

EAST COAST HOME+DESIGN



April / May

Architect Charles Hilton renovates a waterfront condominium on the West Coast. Interior Designer Robin McGarry creates a warm and inviting residence in Westchester. Architect Michael Smith and Interior Designer Scott Sanders renovate a New York City apartment into a fabulous family home in the Flatiron District.



CALIFORNIA DREAMING

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID PALERMO

The traditional facade of this pretty antique colonial home does not betray the modern mechanical marvels found within.





The allure of the sea can sometimes prove intoxicating. While its power and fury may intrigue and excite some, others find themselves lost in the hypnotic rhythm of its gently rolling waves as they lap against a pebbled shore. Pulled to its coastlines, we find ways to harness the beauty it presents before us and we build upon its majestic shores. Memories of childhoods spent at the beach take us back and become stories shared throughout the years. Though they had built a life here, it was the pull of one Connecticut family's west coast roots and seaside memories out there that guided them to look towards a western

shore to realize their dream of beachfront living. Having their primary residence here, it seemed only natural that they turn to the Greenwich based architectural firm of Hilton-VanderHorn to create their perfect home away from home. Hilton-VanderHorn has built a reputation for designing high-quality residential properties throughout Fairfield and Westchester Counties, many of them located along the waterfront. Spearheading the architectural design and detailing of this project, was architect, Charles Hilton. A partner in the firm, he assembled a great team that included designer Daniel Pardy and project manager David Newcomb, also of Hilton-VanderHorn Architects, as well as inte-

rior designer, Amy Andrews of Katherine Cowdin Interiors, Harrison Associates; the local architect of record and general contractor, Rick Spann.

Located in Montecito, California, the water-front condominium needed to be completely gutted and taken down to the studs. Constructed in the 1960's, the end-unit had undergone a previous renovation during the 1980's but still lacked the amenities and architectural detailing the family longed for. Inspired by its ocean side location, brilliant sunlight and California sunsets, it now enjoys the view it previously "failed to embrace".

"The client wanted the space to have a casual feel that tied with the beach front lo-



More transitional and contemporary in feel than many of the traditional spaces his firm designs on this “coast”, the reconfigured spaces reflect the location and relaxed lifestyle the family experiences here.



OPPOSITE Richly stained beams and Venetian plastered walls elegantly dress the public spaces.

A soft neutral palette unifies the open living space which is outfitted with plush chenille sofas and warm wood accent furnishings.

cation,” stated Mr. Hilton. “We provided an open plan, with lots of glass and views to the Pacific Ocean,” he added. More transitional and contemporary in feel than many of the traditional spaces his firm designs on this “coast”, the reconfigured spaces reflect the location and relaxed lifestyle the family experiences here. The new plan includes a formal entry hall that provides access to both the kitchen and large open living/dining space. It also includes a powder room and two bedrooms, each with en suite baths. While the team was limited to staying within the original footprint of the unit, the interiors were opened up to increase circulation as well as exposure to the outdoor spaces.

Custom painted cabinetry boasts classical detailing and frames the perimeter of the kitchen. The warm space lives large and has been outfitted with high-end professional grade appliances by Sub-Zero, Bosch, Wolf and Viking. The generously scaled center island is illuminated from above by a contemporary style light fixture by Marian Jamieson. Rich, natural stone countertops add another layer of texture to the scheme. An antique Perra Cotta Parefeuille tile floor set in a herringbone pattern anchors the room. Subtle color variations in the backsplash tile seem to echo the color differences seen in the sand outside. Spilling out into the main living area, this open floor plans allows ample circulation throughout each area while keeping the hosts connected to their guests, even while preparing the evening’s meal.

A cool neutral palette prevails throughout, mimicking the color of the soft sand from the beach. “The stained beams and trim are a reflection of traditional California Mission style,” stated designer, Amy Andrews, and play off nicely against the warm tones in the dining table and accent pieces scattered throughout the space.

Open to the main living area, the gourmet kitchen is well appointed with professional grade appliances and custom designed cabinetry.









A thoughtful mix of textures and finishes make up the kitchen. Custom painted cabinetry, sleek stone counter surfaces and Antique Terra Cotta Parefeuille tile for the floor, to name just a few.



“The luster of Venetian plaster walls reflects the shimmer of the water deep into the interior spaces of the home,” added Mr. Hilton. This rich wall treatment was expertly executed by Redding decorative painter, Heidi Holzer and her crew. New window treatments were manufactured and installed by Interiors Haberdashery in Stamford. While appearing more formal in its design, the subtle patterned, custom area carpet in the main living space unifies both furniture arrangements and has proven to be “sandy feet friendly”, said Andrews. Upholstered pieces have been covered in soft chenille, lending to the casual elegance in the room.

A creamy palette in the master bedroom sets a restful tone as it plays against the sea of blue outside. Continuing the scheme set forth in the public spaces of the home, the room’s warm neutrals seem juxtaposed against the dark stained wood furnishings. A custom carpet by Mark, Inc. in the master bedroom sets the stage for this arrangement picking up on the soft sandy theme seen throughout. Club chairs upholstered in a more transitional geometric fabric work well with a nail head trimmed leather ottoman to give the room a more contemporary feel. The plush club chairs offer a comfortable spot to read or take in the magnificent view. Outside, a covered patio runs the width

Spectacular water views greet you each morning and bid you good night outside this restful master bedroom.

OPPOSITE TOP Light fills the master bath. Custom designed cabinetry, vintage glass tile on the walls and fixtures from Waterworks help give this space a spa-like feel.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM Soothing neutrals and rich wood tones contribute to the luxurious feel in the master bedroom. Classic club chairs dressed in a contemporary geometric print beckon you to relax and take in the view.





of the unit and creates an outdoor room with sheltered seating. Full-length drapery panels dress the window wall in both the master bedroom and living room, framing the ocean.

Off the master bedroom, the master bath boasts fixtures and fittings by Waterworks and a custom vanity cabinet by Architectural Millwork. Appearing more furniture like in its design, the vanity is awash in a robust colored stain. Vintage glass one inch by one inch tiles from Ceramic Design, cover the shower wall. The bathroom floor is finished in twelve by twelve “Barbieri Antico with a Bamboo border”. A full-width mirror helps reflect the natural light from outside, illuminating the space within. In the guest bedroom, soft pops

of color jump out from the whimsical fabric adorning the windows. With its own bath, this guest suite offers all the amenities and privacy one needs in a restful visit to the beach.

Though located at water’s edge, this well-designed vacation home has not been decorated with the nautical colors or accessories one might expect to find in a seaside home. Sophisticated and mature, this elegant retreat takes full advantage of its location and lets the view speak for itself.

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With an en suite bath of its own, the guest room offers both comfort and privacy to lucky house guests.



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