

Architect Erik Evens and interior designer Alana Homesley fully restored the original wood siding, shingles and cross-braced framed screen door of a 1905 Santa Monica Craftsman. **OPPOSITE** Residents take advantage of their painted Douglas fir-based front porch. A table and benches designed by Homesley afford an outdoor dining area.





A Labor *of* Love

THIS 1905 CALIFORNIA CRAFTSMAN RECEIVED
A COMPLETE RENOVATION

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A dark stained oak Christian Liaigre table is surrounded by custom Rose Tarlow Melrose House fabric covered chairs in the dining room. A lighting fixture by Lindsey Adelman Studio is a seamless juxtaposition to the original pocketed ceilings and restored cabinetry—all painted out white. **LEFT** Heath Ceramics backsplash tiles provide a beach appropriate accent against the white cabinetry. Vintage mercury glass fixtures are suspended above a walnut butcher-block island.



TUCKED IN A BEACHSIDE HISTORICAL DISTRICT OF Santa Monica, a 1905 Craftsman stands gleaming after having undergone a complete and careful renovation. The four equally passionate team players in the labor of love—architect Erik Evens of Evens Architects, of the KAA Design Group; interior designer Alana Homesley, of Alana Homesley Interior Design and formerly of KAA Design Group; and the clients, a movie director and his wife—painstakingly addressed every square foot and every detail, down to the door nobs. “It had incredible bones—almost perfectly original,” says Evens, “but it had been neglected over the years.”

Their first step was conquering the exterior with a complete face-lift. They repainted the home, redid the roof and replaced rotting woodwork. “The house was very dark—a classic turn-of-the-century dreary chocolate brown,” notes Evens, “We made the decision early on to lighten it all up and make it feel more contemporary and beachy—painting all the woodwork a creamy white, without erasing the history of it.”

“The last thing we wanted to do was compromise the beautiful aesthetic style,” says Evens, “but the house had severe contingencies.” The first floor received a new kitchen, lounge area, powder room and stair hall, while main spaces—dining room and living room—got a facelift being repaired and repainted. Upstairs was completely reconfigured including a small addition, which added a bedroom and bath, bringing the total to four bedrooms and three baths. “Pretty amazing under this roof,” notes Evens.

For her part, Homesley advised on everything from millwork design to finishes to matching the original Douglas fir flooring where square footage was added—totaling a comfortable 2,965 square feet by the end of the project. “We recreated a lot of the pieces that



In the living room, a Homesley-designed chaise is paired with two Christian Liaigre chairs in front of a Heath Ceramics tile surround fireplace and a painting from the client's collection adds a burst of color. Vintage carriage lanterns, a Mansour Modern rug and CONRAD shades were carefully selected in keeping with the style of the house. **RIGHT TOP** The family enjoys the front deck. **RIGHT BOTTOM** A claw foot tub and Lefroy Brooks fixtures in the master bath perfectly complement the white wood panel walls and Douglas fir wood flooring.





couldn't be salvaged like plate moldings and windows," says the client, "and when we chose more modern elements we made sure that they tied in with the original details."

When it came to the furnishings and the color palette they remained classic and demure. "We chose a very limited palette," says Homesley. "We wanted materials and textures that were natural, in keeping with the beach locale." Grey-blue-greens were predominant. "A murky sea storm of sorts," she continues. For furnishings, they fell in love with Christian Liaigre, among others. "He is never out of style."

The warm and incandescent lighting touches make the home sparkle and cozy at once. Mindful to stay true to the residence, they were drawn to natural iron or steel fixtures—such as vintage carriage lamps flanking the fireplace or mercury glass fixtures in the kitchen.

"We love the way the house feels to live in and how it contributes to the neighborhood," says the client. "Our architect and designer really maximized space and came up with designs that have stood the test of time." There is no better testament to the success of a project than a family that loves their residence, in most parts due to the talent and dedication of the professionals that they collaborated with. **CH**