West Palm Beach, this stunning beachfront resort offers a unique blend of luxury and wellness, with the ocean as its backdrop.

"After much anticipation, we're thrilled to officially open our doors and invite visitors from near and far to experience a true fusion of luxury and wellness at Amrit Ocean

Resort," says Reggie Cooper, general manager at Amrit Ocean Resort. "Amrit is the next generation of wellness resorts, and we are excited to enhance our guests' minds, bodies, and spirits."

Meaning "elixir of life" in Sanskrit, Amrit sets itself apart from other resorts with its four-story, 103,000-square-foot spa, the largest in Florida. I recently paid a visit, and as someone who's been to dozens of spas, I was thoroughly impressed with the luxury wellness destination. Amrit, as I found out, isn't your typical hotel spa facility.

After crossing the bridge to Singer Island, one of Palm Beach County's private enclaves, I arrived at the luxe resort and was

whisked into the pristine spa lobby for my day of treatments.

My spa day started with a Himalayan hot stone massage in one of the spa's 25 treatment rooms. It continued with a session in a hyperbaric oxygen chamber and an LED RedLight therapy treatment to stimulate collagen. I also received a dry flotation meditation treatment, in which I was suspended, fully clothed, in a waterbed-like tank filled with warm water. Meant to reduce blood pressure and improve circulation, the treatment was one of the most relaxing I've experienced.

Between sessions, I dined at TULĀ, the resort's globally inspired wellness restaurant. The dining room has sweeping views of the ocean, and I watched the gentle waves as I savored mushroom chowder and fresh branzino on a bed of vegetable quinoa. The restaurant's menu is vegetable-forward, meaning 70 percent of dishes are plant-based, and 30 percent incorporate animal protein.

Clockwise from top left, Amrit's hyperbaric chamber is a pressurized pod where guests breathe pure oxygen to increase the amount of oxygen in their blood. The 1,200-square-foot facility houses signature hammam rituals and body treatments that link ancient Moroccan bathing traditions with innovative, modern techniques.



“At Amrit, our foundation is built on the belief that true well-being and longevity are achieved through integrating the five pillars of wellness: mindfulness, nutrition, fitness, relaxation, and sleep,” says Akram Alkawasmeh, executive director of Wellness & Spa, Amrit Ocean Resort. “These principles inspire every aspect of the resort—not only within our wellness and spa facility but also through our restaurants, guest rooms, amenities, and programming.”

The property also offers a diverse portfolio of classes and services, catering to each guest's unique needs. Whether you're a fan of barre, yoga, or cycling (there's a studio for

each), or you're looking to experience the rejuvenating effects of Hamman, an ancient Moroccan bath ritual, this spa has something for every type of wellness seeker.

Besides the wealth of classes, guests at the spa can access board-certified physicians and medical practitioners who offer integrated health assessments and wellness services. And if that's not enough, the spa's Aayush, meaning “life” or “longevity” in Sanskrit, is Florida's first indoor-outdoor hydrothermal water therapy circuit. The 17,000-square-foot self-guided experience features a sequence of hot and cold replenishment pools, a hydro-reflexology path, an arctic

chill fountain, effusion showers, a salt inhalation chamber, sauna and steam rooms, and a private lap pool.

I spent the latter half of my day lounging by the pool, and though the spa's sheer magnitude of services was impressive, the resort's accommodations are just as spectacular. The 155 guestrooms (including 25 suites) feature soft-hued linens, oversized bathrooms with freestanding tubs, and floor-to-ceiling windows leading to balconies overlooking the resort's 300-foot private beachfront. Overnight guests at the resort can also access a range of complimentary fitness and wellness activities.

Amrit Ocean Resort is a welcome addition to Florida's top-notch resorts, and the resort's transformative wellness treatments and personalized services are a testament that in Florida, bigger is better. ♦



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Litibú Bay Club in Punta de Mita



ALINA 220, Boca Raton, Florida



The 01 Collection at The Perigon, Miami Beach, Florida

OCEANFRONT LIVING

The latest in coastal real estate and resorts **BY MELISSA C. GILLESPIE**

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Tucked between a secluded beachfront and the 18th hole of Higuera Golf Club's Greg Norman-designed course, **Litibú Bay Club in Punta de Mita** is a stunning addition to Mexico's Riviera Nayarit. This private club community spans 21 acres and features 171 residences, including beachfront estates, golf-view villas, and oceanfront homes. Designed by TALLER ADG, the residences showcase modern elegance, seamlessly integrating indoor and outdoor spaces with sweeping views of Litibú Bay and Cerro del Mono. Amenities include a beachfront infinity pool, a sports and adventure club, and wellness facilities. The Ocean Villas and Golf Villas range from \$1.41 to \$3.45 million before any pre-construction incentives. litibubayclub.com

ALINA 220, BOCA RATON, FLORIDA ALINA Residences Boca Raton, developed by EL-Ad National Properties, ushers in a new era of luxury with the completion of **ALINA 220**.

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Introducing **The 01 Collection at The Perigon**, a masterpiece of oceanfront living on Miami Beach's pristine coastline. Designed by OMA with interiors by Tara Bernerd, the assemblage of residences range from 6,000 to 7,500 square feet. Each four-bedroom home blends the sophistication of a single-family estate with the conveniences of luxury condominium

living. The Perigon's five-star amenities include a Michelin-starred chef's restaurant, a private beach club, and a speakeasy. Pricing begins at \$19.9 million.

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A new pinnacle of waterfront luxury rises in Cancun's prestigious La Isla District with **One Laguna Residences & Marina Club**. Designed by HKS, this 211-residence development offers a range of homes—from garden residences to penthouses



One Laguna Residences & Marina Club, Cancun, Mexico



One Hacienda Pinilla, Guanacaste, Costa Rica

with rooftop terraces—all emphasizing seamless indoor-outdoor living. Each residence offers breathtaking views of Nichupté Lagoon, the Caribbean Sea, and surrounding mangroves. Amenities include a 42-slip private marina, infinity pools, a wellness spa, and exclusive access to Dutch-designed Lekker boats. Prices start at \$1.3 million for three-bedroom

residences and \$3.3 million for penthouses. onelaguna.com

ONE HACIENDA PINILLA, GUANACASTE, COSTA RICA

Grupo Roble and 2Costa Rica Real Estate introduce **One Hacienda Pinilla**, an ultra-luxury oceanside enclave within the iconic 4,500-acre Hacienda Pinilla resort. This exclusive community offers 51 premium lots

designed to harmonize with Costa Rica's rustic charm and natural beauty. Amenities include a wellness center, pickle and padel ball courts, putting green, and walking trails. Residents benefit from the optional One Membership, which provides access to JW Marriott Guanacaste facilities. Prices start at \$573,745 to \$1,025,444. onehaciendapinilla.com



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A large artwork
inside the front door
sets the tone for the
house, whose top
level appears to be
floating on water.

MODERN



MARVEL

KAA creates a one-of-a-kind design on the Strand in Manhattan Beach, California.

By NANCY A. RUHLING
Photographs by ROGER DAVIES/OTTO



ON THE BOARDWALK

in Manhattan Beach, California, there's a new house that stands out amid its neighbors.

The three-story board-formed concrete and cedar modernist structure, a breathtaking fusion of art and architecture, appears to be floating placidly, like a boat, above the white-sand beach of The Strand, the most exclusive of the city's communities.

"The site is coveted—it's like having a front-row seat, and the architecture is singularly unique," says Grant Kirkpatrick, a founding partner of Los Angeles-based KAA Design, which designed it and some three dozen others on The Strand. "A two-foot-high band of windows between the upper and lower floors creates that floating illusion. At night, it glows like a lantern."

The owners, a couple with an experienced eye for design, commissioned Kirkpatrick and his team, which included project manager Meghan Beckmann and landscape architect Michael McGowen, to build a place that would serve as their primary residence and as a gathering spot for family and friends.

They asked Los Angeles-based interior designer Alana Homesley who had done other projects on The Strand, to create warm, welcoming spaces.

The floors of the house are in an open plan that allows the landscape to come inside.



Top to bottom, Walls of windows in the primary suite make it one with the beach. The top level of the house appears to be floating on water.

The couple had been renting a house near the property for years, and when it came on the market, they snapped it up.

The lot is small—it's only 33 feet by 100 feet—but that didn't deter the couple from asking KAA to design a 7,400-square-foot house packed with amenities.

"Manhattan Beach is urban beach living," Kirkpatrick says. "There's only about six feet between each house—not a lot of elbow room."

The owners had a couple of considerations that also influenced the design: They wanted to showcase their extensive collection of large-scale contemporary art, and they wanted an open floor plan that would invite the outdoors in.

"The juxtaposition of these opposing objectives of wanting to see the views but needing to create enough space for the art created a great challenge," Kirkpatrick says.



To that end, KAA designed gardens that, as Kirkpatrick says, “permeate the space. In the sculpture courtyard, the garden is literally pulled into the house. It bleeds into the exterior and creates a warm glow at night.”

The blending of indoor and outdoor spaces is cunningly achieved in the primary suite, where a large circular “sky opening” in the terrace ceiling off the bath acts as a welcoming portal to the natural world.

It went without saying (although the couple did request it) that the house be a unique work of art and architecture.

“There are quite a few styles of houses on The Strand,” Kirkpatrick says. “They wanted theirs to be different.”

Because the houses are packed so closely together, the KAA team envisioned the lots as shipping berths and the couple’s home as a boat slipping into dock.

“Privacy also was a prime concern,” Kirkpatrick says. “The upper level of the house has vertical cedar paneling and shutters that can be manipulated to control the sunlight and the views.”

Like The Strand’s other houses, this home’s front door, made of bronze, is on the side. But the placement isn’t strictly conventional: Following the principles of feng shui, it is set on an angle for a positive flow of energy.

Because the home is so in sync with its surroundings, it would be natural to wrap it in neutral tones that put the scenery center stage.

But the couple had other ideas.

“They prefer clean, primary and secondary colors,” Homesley says, adding that the interior spaces subtly evoke a houseboat. “The biggest challenge was how to marry the environment with the bold colors of the artworks they collect.”

The color scheme draws not only from the art but also from the Bulthaup kitchen the clients chose.

In each space, Homesley selected a “star,” a focal point for her design. The dining room, whose main wall features a trio of Andy Warhol portraits, revolves around the couple’s George Nakashima table.

“It’s such a precious piece that I didn’t want to overpower it, so I looked for delicate furniture to surround it,” Homesley says, adding that it had to hold its own against the art wall.



The 'sky opening' in the primary bath brings light and the outdoors in.

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Top to bottom, The beach room has a billiards table with an orange felt top and its own sunset. The bar is one of the fun amenities in the beach room.

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She paired it with classic-form walnut Danish chairs upholstered in cognac-color leather that's almost orange.

The space opens to and complements the living area, which is defined by a bold blue leather ottoman.

The home's sense of sophisticated fun is reflected in the entertaining beach room, a ground-level floor that announces itself with the text artwork SUN SET in illuminated marquee-size letters.

Homesley used that sculpture as the starting off point for her design, giving herself license to cover the top of the billiards table with felt the color of a construction cone.

In addition to the pool table, there's a flat-screen TV, a sectional sofa, a cozy bar with an

island and seating, and a pool/spa combo.

The primary suite is a calm, soothing counterpoint to the beach room. Clad in nice-on-the-toes, off-white wall-to-wall carpeting, the space has two sections—one for sleeping, one for sitting.

A ribbed wooden wall behind the bed separates them. A corner of floor-to-ceiling glass brings the beach in, providing unobstructed views.

It is here that the calming colors live—the carpet and bedding are wave white.

Interior design, Homesley notes, is a collaborative process. It's like putting together a puzzle that has more than one correct solution.

And, in the case of The Strand beach house, everything fits together beautifully. ♦



A SPIRITED SOLUTION



Developer Chris Loughridge built his new house on a small lot. It takes advantage of its site by opening up to boardwalk and beach.

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HOW GIN & TONIC HELPED SHAPE DISCUSSIONS FOR A NEW HOME ON MISSION BAY IN SAN DIEGO.

BY J. MICHAEL WELTON / PHOTOGRAPHS BY MANOLO LANGIS

Sure, the Gin & Tonic may have saved “more Englishmen’s lives and minds than all the doctors in the Empire,” as Winston Churchill once said.

But more recently, it played a key role in negotiating a San Diego property for real estate developer Chris Loughridge.

Despite its zesty bite.

Its tonic may taste bitter, but that’s from the quinine contained in the 18th-century, antimalarial cocktail. And with a simple twist of lemon or lime, the G & T packs a double whammy: Its tangy dose of Vitamin C staves off scurvy too.

A few years back, though, when Loughridge was working on that 21st-century real estate deal in San Diego, the G & T had been elevated well beyond the realm of medicine.



Above: Architect Taal Safdie created places where people can hang out and enjoy themselves on the water. Below: The house faces left with a large overhang hovering inside and out.

It had made its great leap onto the social stage. Once it was established as an effective tool in British medical kits, it debuted as a star on the highball circuit. It made its way west to the U.S. in the 20th century—and still holds its own as the go-to drink for warmer months. When seer-suckers and summer shoes splash coast to coast across the nation after Memorial Day, the ubiquitous G & T fizzes from Maine to Miami.

No surprise, then, that when Loughridge began courting the owner of a pie-shaped piece of property facing unobstructed, 180-degree views of San Diego's Mission Bay, the drink was part of their ritual.

Loughridge was already living in a condo three blocks away from the site he thought the best in the area, with twice as much waterfront—and vistas—as its neighbors. So he'd written a letter to the owner of the property, then stopped by to meet, talk, and develop a friendship. "She had me over for G & Ts," he says. "We talked a great deal, and she kept my letter."

Eventually the property became available, and Loughridge jumped on it. "He's enthusiastic and has a lot of energy," says San Diego-based Taal Safdie, founding partner in Safdie Rabines Architects. "He embraces life—he's in his late fifties or early sixties."

An existing house in less-than-desirable condition had to come down to meet Loughridge's vision for a new home that would accommodate his family—including his partner, her son, and his two daughters.

But taking total advantage of the site was a major priority too. "It truly opens up to the boardwalk and the beach," Safdie says of the design she developed with her husband and partner Ricardo Rabines. "Some people would have wanted it to be more private, but he wanted people to walk by, see him and talk to him—he knows a lot of people in the neighborhood."

He got to know his architects well, too.

Trained at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Architecture, Rabines and Safdie met there, then worked in New York at Kohn Pedersen Fox and Pei Cobb Freed & Partners. When Penn's chairman asked them to open an architecture school at UC San Diego, the couple jumped at the chance. Alas, the school closed in the early 1990s, but the architects stayed on.

The Loughridge project was smaller than their usual fare, but the client was on board with Rabines and Safdie. "I just liked them a



Top: Outside finish material is Turkish limestone. Center: Cabinets and ceilings are Western hemlock. Here: The architects called for a significant amount of steel and glass.



Clockwise from top left: Turkish limestone serves as art on walls in kitchen and office. Top right: The site is triangular and faces 180 degrees of waterfront. Lower right: The architects maximized views from each room. Lower left: The home is built facing southwest.



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great deal as I got to know their work,” the client says. “They usually do much bigger projects, but they liked this site very much.”

Their assignment was to maximize the home’s views from each of its four bedrooms and an office—but to make people feel comfortable and relaxed the moment they walked in. “I wanted people to enjoy looking at it—and being in it,” he says.

The architects and client worked with construction project manager Matthew Cole from the San Diego office of Hill Construction to achieve that effect. The home is California contemporary in style, with indoor/outdoor





living spaces, big and open rooms—plus plenty of natural finishes, a beachy color palette, and vertical grains in Turkish limestone.

“One thing we really liked was that Chris liked taking the slabs and using them as works of art in the kitchen and office,” Cole says. “They give pops of color and visual interest in the more intricate details.”

At ground level, each room opens to a patio through floor-to-ceiling glass doors. Top-floor bedrooms with panoramic views further blur lines between interior space and the im-

mediately adjacent boardwalk. “It brings the outside in, while providing a visual connection to the community,” Rabines says.

That’s a sensitive reflection of Loughridge’s outgoing personality, one the former owner didn’t miss when the two began discussing her property’s eventual sale.

When the time arrived, she told her broker to approach Loughridge first.

“She actually left a bottle of gin and tonic for the closing,” he says.

And the rest is history. ♦

This page: Upstairs are four bedrooms.

Next page: Top: The architects chose natural finishes and a beachy color palette. Bottom: The master bathroom is Blue Roma limestone. Stone countertops in every room are of different natural stone.



Timeless INTERIORS

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The chairs of the dining room are upholstered in the same blue fabric; the host chairs also have a lighter blue piping. The glass chandelier whispers beach.

*PURPLE CHERRY
TAKES A TRADITIONAL
APPROACH TO A BETHANY
BEACH DREAM HOUSE.*

BY NANCY A. RUHLING
PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE BUCHANAN

Top to bottom: The sunroom, which has a fun vibe, features a sky-blue ceiling, a bold blue tile around the fireplace, and a circular wicker pendant in two shades of blue. Even the tic-tac-toe board on the games table gets into the act: Its playing pieces are metallic starfish.

In the living room, whites, blues and greens blur the lines between indoor and outdoor spaces. The chandelier, plaster white, appears to disappear.

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When it comes to buying or designing a new home, there's one basic criterion that notoriously tops the proverbial checklist: location.

You know, the kind of shingle-style home that you would come across in the Hamptons or Cape Cod.

Timeless. Nothing too fancy.

He and his wife looked at several houses, but none of them seemed to be quite right.

So when they were offered the chance to buy an extra-large vacant lot facing the ocean, they decided to take the plunge and build their own dream house.





“My vision of a simple beach house went out the window,” the husband says, adding that they ended up building a legacy compound that will serve their family for generations.

The 8,000-square-foot, four-level house has seven bedroom suites and three half baths, enough to accommodate them, their two grown sons, and any grandchildren who appear on the scene in the future. (A bunk room was included in anticipation of their eventual arrival.)

“We wanted something attractive and timeless that would have legs with a style that would never go out of style,” he says. “And we wanted to carry this through to the interiors—we wanted a coastal look that didn’t scream cute or beach.”

To soften the beach speak, they hired Purple Cherry Architects to select a light, airy palette and provide furnishings, accessories, light fixtures, millwork details, and tiles.

The result, a refined coastal aesthetic, makes the house look and feel as though the family has lived in it, graciously, for years.

“The couple has another coastal house, so they wanted this one to look different from it,” says Gray Warren, the Purple Cherry interior designer for the project. “To put a different spin on things, we used fabrics and colorways and textures that don’t speak of a beach house.”

That doesn’t mean that blues, a traditional beach house color, were benched.

“We used shades of soft blues and turquoise throughout the house to create a serene feel,” Warren says.

These wavelets of blues are accented by greens, in items like throw pillows and faux plants, to complement the scenery, says Cathy Purple Cherry, firm founder and principal.

The living room, a gallery in white, is ap-



Clockwise from top left: The dining area offer spectacular views of the water.

The family room, ensconced behind sliding glass doors, has a big-screen TV, a wet bar, and sink-into-serenity seating.

The kitchen island and pendants are painted a neutral gray that enhances the blue of the bar stools.

One end of the sunroom is a work-from-home office. The wall cabinets are faced with rattan that’s in front of glass.

pointed with a variety of blues. A pair of prominent chairs wears a very pale blue that looks as though it were washed out by the sea, and the dainty ottomans flanking the fireplace are clad in diminutive patterns of baby blue.

The color is picked up in books, ginger jars, and even small cuttings of hydrangeas, creating a cohesive, yet casual, scene.

The dining room, dominated by a substantial single-plank table that is positioned for a prime beach view, features delicate bamboo side chairs whose seats are upholstered in a medium-blue woven fabric that matches that





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Left to right: The bunk room adds a new color, red, to the home's palette. The beds, illuminated by porthole lights, are painted seafoam blue.

The primary bath has a bold backsplash; a frosted door leads to the toilet room.

Opposite page, top to bottom: One of the guest suites has a branch-poster bed and opens to a private terrace with a pair of floating bed swings that are ideal for napping.

In the primary suite, the windows create a "living mural." A coral throw and a small vase of flowers bring in an additional color to the blue and white palette.



of the two host chairs, which are piped in a lighter blue.

The sunroom, part of which is used as a work-from-home office, is a prime example of the interweaving of the blues, which start on the ceiling and flow through the basket-like pendant light, the games table, and the frames of the faux bamboo chairs flanking the fireplace, which is dressed in a boldly patterned blue tile.

In the kitchen, the blues fade to the light grey of the island's base, a color that enhances the other blues.

The views were a prime consideration in the furnishing of the rooms.

"We had to make sure that the height of the pieces didn't block the scenery," Purple Cherry says.

Although the house is large—the kitchen and dining room, for example, can seat up to 19—the spaces are configured for intimacy, with furnishings providing cozy conversational groupings.

To give the house a lived-in feel, the design team delved into the details, adding everything from books and bedding to sprigs of flowers. "But nothing looks staged," Warren says.

Each of the bedroom suites is a variation on a theme: They coordinate but don't match, something the homeowner specifically requested.

The house looks elegant, but it was de-

signed for everyday living. Many of the seating pieces are upholstered in performance fabrics that are easy to clean. In the living room, the armchairs facing the beach are clad in a textured blurred stripe in a light brown colorway, perfect, Warren says, for concealing particles of sand that beachgoers bring in.

Throughout the home, the beach theme is so toned down, Warren says, "that the rooms could be in any house."

The owners couldn't be more pleased. Not only do they love the house, but they say that everyone who walks in declares that it is one of the nicest homes on the Delaware coast. ♦

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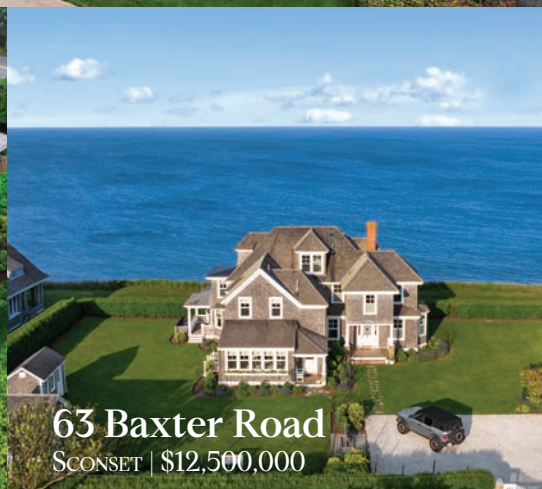
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