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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

TOTAL GLAMOUR

TAKING CUES FROM THE SLEEK, SEXY AESTHETIC OF '90S-ERA GUCCI, DESIGNER JAY JEFFERS BRINGS HIGH STYLE TO A NEWPORT BEACH HOME.

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Interior Design: Jay Jeffers and Victoria Nady, JayJeffers, Inc.



Coastal dwellings with coveted ocean views in Southern California often embrace a chic beach house aesthetic wholeheartedly. Think pastels, earthy textures and bleached woods, all embodying a soothing seaside vibe. But that kind of atmosphere is definitely *not* what the owners of this Corona del Mar residence overlooking the Pacific had in mind. “They didn’t want to see a single shell or sisal rug,” recalls Jay Jeffers. “Their visual touchstone was ’90s Tom Ford-era Gucci featuring Amber Valletta, and they explained that their home was going to be about dressy dinners, cocktails and stilettos.” The interior designer met the pair’s vision with enthusiasm. “My reaction was, ‘This is going to be so much fun!’”

Jeffers delivered what his clients desired and then some, adding his own spin to their point of view. “This is glamour with a capital ‘G,’” he declares of the result. The home, a new build, was already in framing when he joined the project, allowing him to focus on enhancing the finishes and creating cohesion across the two-story structure. Working closely with principal designer Victoria Nady, Jeffers channeled the oceanfront sophistication and high style of a Monaco penthouse—but with restraint. “We could have easily gone over the top with gold and glam, but this house needed to make sense in Newport Beach,” he notes.

Still, Jeffers and Nady largely shunned the typical coastal home rule book in favor of rich fabrics, standout lighting and evocative art. See the living area’s sculptural accent chair, finished in a luxe lacquered goatskin, or consider the kitchen counter stools’ unexpected floral fabric, an elevated twist on a traditional pattern that feels fresh. There are instances of exuberantly veined marble and gleaming brass elements alongside eye-catching contemporary art and geometric pendants. Even the more pared-back palette of the owners’ bedroom suite exudes the energy of an exotic destination. “There’s a sexiness

and a loungy vibe to these spaces, with no bright whites and nothing nautical or too expected,” Nady observes. That’s exactly what homeowners Megan Gorman and Roger Nabedian were aiming for. “The go-to aesthetic in SoCal is either beachy or white-beige—and that’s beautiful too—but we wanted something very chic and pushed ourselves to go bold,” Megan says.

Despite the intentional disregard of any cottage-by-the-sea tropes, the designers and their clients certainly didn’t ignore the home’s coastal setting and idyllic Pacific views. “If you’re going to live in this spot, you want to make sure you’re inviting the outside in,” comments Roger, pointing out how the positioning of the pool just outside of the great room, connected by sliding glass doors, draws guests outdoors and pulls eyes to the horizon. But rather than commandeering attention, the ocean vista engages in a carefully choreographed dance with the interiors. Prismatic pendants hanging over an oval dining room table serve as reflective mirrors of the sun and sea; abstract art above the living area’s fireplace feels referential to waves and movement; and the primary bedroom’s textures usher in softer sandy shades. “I think we nailed the glamour quotient—with just the right amount—yet there’s still some beach to this home,” says Jeffers, who features the residence in his new book, *Modern Classic*.

Downstairs, the atmosphere turns effervescent. “We joke that the house is a little bit like a mullet,” Megan shares. “The upstairs is serious, and then downstairs is where the party’s at.” An inviting glass-enclosed wine cellar and bar, the anchor around which the lower level’s lounge area and screening room pivot, confirms that. As Roger has spent his career in the wine business and the couple loves to entertain, the space handily caters to their passions while artfully storing their collection. And the sinuous green velvet sofa of the lounge stays firmly on theme: It’s completely unexpected in a beach home yet “a very glamorous place to sit and feel fabulous,” Jeffers says. “We took certain risks and those risks paid off,” Megan concludes. “That’s advice I now share with others—don’t be afraid to be collaborative and take a risk with a designer.” ■

Opposite: Wrapped in a floral Kelly Ventura linen, Vanguard counter stools line a kitchen island of Calacatta Paonazzo Borghini marble topped with vintage Anders Pehrson pendants. Draperies of a Sandra Jordan fabric frame the pool deck and Pacific views.

Previous page: In the living area, two De La Espada armchairs, a Dmitriy & Co sofa and a Scala Luxury accent chair unite with a vintage burl walnut coffee table and a vintage floor lamp. The rug is by Mark Nelson Designs. Artwork by John DiPaolo hides a TV.



Striking Calacatta Paonazzo Borghini marble features in the kitchen's backsplash and counters, set off by white oak cabinetry. The range is Miele and the faucet is Delta. A trio of Bec Brittain Maxhendron chandeliers, via Roll & Hill, makes a bold statement above a Castilleja dining table.



Above: Framed works from Lost Art Salon hang atop raked plaster walls behind a Duravit tub with a Kallista tub filler in the primary bath. The flooring is from Mosaïque Surface, and the draperies feature a Stroheim fabric. A vintage Italian Murano glass chandelier from 1stdibs completes the space.

Left: The clients' beloved bedframe, table lamps and side table were repurposed in the primary bedroom, joined by Lawson-Fenning nightstands and vintage Karpen of California armchairs in a Kravet fabric. A Phillip Jeffries wallcovering adds texture. The framed photograph above the bed is by Brian Hodges.