

WHITE WASH

WRITTEN BY IRENE LACHER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREY CRAWFORD

ANYONE WALKING ALONG THE BEACH COULD BE FORGIVEN FOR THINKING THE HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET HAD BEEN THERE FOREVER. After all, the heirloom-quality style of weathered shingles with crisp white trim has cloaked fashionable coastal homes from Cape Cod to Newport Beach since the late 19th century. But a second glance would reveal clues that this seaside residence overlooking Newport Bay was actually designed for a 21st-century lifestyle: The home's vast windows and high ceilings reflect a contemporary taste for light, views and space.

The married owners, a retired high-end residential real estate developer and an interior designer, know all about the latest trends in gracious living. They'd spent their careers creating warm, stylish environments for clients; now, it was their turn. The couple had been living in one of the husband's developments, but, as he was retiring from the company's day-to-day operations, it was time to tailor a new home to their life on neutral ground.

To head into the future, they recruited someone with whom they share quite a bit of history—long-time family friend and interior designer Heidi Bonesteel and her partner, Michele Trout, of Bonesteel Trout Hall. The Pacific Palisades firm specializes in "the California look," a kind of laidback glamour that has won clients as far flung as Australia and Saudi Arabia. This particular client

INTERIOR DESIGN Heidi Bonesteel and Michele Trout, Bonesteel Trout Hall

ARCHITECTURE Ernesto Vasquez, AIA, McLarand Vasquez Emsiek & Partners

HOME BUILDER Chris Dyer, J.C. Dyer Company, Inc.

BEDROOMS 4 **BATHROOMS** 5 **SQUARE FEET** 4,590







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happened to be one who'd helped inform the designer's chic, breezy style. "I grew up around her, and she's always had an influence on me," Bonesteel says of the homeowner. "She has an amazing sense of restraint, a good sense of color and palette, and a great eye for detail."

The fresh interior starts with white walls and contrasting oak floors stained a deep chocolate through an elaborate 10-step process. Against that crisp backdrop, the designers layered comfortable seating, rustic furniture and objects with a handmade feel. "She loves things that have a certain amount of age," says Trout of her client. Unusual accents abound, like the chunky farm table that anchors the second-floor office with a stunning view of Newport Bay, where the homeowner pursues her

HERD MENTALITY

The office is outfitted with an antique farm table and a stainless-steel task chair by Knoll. A custom slipcover in a relaxed linen cloaks an armchair that sits next to a white leather ottoman from Shine by S.H.O. The room's focal point is a painting of a woman carrying a goat by Napa Valley artist Ira Yeager.



WINDOW DISPLAY

The living room, master bedroom suite and breakfast area look out to Newport Bay through large windows and French doors that fill the home with light, even on overcast days.



STYLE SELECTION

With a dome of smooth cased glass and a polished nickel finish, this transitional pendant is reminiscent of an early American holophane. *Clemson Classic Pendant*, price available upon request; restorationhardware.com

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art and charitable projects. In the master suite, a Depression-era mirror with a dark, textured wood frame hangs over the mantel. "Nothing is precious, but the end result is beautiful," Trout says.

California and tropical succulents and splashes of marine green and cerulean blue thread the rooms together visually. A rotating selection from the client's sea-colored ceramics collection decorates the shelving over the tub in the master suite, while several dining room chairs are covered in turquoise fabric from Rogers & Goffigon. "Everything is super-symmetrical and peaceful," says Bonesteel. "What we were trying to do was add some tongue-in-cheek color and quirkiness—comfort with a little bit of a twist."





HISTORY LESSON

The owners' clean, white aesthetic informs the kitchen cabinets and Carrara marble counters. Accenting the immaculate backdrop are vintage ceramics behind glass cabinet doors, an aluminum-and-glass light fixture from Ann-Morris Antiques in New York and a late-19th-century pine table from Waldo's Designs in Los Angeles, carved with the names of a century's worth of previous owners.



PRIVACY PLEASE

Custom louvers provide privacy for the area around the master suite tub, encased in Carrera marble. Built-in shelving holds rotating pieces from the wife's collection of sea-colored ceramics.



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Beautifully detailed custom cabinetry that references traditional architecture coexists with contemporary design elements that enhance the home's flow. A mirror atop hand-built cabinets in the dining room, for example, is flanked by suggestive "peek-a-boo" openings framed by white columns, which create a view of the stairway beyond. "We were trying to open it up so it wasn't simply a bunch of walls defining the room," says Ernesto Vasquez, AIA, of Irvine-based McLarand Vasquez Emsiek & Partners, who worked on the project with architect Diane Hussey, AIA.

Laguna Beach-based Chris Dyer, of J.C. Dyer Company, was tapped to bring their design to life without compromise. "What distinguishes a high-end custom home most is the use of superior materials and the

THE BIG SLEEP

The master suite's generously proportioned mahogany four-post bed with pineapple finials has a vintage feel. The fireplace mantel is topped with a framed mirror from the client's collection of tramp art.



STYLE SELECTION

A charcoal-on-paper piece by Laguna Niguel-based artist Wayne Forte.

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attention to detail," he says. For example, rather than build window frames with pine, as is typical of big-production housing, Dyer used boat-friendly mahogany and marine glue to prevent moisture from seeping in and causing the frames to swell—even though the rich mahogany was to be painted white.

The result of all that exacting detail? An airy yet cozy escape, perfect for family time with the couple's children and grandchildren. Indeed, building a grand showcase was never the clients' goal, Vasquez says. Yet, despite the home's expansive scale, he says, "It's really quite an intimate residence." **L**





BLUE HEAVEN

The alder dining room table is by Eddie Hamby; clustered around are chairs covered in turquoise Rogers & Goffigon linen or striped Lulu DK fabric from Donghia. The landscape was designed by John Summers, of Summers/Murphy & Partners in Dana Point.