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DESIGN ESSENTIALS

**Master Closets
That Pamper**

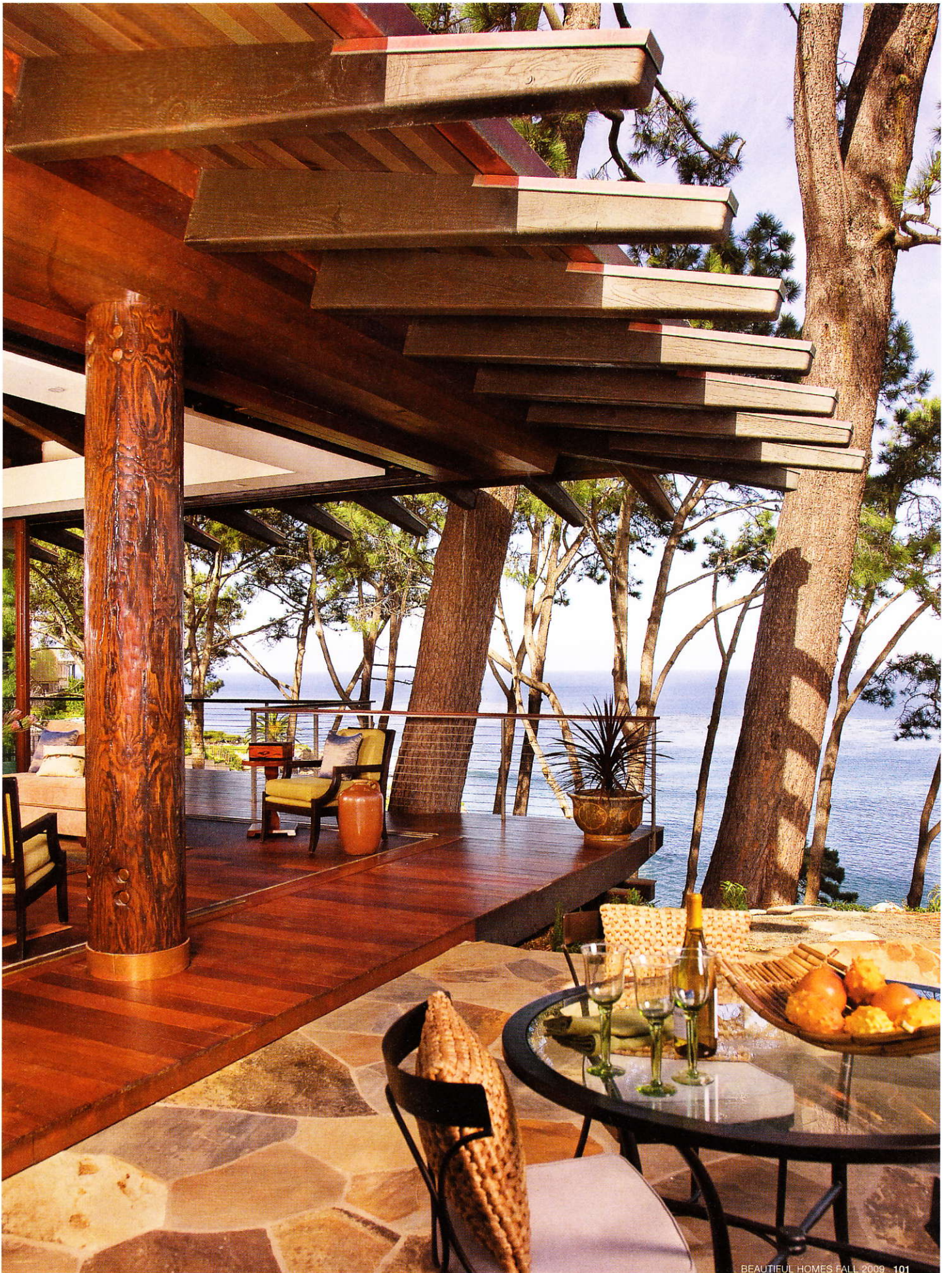
Enrich Your Home with Color



Infinite Jewel

GLASS WALLS AND WRAPAROUND DECKING
IN THIS CONTEMPORARY NEW HOME MASTERFULLY
MELD INDOORS AND OUT

Writer Greg Cook. Photographer Ed Gohlich. Field editor Andrea Caughey





View Ability

For any home location is key, but in this seaside California community, the view is everything. Imagine, then, the attraction of this showplace, constructed on virgin ground with a view of seaside cliffs and a sweeping beach vista, all near the heart of historic La Jolla. Perched on a sandstone bluff, the home was built to blend with the environment and exploit the site's breathtaking views.

Designed as a series of pods with low-pitched hipped roofs, each section has an ocean view. But the most spectacular vista is seen from the dramatic great-room, where sliding window walls collapse into pockets behind the fireplace on one side and stack against the wall on the other, opening the entire room to the outdoors. As architect and project partner Tim Martin describes it, "You're perched among the trees with only a roof overhead."

Douglas fir posts supporting the roof fit so naturally on the site that they seem to blend with the property's Torrey pines. The posts were "turned on giant lathes to take out the natural taper then dried, filled, and stained," owner/partner Bill Walsh says. "They allow the house to have large overhangs, and a superstructure of I-beams hidden behind the woodwork allows the open, cantilevered corner."

Wraparound decks stairstep around the pods on the ocean side, and their cable railing system was designed for the view. "A cable system has less of an impact on the view than any other system," Martin says. "Glass is often used for this reason, but glass is actually much more visible."



BLEND IN

Dark wood flooring and heavy ceiling beams further blur the line between indoors and out.



INFINITY POOL With the window walls fully open, *this photo*, the distinction between indoors and out vanishes, and the view seems to spill over the edge of the property.

PIVOT PLAY An oversize mahogany door with huge panes of glass, *opposite*, pivots to provide ample access at the main entry, which is wrapped in soapstone.

BEST ASSET

A restrained palette and sleek-lined furniture keep the focus on the intended focal point: the view.





Serenity

A large part of the success of this house has to do with the selection of surface materials. "It's a play between man-made and natural," interior designer Kellie McCormick says. "The light fixtures are all handcrafted metal, and using ipe wood flooring through the whole house makes a seamless indoor-outdoor experience."

McCormick's penchant for visiting a slab yard to search for the perfect stone paid off handsomely with the discovery of the soapstone used for the kitchen island. Its strong patterning mimics the shapes of the trees around the house. And that find led to another: The island inspired the bluestone backsplash.

The indoor-outdoor experience made possible by this home's impressive architecture and materials selections takes on a different ambience at night. "It's hard to look at photos and imagine what happens at night here," McCormick says. "Usually, houses that look out onto the ocean just have a black sea at night, with no light. But here you don't get that because of the city lights and the city feel. So you see the cove and the way it curves. And at night, the seals come out and they just talk. It's so amazing to go outside and hear that."

SPECTACULAR SURFACES In keeping with the kitchen's blue-and-green palette, blocks of bluestone, *above*, line the backsplash.

TABLE BY THE SEA Ipe flooring that extends to the deck, *opposite*, provides a transition and reinforces the home's artful blend of contemporary design with warm, rich natural materials.

STRATEGIC DESIGN

ARCHITECT TIM MARTIN EXPLAINS HOW LOCATION INFORMS DESIGN IDEAS.

Q What strategies are in play when designing a home like this—to take full advantage of such a beautiful site?

A All the pods are nestled up among the Torrey pine trees, giving the feeling of being in a tree house. The posts are a play on the natural materials on the site. Each one almost feels like another tree trunk, so together they seem to add to the forest as they support the building.

Q What can you say about the choices for the woodwork?

A The ceiling decking is a clear, vertical-grain fir that was custom-milled to have a beaded appearance. So it has some texture and a slight bit of reflection to it, in contrast to the beams. When we chose ipe for the exterior decking, we asked why not bring that same material inside to promote an outdoor feeling, especially with the sliding doors open. We used all natural materials outside, including cedar for the siding and trim.

Q How would you describe the effectiveness of the window placement and function?

A The windows in the great-room are really like sliding walls. When they're fully open, you don't see any glass at all. With the building wide open and only a roof overhead, indoors and outdoors merge as one.



To see more beautiful contemporary homes, go to RemodelingCenter.com/bh.

Exquisite exterior

Nestled into the landscape of La Jolla, California, this house, constructed as a series of pods, takes on an island feel and has the look of an extraordinary tree house.

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW The mini pod in the foreground, *right*, houses the garage and a guesthouse. The three roof structures beyond shelter the main house.

WELCOME HOME The street-level entry gate, flanked by blocks of bluestone, *below right*, provides a preview of the natural stonework found throughout the house.

PEDESTRIAN PASSAGE Natural materials—stone pavers, cedar siding, and reclaimed posts—fill the scene between the garage and the main entrance, *below*.

CORNER LOOKOUT Deck walkways protected by a stainless-steel cable railing system that reveals the view, *opposite*, wrap the house on the ocean side.







PRIVATE SPACES

One of the home's three main pods is devoted to the master bedroom, which connects to adjacent spaces through massive pocket doors. It's all part of the architect's strategy to minimize hallways and keep the home as open as possible. As in the other pods, the dramatic vaulted ceiling is decked with vertical-grain Douglas fir atop massive fir rafters. Soffit lighting casts a warm glow upward, while a handcrafted metal fixture with contemporary flair delivers ambient illumination.

Interconnectivity

Martin likes to open interior spaces to one another without hallways as much as possible. The kitchen, for example, is open to the great-room and the great-room to the deck, melding all of that space. "So many homes are designed to use hallways to circulate from one end of the house to the other. Well, you don't need to do that," Martin says. "You can actually travel through a house from one room to the next. It allows each room to be bigger."

The composition of the main house, with its three shallow-sloped hipped roofs, includes what Martin calls joints that intersect to provide room for the intermediate spaces. The kitchen is in a joint between two pods, as is the master bath.

Normally you enter a home from the parking area, but here that area is separated from the house. Getting from the garage to the main home's front entrance is like walking on a trail among the trees.

Architect **Tim Martin** Interior designer **Kellie McCormick**
Builder/developer **Louis Beacham**

RESOURCES ON PAGE 110

SLEEP TIGHT Seen from its doorway, the master bedroom, *above*, is a study in a well-composed room; artwork, bed, and flanking nightstands are framed under the pitched peak, and an absence of linens or rugs keeps the space clean-lined and crisp.

Beautiful geometry

Visually striking both indoors and out, the house designed by architect Tim Martin showcases the way in which simple shapes—here notably the square and rectangle—can combine and repeat to assemble exquisite form and function.

Suite retreat

The master suite feels totally private thanks to its design as a series of smaller and smaller rooms, each set back behind one another.

Hit the decks

With the stunning view serving as the building site's most valuable asset, decks line an entire side of the house.

Walk on in

The master bath's series of tub, shower, and commode neatly stairstep back to the generous master closet.

Be our guest

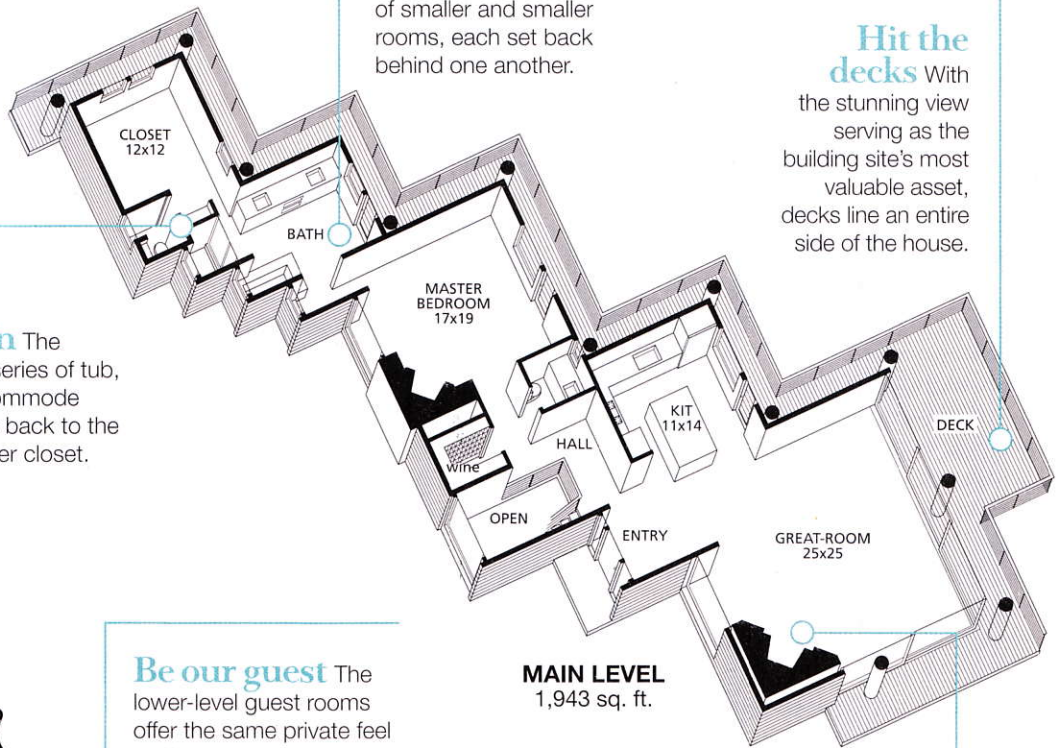
The lower-level guest rooms offer the same private feel as the master suite.

Hearth and home

A corner fireplace in the great-room adds literal and visual warmth to the contemporary design.

Up and open

Ipe wood treads resting on a single stringer define the staircase leading to the lower level; railings feature the same cable treatment as the outside decking.



MAIN LEVEL
1,943 sq. ft.



LOWER LEVEL
1,518 sq. ft.