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This modern Wine Country retreat serves up a generous slice of Kenwood's decadent scenery, p. 114





let the sun





A bamboo-framed mirror and floral printed pillows bring the outdoors into the living room. Colorful surfboards lean in the corner, redefining artwork. "Those are the boards the family uses," says Trout. "They would never do anything just for show."

When a former pro athlete and his family called on Michele Trout to build their dream house, there was only one motto: Home is where you hang your surfboard.

BY JODI BRYSON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN ELLIS

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# shine in





**T**he story starts in Atlanta—nowhere near excellent waves—nearly 16 years ago on a day so hot that then-NFL Falcon reserve quarterback Perry Klein was negotiating his six-foot-three-inch frame into an inflatable kiddie pool. “What are we *doing* here?” the Malibu-raised surfer joked to his Orange County-born wife, Cari. With a garden hose as their only water-sports gear, the California couple realized their days in the humid, landlocked South were numbered. “I remember Perry, lying in that baby pool squirting a hose on himself, and it was a turning point,” says Cari. “When you know what it’s like to live on the coast in California, there is no comparison.”

The lush lot was the Kleins’ favorite part about the property, so designer Michele Trout (above, left) and landscape designer Molly Wood made the most of all the outdoor spaces, front and back.

After Perry spent two years playing for the Falcons, the Kleins returned to their roots. Once back in Southern California, they began looking for a house with views of the ocean. Now home is a Hawaii-inspired beach bungalow with stop-and-breathe views of the cliffs of Pacific Palisades. “We had noticed this house during one of our walks, but it was really junky,” remembers Perry. “Then our friend, Jennifer Nicholson, bought it out from under us.”

As luck would have it, Jennifer (daughter of actor Jack) sold the house to the Kleins one year later, throwing in a set of architectural drawings that she had commissioned for a proposed renovation. The plans were for a large house, but the Kleins’ priorities were not about square footage. Size certainly mattered, but what was of paramount importance was scale. The house didn’t need to be sprawling; it just needed to work for the couple and their two children (son Chase, now 14, and daughter Hannah, 11) as well as the frequent, spontaneous and often sandy-footed visitors: surf buddies, teammates and friends.

The Kleins called on a family friend—designer Michele Trout of local design firm Bonesteel Trout Hall—to make their dreams of a sunny, open and well-fitted home a reality. “Perry and Cari are athletic, outdoorsy people, and I wanted to



The backyard, with its banana trees and trumpet flowers, feels as tropical as the interiors. An upholstered daybed and a black-bottomed pool inset with river rocks add to the Hawaiian atmosphere.







In the name of practicality, the bench seating in the breakfast nook was upholstered in stain-resistant Sunbrella fabric. Throughout the kitchen, subtle green accents add a touch of freshness.

capture the outdoors and bring it in for them," explains Trout, who has known Perry as a neighbor for eight years. "I knew they wanted something that would suit the sunny days and also be cheerful during a typical overcast beach day."

Trout's biggest challenge was to successfully blend Cari's traditional taste with Perry's contemporary style. She also needed to customize everything for her clients' height (Cari stands six feet tall) and lifestyle: Every room needed to be able to withstand wear from wet feet and swimsuits, sand, salt and sun. "Cari's main concern was the view—she wanted bigger windows, French doors and an open floor plan," Trout says. "Perry has more of a passion for design, and he didn't want anything fussy or fancy. He described his concept as 'modern Hawaii but funky,' a place where everyone would be comfortable hanging out."





*"Everywhere you look, you see how the ocean and sky are part of the design."*

...to flow a smooth along  
...the design.

Trout took Nicholson's renovation plans and tweaked them, essentially taking the house down to the studs. The team built a smaller, three-bedroom house based on a traditional two-story Hawaiian plantation model, with a central hallway, front porches upstairs and down and a wide-pitched green tile roof. "But then I looked at the house and said 'Guys, this is way too boring,'" Trout recalls. "So we added industrial lights and powder-coated the door and all the exterior accents orange." Somewhere between shiny and matte, the finish boldly holds up to the elements.

Whatever the season or occasion—huge waves, a birthday, the holidays—Perry and Cari describe their home as a party house. To welcome guests, Trout constructed a fire pit, positioned a cool bamboo bar, and provided plenty of space to lean bikes on the front patio. In the backyard, landscape designer Molly Wood created a lake-like black-bottomed pool that

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Instead of furnishing a formal dining room, Trout used her clients' inherited dining table to anchor a versatile entertaining space, where chairs from Shine Home upholstered in natural hemp with nailhead detailing are paired with an industrial lamp.

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seems to flow right into the house. A raised infinity-edge spa spills into the pool while a daybed provides a comfortable retreat from the afternoon sun. The multitiered poolscape and surrounding dense foliage combine to resonate the Hawaiian resort feel. It's inviting, glamorous and earthy, and almost begs a guest to have a swim and later, maybe a nap.

Whether one enters the house from the pool or from the beach, the bursts of color and an abundance of natural light offer a crisp first impression. Glass doors throughout the interior take full advantage of the light and create bright, airy rooms that capitalize on the views out to the horizon. "Everywhere you look, you see how the ocean and sky are part of the design," says Trout.

The view is best captured in the master bedroom, where the Pacific wraps itself around a wall of tall windows with glass doors that often stand open. The walls are sided in





*"It's a seamless blend of traditional and contemporary, and it feels very beachy but also interesting and uncluttered."*

white-painted board and batten so as not to upstage the ocean. "I think the board and batten is such a pretty detail that I rarely see in interiors," says Trout. Her signature palette of crisp greens, blues and neutral woven floors adds to the simple allure. "This room is breathtaking, but my favorite is the master bath," Trout says of the enormous sparkling blue-tiled space. "It's also Cari and Perry's favorite room, probably because I raised the sinks by five inches."

Downstairs, the kitchen and family room have an open floor plan banked by wide windows framing the pool. The kitchen counters are standard height, but the glass-fronted cupboards stretch high for Cari, who jokes, "No one can get their own glass of water at our house." Upholstered furniture is de-emphasized in favor of wood, metal, bamboo, stone and other natural materials that can take the wear of water, sand and salt. Trout used scaled-down pieces throughout, particularly in the common areas, to create more space for her taller-than-average clients. A long orange midcentury

In the family room, a wall of windows looks out to the pool. Since it's open to the kitchen, it needed to be a casual spot for entertaining overflow, so Trout added teak built-ins and used brightly colored upholstery that would disguise wear and tear.

sofa defines a wall of the family room, where two cheerfully upholstered chairs complete the vignette. Nearly clutter-free, the decor is accented with framed photographs and succulents that Trout cuts short to display on the kitchen table or built-in shelves.

The family room stretches to the never-formal living room, which opens to the front patio. "Perry and Cari entertain all the time, so I put glass doors between the living room and the family room because I wanted them to be able to close this room off," says Trout. The living room has the most beachy feeling in the house, with a contemporary tropical aesthetic. A large hibiscus print appears on both the sofa pillows and a custom black-and-ivory coffee table. "If I can't find something, I have it made," says Trout of the coffee table. "In all my designs, I try to place at least two pieces of black in each room."

The dining room reveals more beachy, elemental materials and has a more contemporary appeal. Furnished entirely in white, it feels more formal—but there's still room for getting





comfy around the large lacquered table. "Perry and Cari wanted me to incorporate some of their family furniture into the design," says Trout. "But I felt like this room was too conservative, so I balanced the traditional table with an industrial light fixture. One thing I'm never trying to do here is be pretty. Pretty isn't the goal."

When the Kleins moved from Atlanta to the surf and sun of California coastal living, they openly hoped that the private road they walked on those first warm evenings back home would become their mailing address. Now, from their bed, they can hear the waves rolling in. Their kids swim in a beautiful backyard pool and the garden hose is used only to water the papyrus on the front lanai.

"Of all the houses I've ever done, this is by far my favorite," says Trout. "I feel like it's a seamless blend of traditional and contemporary, and it feels very beachy but also interesting and uncluttered. I love this family, and I love this house." ■

ABOVE: The master bedroom, with its board-and-batten walls and wide balcony, feels like a sleeping porch. RIGHT: The spacious master bath has room for an extra-tall vanity and a teak wardrobe.

