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LOS ANGELES

**RED AWARDS 2021**





Architecture: Grant C. Kirkpatrick, KAA Design Interior Design: Terry Hunziker, Terry Hunziker Inc.  
Home Builder: Shawn Nelson, Shawn Nelson Builders Landscape Architecture: Michael McGowan, KAA Design



# OASIS OF CALM

A lushly landscaped property in Manhattan Beach blurs the line between indoors and out, yielding a private escape.

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The entry bridge to a Manhattan Beach residence by architect Grant C. Kirkpatrick leads visitors over a koi pond and into the skylit foyer, where a ficus grows beside a graceful wood-and-steel staircase. The rough-hewn Anamosa limestone that clads the exterior walls transitions to a honed finish inside.

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t first glance, a Manhattan Beach residence by architect Grant C. Kirkpatrick appears to be all straight lines and right angles. And then you reach the foyer. There, a curving steel-and-wood stair

sweeps around a ficus tree as if reaching to the skylight above. It's a detail that's both unexpected and wholly in keeping with his firm's approach to residential design. "The house is very orthogonal, but, as with a lot of our homes, we've introduced a sinuous touch," he explains. "Here, we wanted the most natural way to come up and around the tree. It's these contrasts and juxtapositions that make these projects exciting."

The property gave Kirkpatrick—working with a team that included associates Meghan Beckmann and Todd Paolillo and landscape architect Michael McGowan, along with general contractor Shawn Nelson—the chance to revisit a house he'd worked on previously. When their client originally purchased the lot, his firm undertook a remodel of the existing home. When he acquired a neighboring property some years later, they had the opportunity to consider the site anew, and that meant starting with a clean slate.

In keeping with the scale of the neighborhood, Kirkpatrick and his colleagues laid out the house, the guesthouse/office and the pool house as a kind of village across the L-shaped site so that moving from place to place is a journey all its own, through gardens, along pathways and beside water features. Notes McGowan, "We were creating a series of garden rooms, and we used different mechanisms to orient your view, whether that's to the landscape immediately in front of you, the architecture or to the ocean and the Palos Verdes Peninsula."

The client had requested a soothing, Zen-like setting, and the team obliged with a property that feels like a retreat as soon as you turn into the driveway. Once inside the entrance courtyard, a finished stone walkway floats above a pond filled with koi. To one side is a full-length green wall, and to the other is a sunken seating area and fire

pit surrounded by water. Off the living room, an outdoor seating area hovers above a rectangular spa, and beyond that, an infinity pool extends toward the ocean just before the property drops down to the guesthouse and office. "Everything, from that green wall to the tree inside, was an effort to intertwine nature both around and inside the home," says Kirkpatrick. "We wanted to blur the transition from outside to inside and inside to outside at every opportunity."

Interior designer Terry Hunziker brought his own sense of calm to the interiors, where the rough-hewn Anamosa limestone on the exterior has been honed to a silken finish. Taking his cues from the architecture as well as the landscape, he created a neutral palette for both the hard and soft materials, which range from a luxurious mohair and textured linens to marble, Brazilian quartzite, walnut and blackened steel. "It's a very moody, contemplative house," he says. "Everything was done in beautiful, natural colors."

Hunziker brought a dramatic contrast to the second-floor main bedroom, which opens to a terrace that faces west. "One part of the room is very light and airy and open," the interior designer explains, "but the bed is set into a dark, yacht-like alcove."

The library, which displays the owner's collection of African masks, is a quiet space with concrete walls and a ceiling that seems to float above the clerestory windows. "It's like a pavilion in the garden," says Kirkpatrick. "It's not a large space, but it's a special one. There's a balance between intimacy and connection to the outdoors."

The same could be said for the property as a whole. Though it's set in the middle of Manhattan Beach, it feels as if it's a million miles from anywhere. And while the house can easily accommodate large gatherings, the rooms are just as comfortable for one. "There's a transformation when you drive up to the property, and you step through that gate and onto the bridge over the water," Kirkpatrick says. "We used architecture, nature and materials as a way to transform your mindset as you come from a busier, more frenetic place to a place of calm and repose." ■



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—GRANT C. KIRKPATRICK

Interior designer Terry Hunziker oversaw the interiors, making sure the material and color palettes harmonized with the architecture. In the step-down living room off the dining area, he paired a cast glass-and-metal coffee table with A. Rudin sofas upholstered in a Carleton V Ltd. fabric. The shagreen-and-bronze lamps by Alexander Lamont lend a textural note. At right is a work by Norman Bluhm.



**Above:** Hunziker furnished a seating area in the main bedroom with a pair of Donghia chairs and an ottoman all in a Sahco fabric, a round table by Hudson Furniture and a custom carpet from Turabi Rug Gallery in Seattle. Through the Fleetwood Windows & Doors slider, a terrace showcases views to the Pacific. The swivel chair and ottoman are by Sutherland.

**Opposite:** A pergola just off the living room, situated within the koi pond by the entry, includes custom seating covered in Perennials fabrics and a fire feature. "It instantly sets the mood," says Kirkpatrick, who worked with associates Meghan Beckmann and Todd Paolillo on the project.



For seating at the pool house bar, Hunziker chose Altura furniture. Just outside is an expansive deck anchored by outdoor furniture by Sutherland. Landscape architect Michael McGowan worked with fellow landscape architect Robert E. Truskowski—who has an eponymous firm—on the property's major specimen trees.





**Above:** Hunziker conceived the powder room as a dramatic and moody space. An Axor Citterio faucet is set within the vanity. The Fizz pendants are by ET2.

**Left:** The guest bedroom's serene, neutral palette serves as a foil to the lush view outside. Grounding the space is a Tai Ping carpet. Loro Piana linens dress the bed upholstered in Spinneybeck leather. Giant fabric covers the Holly Hunt chair, while a Stark fabric is on the sofa.