

MODERN LUXURY

PREMIERE ISSUE

# Interiors

CALIFORNIA



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MAKING AN ENTRANCE: HIGH-DESIGN LOBBIES

# Lofted Aspirations

Forget California ranch style. One modern Corona del Mar home goes back to the farm.

By Carrie Storke Williams | Photography by Mark Lohman and Portrait by Jessica Sample



#### CORONA LIGHT!

From top: The lofted-ceiling kitchen juxtaposes white-washed, exposed beams with stainless steel appliances; the front elevation of the barn-style home in Corona del Mar



Corona del Mar, a charming seaside village in Newport Beach, has long been fertile ground for razing original cottages in favor of mini manses built to the zero-lot-line. Which makes the modern-day barn raising achieved by designer Lynn Pries on one of the enclave's beloved "flower streets" all the more remarkable.

"My client had always dreamed of living in a barn house," says Pries. "She'd lived by the beach for years, but always yearned for a bit of Sun Valley [Idaho] here on the coast."

Pries and her client have partnered on four homes in the past 23 years, but this project proved to be the most exciting—and challenging—of their collaborations to date. When she and Dowers found an existing house in Corona del Mar Village with just the bones they needed, they pounced.

"The home had been built in 1974" **CONTINUED...**

#### GREAT WIDE OPEN

The living room showcases neutrals with pops of color and barn-log-inspired wallpaper.



"The lesson learned is that you don't have to tear a house down to make it work."

...CONTINUED with a shingled exterior and exposed interior walls," says Pries. "It had bits of the barn theme with the wood and rooms with high ceilings, big windows and natural light."

Pries immediately set to work on both the architecture and interior design fronts, committed to repurposing the home instead of tearing it down. She began by changing the front elevation to subtly evoke the lines of a barn—with a bit more élan—and used gray-hued wood salvaged from corral posts to clad the front façade. The next step was to further open up the interior spaces of the home, which had undergone a series of partial remodels.

"The greatest challenge was coming up with a floor plan that was workable," says Pries. "Corona del Mar lots are very narrow, and that—coupled with the funky previous remodels—made it difficult to create the wide open spaces and abundant natural light we wanted."

Spoiler alert: The challenge was surmounted and an exciting modern barn was born. Pries created organic, clean lines and spacious, airy barn-meets-loft interiors by lightening the existing dark-stained wood interior walls,



ARBITER OF STYLE  
Interior designer Lynn Pries in the open living room/dining room space

#### HOME FREE

Clockwise from left: The kitchen in the guest house mirrors the aesthetics of the one in the main house; mixed media in the form of a custom chandelier fashioned out of bicycle gears and hand-applied crystals; the owners wanted unobstructed flow between the kitchen and the main room.



applying vintage barn wood to the floors, and adding custom lighting—including a remarkable chandelier over the dining table crafted from bicycle gears and hand-applied crystals.

Of all the welcoming rooms in the two-bedroom main house and the one-bedroom guesthouse, the large kitchen and family room on the upper level is a favorite, with its oversized windows, skylights and room to entertain comfortably. Another crowd-pleaser is the outdoor deck, which doubles as an alfresco living room year-round.

"The lesson learned is that you don't have to tear a house down to make it work," says Pries. "If you know the bones [are good], you can play with it, repurpose it to add character to the property while keeping the character of the neighborhood intact." ■

