

Designer Tim Clarke creates a sense of anticipation, drawing guests through a handsome wrought-iron door.

OPPOSITE The spiral staircase is the spine of the house, a ribbon of plaster that connects its activities.



COASTAL Consciousness

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TEXT BY ROGER GRODY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY NOAH WEBB



A rooftop with views from Palos Verdes to Malibu accommodates a JANUS et Cie daybed.

T

HE DAYS OF HERMOSA BEACH BEING a sleepy seaside village are long gone, and today architects and designers compete to squeeze a luxury lifestyle into a community where real estate has become precious. Tim Clarke Design has transformed a home three blocks from the ocean into a showcase for resort-style living.

Founding principal and author of *Coastal Modern: Sophisticated Homes Inspired by the Ocean*, Tim Clarke states, “My approach is creating homes that are comfortable and easy to live in, while providing the feeling of being on vacation every day.” He reports this house appealed to his clients because of its backyard, large by Hermosa Beach standards. The project, however, required an entire rebuild for which Clarke collaborated with RJ Smith Construction and landscape architect Robert Jones.



The inviting upstairs living room features soaring windows framing the Pacific and a distinctive rug from Marc Phillips underfoot.



The kitchen features rustic beams, wire-brushed oak cabinetry and complementary quartzite slabs.

OPPOSITE A Paul Ferrante lighting fixture illuminates the dining room without distracting from sweeping ocean views.

“My inspiration for this property was the resort lifestyle of Mallorca or Ibiza, where the sun is always shining and people are in tune with nature,” explains Clarke. “But I also wanted to reference California architecture through the great old houses of Santa Barbara,” adds the designer. One enters the contemporary Mediterranean home through a handsome wrought iron door, a

material reprised on a sculptural staircase. Consistent with Clarke’s architectural vision are reclaimed ceiling beams and arched doorways that introduce warmth to the residence.

One of this home’s signature interior features is a striking spiral staircase transcending its different levels. “It’s the spine of the structure, a ribbon of plaster that links the entire house, but it doesn’t

interfere with the transfer of light from above,” explains Clarke, who insists on integrating the natural world with the interiors he creates.

The spaces the owners use the most—master suite, kitchen, dining room, and living room—are all located upstairs. “Separating the private spaces is a vestibule framed by a Moorish arch and paired with a vintage Moroccan lantern that casts romantic

shadows on the barrel ceiling,” says Clarke of this unique transitional concept.

In the dining room, a parchment-shaded lighting fixture with leather stitching from Paul Ferrante hangs from a beamed ceiling. “It provides a warm glow so it’s flattering to everybody at the table, but doesn’t compete with the view,” says Clarke. The kitchen



PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEXIS ADAM

LEFT A spa/swimming pool is among many outdoor amenities squeezed into a diminutive Hermosa Beach lot.

BELOW In this contemporary guest bath, Clarke's coastal inspiration shines through.

OPPOSITE A warm guestroom features table lamps from Lawson-Fenning and decorative pillows from Pat McGann Gallery.

radiates an approachable, understated elegance, with wire-brushed oak cabinetry and complementary quartzite countertops as rough-hewn timbers crisscross a ceiling punctuated by a large skylight.

One of the qualities that elevates this residence is Clarke's ability to maximize the property's 4,500-square-foot lot, even squeezing in a spa/swimming pool with a trio of small fountains. Anchoring a complete outdoor living room is a monumental fireplace, a soaring element that speaks to the home's modern Mediterranean inspiration. "I tend to furnish outdoor living areas much like I do interiors, with an eclectic mix of pieces," says Clarke, sourcing products from B&B Italia and Hollywood at Home by Peter Dunham for this French limestone-clad courtyard.

A rooftop offers additional outdoor living space with views from Palos Verdes to Malibu. "I want a home to provide that feeling of being on vacation, but it has to be true to the architecture and the surrounding environment," maintains Clarke, whose greatest inspiration will always be the Southern California coast. **CH**

