

The pairing of stained cedar shingles, white trim and a white fence with a standing seam metal roof and copper gutters presents an updated and transitional look to a classic style.



# Santa Barbara Seaside

AN INTIMATE CRAFTSMAN-STYLE BEACH HOUSE FINDS A HOME ON THE MESA BLUFFS  
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**P**ERCHED ON ONE OF THE MOST COVETED Santa Barbara seaside spots, the waterfront Mesa—where a boardwalk and park give way to bluffs, which tower over a generous beach—sits a recently completed Craftsman-style beach house with endless views of the Pacific Ocean.

Sunlight floods the two-bedroom, two-bath cottage-like house built by contractor Brian Zimmerman of Zimmerman Construction and designed by his late father renowned local architect James J. Zimmerman of Zimmerman Architects. The later, over his forty-five year career, remained dedicated to maintaining the architectural integrity of his community—while designing icons the like of Santa Barbara’s Stearns Wharf and renovating the Santa Barbara Yacht Club—and there is no shortage of that commitment in the retreat that marks his last design. While father and son worked on many projects together, “because this was the last house I was able to work on with my dad as the architect before he died,” says Brian, “it makes it a little more special.”

“The goal was a quintessential beach house with a traditional aesthetic and a transitional undercurrent,” says interior designer Debra Lynn Henno of Debra Lynn Henno Design, who won out an extensive vetting process by the clients, “and we all eagerly collaborated to attain that.” Cedar shingle siding stained a light-green and white decorative wood trims set the tone. Cherokee flagstone for the lower patio and walkways, and limestone on the upper deck—both in sand tones—cement the look.



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- INTERIOR DESIGNER DEBRA LYNN HENNO

“We wanted a beach cottage feel with some nautical references as we are longtime boat lovers,” says the client, who with her husband split their time between Santa Barbara and Lake Tahoe. Well thought out architectural elements—ceilings reminiscent of boat decks and hulls, and V-board construction—speak to that goal.

“For the interiors, we designed custom pieces that complimented the architecture,” says Henno, “and everything was focused around the view and location.” While more traditional, sizable pieces like bar stools, a dining table, dining chairs, a large sofa and oversize armchairs anchor the open living/dining area floorplan, the overall ambiance remains intimately spacious. “We kept it light and airy,” says Henno. “Beachy and breezy,” thanks in part to Lanai doors they chose to install. “We love the openness created within a fairly small structure,” says the resident.

The color palette is that of the ocean—predominantly shades of blues, sea glass greens and sand tones—offset by crisp white cabinetry, trims and ceilings, and white-oak wood for flooring. Linens and cottons abound and lighting was carefully selected not to obstruct the views—an open lantern in the living room, glass pendants in the kitchen.



**OPPOSITE** Schumacher fabric-covered armchairs and a sofa are set on a Serena & Lily rug in the living room. A chest from Joss & Main and a Ballard Designs console offer display and storage spaces. For lighting, Restoration Hardware floor lamps and a Visual Comfort & Co. lantern were chosen. Anchoring the space is a client-commissioned painting of the Mesa bluffs by Jeremy Harper. **LEFT** An oversized armchair in a Schumacher woven cotton/linen blend, a custom ottoman in Kravet faux leather and a ceramic garden stool from Pottery Barn set in front of built-in cabinetry and a fireplace provide a cozy corner.



**ABOVE** In the dining area, a Currey & Company shell chandelier is matched with a distressed wood dining table from Joss & Main, which is surrounded by custom dining chairs in dual Schumacher fabrics. Serena & Lily bar stools complement both the chairs and the quartz bar, with Jamie Young Co. seeded glass pendants above. White oak flooring. **OPPOSITE TOP** Plentiful throw pillows using Schumacher fabrics, a window seat cushion in Kravet fabric, Serena & Lily bedding and Kravet fabric linen shades combined offer supreme comfort in the master bedroom. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM** White wicker outdoor furnishings accented with blue cushions create the perfect nautical-inspired look for the upper deck.

Window coverings, such as bamboo shades and sheers, serve to lightly shelter the interiors from the sun's glare versus blocking out the bountiful light.

While the house boasts a modest 2,100-square-foot footprint, every square inch is carefully curated. An office for her, which doubles as a nursery for their grandchild, a powder room, a desk nook for him at the second floor landing, and plentiful storage under the stairs and in window seats maximize the interiors. At the back of the property, connected to the main house by a trellis, stands a two-story garage with a lift, and the lot even boasts a small putting green, a fountain, fruit trees and a raised herb garden.

"The biggest challenge was for us to maximize the best usage of a small lot with a gorgeous view," says the resident, "to take advantage of the beauty of the location. We love the way it turned out!" CH

