

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2016

VERANDA

Brilliant *by* Design

STYLISH
INTERIORS
*WITH*A
PERSONAL
TOUCH

The New
Kitchen
Essentials





A warm palette of red and blue grounds rooms with dramatic high ceilings. ABOVE: Red console, Harbinger; stools in a Holland & Sherry leather, Mattaliano; sink fittings, Waterworks; range, La Cornue; pendants, Marjorie Skouras Design; Christopher Spitzmiller urns, Hollyhock. OPPOSITE: Custom chairs in a Keelen leather; table, BDDW; chandelier, Jean de Merry; rug, Holland & Sherry.

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST is no less astonishing in its beauty than it is inspiring in art and craft. The region has been home to painters, poets, architects, and interior designers like Christina Rottman, a California native who has made the seaside city of Santa Barbara her picturesque base. But when clients invited her to take a look at their house in Montecito, perched above the azure waves of the Pacific and surrounded by lofty cypress, sinewy oaks, and native succulents, even Rottman felt its unique pull. “It’s as though the property has a life force,” she says, “and it comes into the house.”

Her clients, who relocated from Colorado—and before that from the East Coast, where they both grew up—sensed it, too. “When we first entered the courtyard and walked up to the front door, I was struck with the feeling that I was suspended over the ocean,” says the wife. “We love the way the house nestles into the mountain and becomes a part of its surroundings. Having lived in cities, it is wonderful to feel connected to the earth.”

Rottman knew instantly that she “had to do big beauty here. The house needed to have strong things to say, but we had to do so in an understated way.” It helps, she notes, that “the architecture is fabulous.” Designed in 1992 by the revered Santa Barbara architect Bob Easton, the house was originally conceived in a Southwestern-influenced vein.

To Rottman, the design is reminiscent of the work of Mexican modernist Luis Barragán. Indeed, the home’s clear lines, large rooms, and sensitivity to its landscape echo the best of European and Latin modernism. It is perfect, says the clients, who were looking for a departure from the more traditional home they had in Colorado. For the interiors, the wife says, “We wanted a blend of modern and traditional pieces that would be elegant yet family-friendly



The master bedroom sparkles with metallic accents. Headboard in a J. Robert Scott velvet and bench in a Fret velvet, Nancy Corzine; sofa in a John Saladino velvet, Baker; cocktail tables, Ainsworth-Noah. Curtains in a Fret fabric and trim; chandelier, Niermann Weeks; convex mirrors, Quintus; carpet, Stark. For more details, see Sourcebook.