

BOCA RATON DREAM HOME | LEGACY HOUSE ON CALIFORNIA'S COAST

# OCEAN HOME

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## COASTAL CONNECTION



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TRENDS



# A LEGACY RENEWED



The fireplace in the living room is one of the original features. Opposite angle. The kitchen is dominated by a wall of light oak.

A sensitive renovation in Carpinteria bridges midcentury exuberance, family memory, and contemporary coastal living

BY NANCY A. RIVLING / PHOTOGRAPHS BY MANDOL LANGIS



54

Renovating legacy estates to suit the tastes and lifestyles of a new generation is a delicate balancing act. Memories—of the house, the place, the celebrations once held there—often dictate a design philosophy that preserves the most precious moments of the past while projecting the promise of good times ahead. Inevitably, it is thoughtful, respectful solutions that unlock a new future for an old property.

Such was the case for a family compound in Carpinteria, California, where the Pacific Ocean stretches to the back door and greets visitors with gentle waves. The seaside property, located in Santa Barbara County, had been owned by the same family for more than four decades when the son inherited it from his mother. He decided to transform the house into a vacation retreat for himself, his wife, and their three children.

As nostalgic and inviting as the home was, he knew it required modernization. To guide the transformation, he enlisted the architectural firm KAA Design and the interior design firm Bonsteel Trout Hall to devise a plan that would bridge generations.

"He didn't want to change everything," says Michele Trout, a principal at Bonsteel Trout Hall. "He wanted to pay homage to his mother, so we kept some elements, including the large fountain at the front of the house that was created in her memory, the aggregate cement fireplace in the living room, and some of the shells from her collection."

The house itself is an exuberant example of mid-1970s architecture. "We wanted to remain true to the original architect's vision," says Grant Kirkpatrick, FMA, founding partner of KAA Design. "He had so much fun with geometry—it's geometry on steroids—so we embraced it."

The water-facing side of the house looks like a conservatory.

The Pacific Ocean is one of the home's neighbors.

The original hardwoods of the living room were updated with new tile and refinished, and the original windows were restored.



55





56

A mobile-like chandelier is suspended from the second-floor ceiling.



Kirkpatrick is referring to the home's distinctive two-story octagonal corner, which he and his design team, led by project architect Esther Ahra, AIA, opened up with new steel-framed windows. The change makes the ocean star attraction. Combined with larger windows added throughout the house, the result is a glittering, conservatory-like residence perched along the rocky shore.

One of the most significant exterior changes involved replacing the dark-stained redwood shingles—originally installed at 45-degree angles—with vertical Alaskan yellow cedar siding in a much lighter hue. The update brightens the façade while respecting the home's original character.

Without increasing the footprint, K&A Design reconfigured the interior layout to create a larger kitchen by relocating the front door to the rear of the house. The octagonal spaces were repurposed to accommodate bedrooms, the primary suite's closet, the laundry room, the dining room, and a TV room.

"The house needed love and a new lease on life," says Ahra, noting that the interiors



Clockwise from top left: The front door was relocated during the renovation. The dining room features a round table. In the living room, the fireplace, which is part of the living room, the furnishings are grouped around an ottoman.

57



Clockwise from top left: The primary suite's color scheme is several shades of gray to the sitting area of the primary suite. The furnishings watch the water.



A large ceiling pendant light is the centerpiece of the bedroom in an elegant.

had been dark and compartmentalized. "Brightening the original ceilings, beams, and interior surfaces with white transformed the spaces, amplifying natural light and drawing the coastal sensibility of the exterior into the home."

Trout removed the wall-to-wall carpeting and selected materials and furnishings that evoke the calm ambience of a luxury hotel. "The clients didn't want a lot of accessories; they wanted a restrained look," she says.

Plush furnishings upholstered in soft whites, blues, and grays echo the surrounding ocean, while a rich mix of textures—including upholstered headboards, waxed coverings, fluffy Moroccan rugs, and wood accents—adds warmth and comfort. The primary suite, rendered in layered shades of gray, "blends into the horizon," Trout notes.

Contemporary touches—most notably a mobile-like chandelier suspended through the opening between the second-floor landing and the first-floor living room, as well



The primary suite's color scheme is several shades of gray to the sitting area of the primary suite. The furnishings watch the water.

as a large sectional sofa—reflect the sensibilities of the new owners. Furnishings throughout the house are carefully positioned to take advantage of the views: In the primary suite, a pair of chairs faces picture windows overlooking the water, while in the Dolphin Lounge off the living room, seating centers on a pale blue ottoman set within a window that seems to invite the waves indoors.

"It was a dramatic about-face for the house," Kirkpatrick says. "The interior design introduced a sensibility of soft modernism and coastal style. The changes preserved the legacy of the house and the family while honoring the primacy of the setting."

The homeowner was delighted with the result. "He told me it felt like something his mother would have loved, yet it still felt like his own family home," Trout says.

The renewed residence, all agree, is poised to be enjoyed for generations to come. ■

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