

HOUSE



The Philharmonic Society of Orange County

OF DESIGN

TEXT BY
VANESSA KOGEVINAS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
MARK LOHMAN



THIS SPRING, A SPRAWLING ELEVEN THOUSAND SQUARE FOOT ESTATE SET ON FORTY ACRES IN THE COASTAL HILLS OF LAGUNA BEACH WAS BROUGHT TO LIFE BY ELEVEN INTERIOR DESIGNERS FROM LOS ANGELES AND ORANGE COUNTY TO BENEFIT THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH MUSIC PROGRAMS. WITH MEDIA PARTNER CALIFORNIA HOMES THE 2012 PHILHARMONIC HOUSE OF DESIGN—IN ITS TWENTIETH YEAR—DREW CROWDS AND ACCLAIM.



The amount of work and hands on deck required to put a show house together is staggering. Think of what it takes to create, produce and perform a complex piece of music and multiply—countless times! For this year’s Philharmonic House of Design it took tremendous effort and talent to make it work as quickly and beautifully as it did. More than seven hundred members of the Philharmonic Society of Orange County, the entire staff of *California Homes* magazine, eleven designers and their associates, approximately one hundred

manufacturers, showrooms, product companies and artists, eleven vendors for the marketplace boutique and a team of caterers, not to mention the artisans and professionals that actually built the residence.

“Our greatest challenge was timing,” says the editor of *California Homes*, Susan McFadden. “The City of Laguna Beach approved the project in February 2012 and we had to convince the designers that they could create magical spaces by the April 24 opening.” Both the magazine and the Philharmonic



Living Room

Hal Swanson and Dan Ollis of Swanson-Ollis Interiors selected furnishings that were neutral in palette thereby highlighting the art and the Tibetan weave hand knotted rug from Michaelian & Kohlberg that anchors the space. A sofa, chaise lounge and an armchair covered in a plaid boucle fabric—all from J. Robert Scott—create a seating area in front of a fireplace that features a clean sleek limestone surround from Neolithic Design. Above it, a bold blue acrylic on canvas by Andy Moses found through Brenda Harrop Art Consulting and Design.

Foyer

Swanson-Ollis Interiors anchored the foyer with a bronze sculpture by Guy Dill and placed it on an elliptical lacquered faux parchment table from J. Robert Scott. An inset James Strombotne painting offers a moment of pause in the hallway leading to the heart of the house.

Hallway Vignette

The large contemporary still life by emerging artist Robert Minervini chosen by Swanson-Ollis Interiors for a vignette in the living room has a vibrant essence and is suspended above a more muted leather bench from J. Robert Scott.

Family Room

Joshua Cain and Jeff Godbold of Saxony Design Build chose an eclectic mix of furniture including cedar framed Alfonso Marina armchairs set in front of a repurposed 19th century antique chinese bed used as a coffee table. A custom sectional sofa from Custom Craft Upholsters with Robert Allen fabric is paired with an iron and wood side table by Eric Brown through Witford featuring a whimsical, black lamp from Arteriors. Contemporary beach artwork from famous Disney animator Danny Galieote picks up the tones of the custom blue green grasscloth by Seabrook, as do the Beacon Hill fabric covered custom sofa pillows.

Lounge

Club chairs from The Sofa Company covered in Robert Allen fabric were selected by Saxony Design Build for their comfort and soft lines creating a cozy spot in the large residence. An Alfonso Marina Ebanista cocktail table facilitates a place for a libation from the Art Deco vintage bar cleverly inset in an alcove.



Deck Off The Family Room
Saxony Design Build chose various pieces from Outdoor Elegance to create a diverse outdoor experience.





Office

The casual elegance of the office by Helen Freeborn of Coastal Classics Interiors can be attributed to the clean lines, blues hues and natural textures that were selected. An off-white contemporary desk from Century Furniture with two Philippe Stark Louis Ghost style acrylic chairs are set on a rug from Ebanista that at once recalls the ocean and infuses pattern in the space. Century Furniture's Orient lounge chair and ottoman are grouped for an indoor seating area while the office's oversized terrace graced with Island Bay furniture from the Laguna Design Center and accented by plantings from Laguna Nursery makes up the outdoor seating area.

Healing Sanctuary

Robert Esterley of Esterley Designs delivers a modern version of a healing home spa complete with massage area, spa bathroom, lounge area and patio. Custom cabinetry by California Closets in the massage room offers a nook for a television and ample shelving for accessories and plants, provided by Coastal Gardens. In the lounge Esterley paired a brass framed coffee table from Deco Home with a Robert Esterley for Deco Home velvet sofa and suspended a large photo of a woman draped in sheets by Lisa Renee Photography giving the room a peaceful feel. The spaces are softly separated by Deco Home draperies versus more forbidding doors.







Dining Room

Shala Shamardi of Haute Design Studio deftly combines classic and contemporary pieces such as a walnut and stainless steel dining table from Blake House with two Nancy Corzine dining chairs and two Haute Design Studio dining chairs by Dave's Interiors. An alabaster table lamp by Jonathan Franc and a selenite chandelier and sconces from Blake House provide natural complementary elements.

Chair & Painting Vignette

Acrylic and brass chairs by Jonathan Franc paired with a shagreen and silver gilt side table from Blake House are grouped below a Ferdos Maleki painting and offer an intimate moment in the dining room.

Kitchen

Deirdre Eagles of Deirdre Eagles Interior Design chose to contrast white Calacatta Italian marble countertops from Maison Stone with dark walnut wood cabinetry. An undulating Nadeau Collection waterjet backsplash from Maison Stone recalls the ocean's waves and the Kravet fabric for the window treatments is a perfect complement. Palecek through Witford barstools.

Morning Room

The circular shape of the morning room prompted Deirdre Eagles to go with pieces that echo it such as a round dining table and a curved banquette by Swaim through Witford and a light fixture from Corbett through Lighttopia. The silver blue green hand finished Vero Venetian plaster walls and a blue rug from Stark Carpet draw in ocean tones.







Society set about pulling the brave designers together. “We were thrilled to be in Laguna Beach,” says Kim Weddon, Benefit Chair of The 2012 Philharmonic House of Design. “It was exciting to see the designers achieve an overall feel of coastal living with a unified soft contemporary palette.”

Set at the top of a winding hillside lane, the house offers a generous motor court off of which lies the grand entrance—a glass encased atrium foyer. Selecting product that will stand up to the powerful architecture is not an easy task, yet Hal Swanson and Dan Ollis of Swanson-Ollis Interiors knew exactly

what to do—adorn it with a breathtaking sculpture that echoes the metal used for the atrium. They also tackled the living room off of the foyer and created a soothing, sophisticated space using furniture with clean lines and a sand-toned palette.

Helen Freeborn of Coastal Classic Interiors chose modern, transparent pieces and blue accents for the office that is accessed off the foyer, while Shala Shamardi of Haute Design Studio balanced modern pieces with more classic ones in the dining room, also off the foyer. Adjacent to it, the powder room designed by Stephanie Cook and Stephanie Avila



Artists' Retreat

Sean S. Hashemian and Niloo Vahidi of Casa Siena Design anchored the artist's retreat with a dramatic custom canopy daybed from their own collection featuring Pindler & Pindler fabric and an Ergo Bedroom Customized Comfort mattress. Unique furnishings—a dark twisted wood frame chair from Las Palmas, a custom Casa Siena coffee table with reclaimed Encaustic tiles from Neolithic Design and a Belle Epoque style bronze floor lamp from Sebastian Giovanni—all contribute to the European glamour of the space.

Powder Room

A Deco modern look was chosen by Stephanie Cook and Stephanie Avila of Plural Interior Design for the powder room, where a custom vanity by Buccola Mfg plays off of a custom tile floor by Bedrosians. Two gold framed abstracts—*Slowing Down* (left) and *Sun Bathing* (right)—by Cook are mounted on a wall covered with Blake House wallpaper and an acrylic stool by Jonathan Franc provides a pop of color.

of Plural Interior Design provides a geometric, sexy moment, while still offering a cohesiveness with the dining room.

Deirdre Eagles of Deirdre Eagles Interior Design chose brown and tan hues for the oversize kitchen and complemented it with ocean blues and greens in the morning room. Directly abutting the kitchen, Joshua Cain and Jeff Godbold of Saxony Design Build, created a blue green resting spot in both the lounge and the family room. An artist's retreat set on the back terrace by Sean S. Hashemian and Niloo Vahidi of Casa Siena Design has a more traditional and opulent feel.





Bedrooms are found on the lower level: A master bedroom and bath by Chris Kittrell of Chris Kittrell & Associates and two other bedrooms—one decorated by Between The Sheets and the other by Rona Graf and Stephanie Fryer of Grace Blu Designs, Inc. The two bedroom's bright blue ocean colors create a bold juxtaposition to the master's earth tones. Rounding off the lower level is a healing sanctuary by Robert Esterley of Esterley Designs—a peachy orange oasis of relaxation.

The residence has large extensive hallways that are flooded with both natural and overhead lighting allowing for art to be displayed in a gallery-like way. The halls were brought to life with the work of artists James Strombotne, Shane Townley, Menthe Wells and Stephanie Cook. An infinity pool and spa offers breathtaking views of the ocean and Laguna Beach that can also be seen from many of the rooms in the house—most of which have extensive windows, French doors and generous terraces..

Master Bedroom

Chris Kittrell of Kittrell & Associates embraced rather than fought the hexagonal master bedroom with windows on four of its walls that maximize panoramic views. A Swaim bed from Witford was placed slightly away from the window walls. In front of the fireplace two Kittrell & Associates armchairs offer a quiet, romantic place of respite. A muted palette of golds, tans and greys were inspired by sunsets—Fabricut drapery fabric, a rug from Harts Rugs and a Euro sham from Frette. The two custom Kittrell & Associates chandeliers from Fashion Interiors work well with the dimensions of the space.

Master Bath Room

Honey Onyx tiles on stairs leading up to the enormous Jacuzzi tub are repeated in the shower and complement the flooring. Plants from California Plantscapes add a natural element.

Side Table & Horses Vignette

Opposite the bed in the master bedroom Kittrell & Associates placed a Swaim console in front of a window with two large Palecek chairs—all from Witford. Replica Han Dynasty bronze horses without legs make a historical statement.



Guest Bedroom | above

Between The Sheets selected product from their store that reflect deep blues, aquas and gunmetal hues, which contrast with the more traditional toned furnishings and flooring. Patterns lend a feeling of continuous motion and mirrored pieces provide reflections reminiscent of the ocean beyond.



Guest Bedroom | opposite

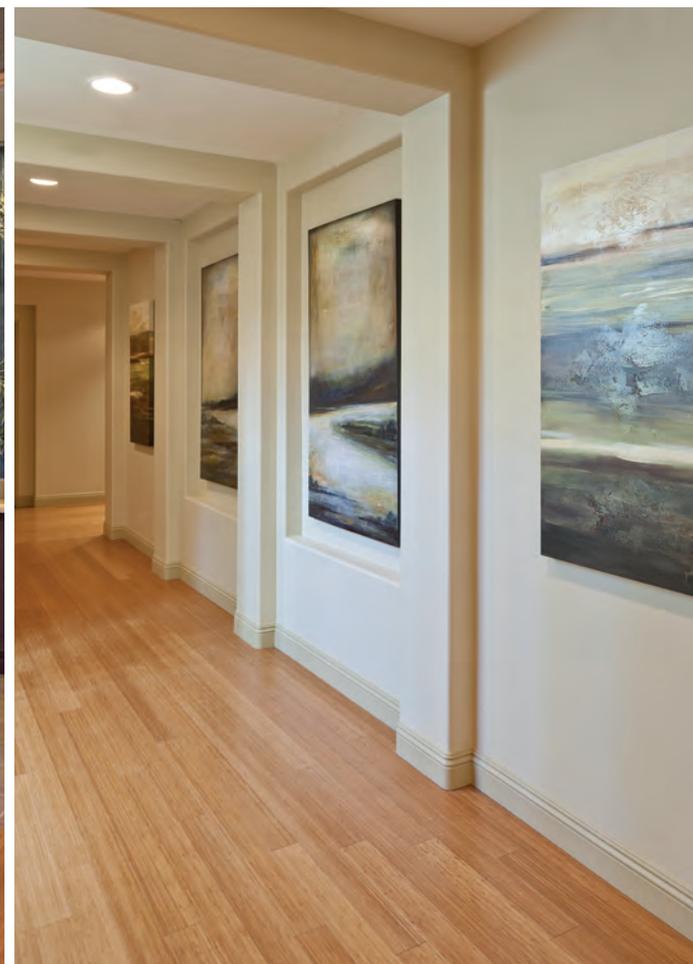
A decorative area rug by Shivon that references the cross section of geodes is one of the bases for the guest bedroom designed by Stephanie Fryer and Rona Graf of Grace Blu Designs. A circular chandelier from Lightopia and Frette bed linens offer shimmering gold accents—also in line with the gem theme.

Guest Bedroom Vignette

A wingback chair from Orient Express Furniture, a lamp from Baker and a petrified wood side table by Matthew Studio are assembled by Grace Blu in a cozy reading corner where a piece by artist Jordan Thomas was designed to give the essence of serenity.

Hallway Paintings

A series of landscapes—Love Green 1 and 2 and Peaceful 1 and 2—by artist Ferdos Maleki line the lower level hallway. Menthe Wells' artwork was also featured on the lower level in an adjacent hallway







Hallway Paintings

Mounted in an upper level hallway on the left, are Shane Townley's *Bliss* (left) and *Oceans* (right) and on the right, James Strombotne's *Elegant Lady*.

Artist Stephanie Cook's *Expressions of Life* series featured a work inspired by her Make-A-Wish Foundation project in honor of Kimberly Tello, pictured here, a young girl who was diagnosed with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus.

Pool

A stone surrounded infinity pool and spa overlooks the city of Laguna Beach and the Pacific Ocean beyond.



All the spaces are packed with high-end product from companies such as J. Robert Scott, who without their participation would make a show house of this grandeur impossible. The careful balance of product and striking art within the spaces can only be attributed to the talent of the interior designers selected. "The house is modern and our goal was for a soft, contemporary feel," says McFadden. "We created a miracle in just eight weeks!"

Let's not forget, however, that all of this hard work was a benefit. "This is a wonderful fundraiser for our acclaimed youth music education programs—free to Orange County students," says Benefit Chair Weddon. A project of this magnitude is proof that it takes a village, and by all accounts this show house was a tremendous success and magnificent, significant accomplishment. ☐