

C HOME

CALIFORNIA STYLE


INSIDE OUT

NAPA VALLEY PACIFIC HEIGHTS
DESERT HOT SPRINGS HOLMBY HILLS
LAGUNA BEACH SILVERLAKE

XANADU

Beneath a sculptural dome overlooking North Laguna's pristine waters, a rarefied miracle of glass and limestone reflects the clean, organic warmth of sun and sea

BY ALISON CLARE STEINGOLD
PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARK LOHMAN



A crisp stone border sets the blue mosaic pool apart from the deck's wood planks and West Elm loungers. Opposite, a glass box breezeway connects the two structures; large glass doors pivot out on both the front and the back.





FROM TOP The concrete dome remained from the original house on the property. The dining room's wall of glass opens onto a Texas cobbled limestone courtyard, where exterior seating, a wine cellar and humidor are nearby.



smooth stucco structure, the glass-walled dining space spills out onto the lantern-lit cobblestone courtyard. On the living room side, facing the ocean, enormous picture windows slide open. The other building, a more private wing constructed of rough stone, leads to the serene master suite and media room. Next to the long, narrow pool above the main house and courtyard areas, the dome's open-air space is used as a lounge and powder room for swimmers. With so many monochromatic stairs, paths, decks and garden terraces, a walkabout here is like cycling through an M.C. Escher drawing.


Sumich and interior designer Lynn Pries both sought out a subtle blend of new materials (lightly stained wood floors) against rustic and unrefined ones (a custom dining table with a massive slab from Northern California). Tightly edited spaces are open, yet defined for a sense of intimacy with comfortable furnishings and a clean look—like hidden appliances and subtle gray panels that slide to reveal a bar and television. "It's a livable house," says Pries, "not overly modern but still with a lot of warmth. If it were too cluttered, you'd distract from the view." Indeed, it's a doors-open kind of place—one where the subtle movement of simple white sheers catching the breeze is its own form of meditation. •

LIVING IN A COOL BUT SMALL ABODE that was not optimizing its location was reason enough for a pair of homeowners to raze their property high above North Laguna Beach's ultramarine waters. What they kept: its sculpted concrete rotunda. (An architect and child of artists, who grew up in the house, had built it in his youth.)

To design a dually ethereal and grounded contemporary residence is a difficult task, but Geoff Sumich was up to the challenge. The Orange County architect sited a new domicile of textural interplay with unusually placed wide stone steps and native vegetation. He planned for two simple buildings connected by a tall glass box with glass rafters high overhead. While the Tyndall effect is simply a natural phenomenon, light shining through glass creates a bare aqua tint—here, almost a nod to the sky above and bay below. In a



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Off the living and dining rooms, an almost floating wall of Miele kitchen appliances; the island is a thick basalt countertop with custom lighting and Dornbracht faucets; the sectional is a mushroom-hue Minotti. Thin hanging metal pendants from Lightopia illuminate a suede headboard, wood-stained wall and latte-color sheers by Urbana furniture. Dimensions of blue: In the front entry, glass rafters connect two structures in the main house.

A photograph of an outdoor terrace. In the foreground, a wicker chair with a red scarf draped over its back sits on a light-colored floor. To the left, a wooden planter holds a tree with large, rounded green leaves. In the background, a white brick wall is visible. The scene is brightly lit, casting shadows on the floor.

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Recessed behind a quad of wicker chairs from Noir Furniture, L.A., a commissioned sculpture of metal "sticks" is actually a fireplace.

