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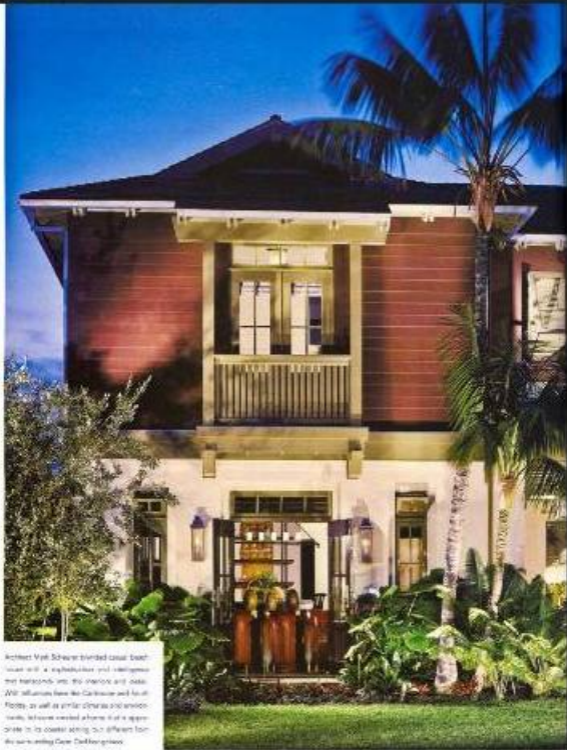
ON THE BEACH IN SANTA BARBARA

A HOME ATOP THE
SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS

GOLDEN GATE VIEWS

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Architect Mark Schwart blended casual beach house with a sophisticated and sophisticated feel, blending into the historic and modern. The influence from the Caribbean and Florida, as well as similar climates and amenities, Schwart created a home that is appropriate to its coastal setting, but different from the surrounding Cape Cod neighborhood.



SECOND TIME AROUND

A Newport Beach Home Builder, An Architect, And Well-Versed Designers Join Forces—Again

TODD BY
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY
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A fairly thing happened shortly after Sheryl and Guy Alexander moved into their custom-built Newport Beach house—they found that they needed a new one. After a look on their own presented them with an offer they couldn't refuse, they contacted celebrated architect Mark Schwab, of Schwab Architects, and let him know that it wasn't one to make magic once again.



A teakwood dining table surrounded by upholstered dining chairs is adorned with Asian artifacts as metal grid work carries an antique sculpture, hand-mixed suspended floor chairs.

Interior design? Courtney has worked closely with homeowner Sherry Alexander, whose background is also heavily interested in design, to create a distinctive home that incorporates a mix of influences into one final design.



With their new lot in an exclusive coastal Newport enclave, the family began their second, forty-acre custom building with Schauer and realized that things might be a little different this time. "As parents, it's the first custom home you do, the second becomes that much more fun because you get through the mistakes much more quickly and can actually embrace the design ideas," says Schauer. Also making an on-site appearance was interior designer

Courtney Eal of C. C. & Company Design, who thoroughly appreciated the client's openness to working outside of the box.

Being the ramblers of Southern California's most-wanted builder of homes and residential neighborhoods, Alexander Communities, the Alexanders knew the home building process fairly intimately themselves. Mrs. Alexander, who has designed and designed interiors for many of the firm's model properties,



reached this opportunity to work on a new space. "We've always done different houses, more particular style. Each one sensitive to make a little different along the way. There is a naturally evolving."

The crafty quarter agreed to do something unique but appropriate for a community peppered with beach bungalows. The blending of a casual beach house with sophistication and intelligence that would transcend into the interior and don't begin with influences from the Caribbean and South Florida, as well as from other similar climates and environments.

The first item acquired for this project was a jagged piece of limestone discovered in a yard by Mr. Paul and Mrs. Alexander. They found its unique shape, texture, and color to be so intriguing that it became the focal point of the powder room and as the tone for a series of exquisite bathrooms. Aside from a host of antiques, almost every aspect of the project was nature crafted, from the deposit into

details, baseboards, woodwork, and moldings were original works of art. Costa Mesa-based Zehring Cabinets and Bangor Quality Upholstery were commissioned to bring Paul's furniture design to fruition.

Establishing the main part of the house as a solid brick structure from which everything else extends creates a great sense of substance, as if this alliance of steel brick and mortar had been there for years. Even the built-in kitchen cabinetry that hangs directly off the brick houses an homage of history. Defining clear lines provide a modern split in the melding of materials, ranging from oak, copper, and iron to limestone, mahogany, and teakwood. Hand-laid mahogany floors and beams, a contrast throughout the main home, act as an organic bridge between the traditional base and modern additions.

Retractable sliding pocket doors off of the kitchen, living room, and family room offer a great flow while maintaining

above left: Paul designed and constructed the windows, screens, baseboards, moldings, and woodwork.

above right: The Lund Fogel, silver finished iron fireplace screen by Costa Mesa-based Bangor Quality Upholstery is the used brick fireplace. The table is constructed of oak, mahogany, and mahogany.



In the kitchen, stainless-steel island suspended above bar with frosted glass doors and backed by elements. The orange glass over dry wall with a stone fire and polished stainless steel.

Below left: The courtyard features lush foliage by Catherine and a stone outdoor kitchen by Brian Jindra.

Below right: Contrast of a variety of stone in this master bath makes it feel standing tall atop a distant volcanic plateau, a natural part of the overall design. Photography courtesy of Lightbox by a hand-blown glass of natural stone, one light fixture, and a lantern floor.

the opportunity for the light and ventilation while maintaining a distinct sense of privacy. Then with merely a few slides, the space immediately opens to each other allowing the transformation from very family home to an elegant and expensive entertainment area.

Within a year of breaking ground, the Alexanders were able to move into their beautiful new home. The function and impact each participant has for the others is evidenced in the beauty of the finished product. Says Sastry Alexander, "It's everything I expected and more!" and Gay Alexander adds "It's not that difficult to build a house, it's the pulling it all together. That's what truly makes a house."¹⁸

