



finding *home*

Four

A long-awaited dream home delivers on all its promises, providing the ultimate retreat for a young family.

WRITER **JAN SOULTS WALKER** PHOTOGRAPHER **EDMUND BARR**
FIELD EDITOR **KAREN REINECKE**

Opposite: A window in Robyn and Don McCurren's Dutch door reflects the breathtaking blue of the house's ocean view. *This photo:* A Wolfgang Bloch painting brings the beach vibe indoors and inspires indigo accents throughout the house, including this overstuffed sectional. The wood pendant light features shapes reminiscent of starfish.





After college, Robyn and Don McCurren vowed to pursue a life of adventure, accepting new job opportunities around the country. As their family grew to include a son and daughter, they transferred from East Coast to West and decided to put down roots amid abundant sunshine and beaches.

They rented a place in Laguna Beach, California, and patiently watched for a home to call their own. “We fell in love with the size of the community and the year-round sunshine that lets us be outside,” Robyn says. “We wanted a place here that we could make our own.”

One day, Robyn and her young daughter wandered into Huit, a local home interior store owned by designer Tania Cassill, who picked up the little girl and plopped her into an inviting rattan hanging chair. “Right then, Robyn told me she wanted me to

design her own home someday to look like my store,” Cassill recalls.

The day came at last when Robyn and Don found a cottage with dreamy ocean scenery, private beach access, and loads of promise. “We pictured ourselves here for years to come, flinging open the doors and windows, soaking in ocean views, playing outdoors, and snuggling with our kids,” Robyn says.

Above: Glossy black paint transformed the family’s well-used and beloved traditional dining table into a highlight. A floating white oak bench and acrylic ghost chairs provide stylish yet unobtrusive seating that lets the view reign. A low-cost basket-weave pendant instills natural appeal. *Opposite:* Rattan stools add warmth, and handmade Moroccan backsplash tiles enhance the kitchen’s white cabinetry and quartz countertops with texture. Satin gold hardware elevates the look.





Architect Dave Frith of Beach Bus Studios reconfigured the chopped-up main level into a free-flowing kitchen, dining, and gathering area and a private master suite for the couple. Below the house, mere crawlspace morphed into bedrooms, baths, and hangout space for the children. A guest suite rounds out the lower level.

Throughout the house, Cassill instilled simplicity and a sense of calm with natural materials, tongue-and-groove ceilings, and plenty of white paint. “I don’t have a go-to white,” she reveals. “Try several because they all look different depending on the light.” Black metal window frames and a treasured family dining table refurbished in glossy black and paired with acrylic chairs provide refreshing contrast with a modern twist. “This home flows peacefully from space to space,” Cassill says. “It’s the epitome of the California beach house.” □

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Above left: Fittingly, the swinging chair from designer Tania Cassill’s shop, Huit—which inspired the home’s look and feel—now hangs in the daughter’s bedroom. *Above right:* Wallcovering in a small powder room on the main level makes a cheerful statement in bright yellow. “It is everybody’s favorite,” says Cassill, who wrapped the wood countertop around the corner of the sink alcove to make the space feel bigger. *Right:* In the son’s bathroom, abundant small hex tiles in green and a metal cage sconce create “an industrial vibe that’s perfect for a teenage boy,” Cassill says. The vanity counter extends into the glass-walled shower as a clever design detail that also functions as a ledge. *Opposite:* In the master bedroom, the bed faces the ocean view. Above the headboard, a trio of fiber baskets lend texture and warmth. Sconces repeat the home’s satin gold accents.



“IT’S LIGHT AND AIRY AND REALLY
THE PERFECT HOME FOR US.” —homeowner Robyn McCurren

