

CALIFORNIA HOMES

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LIVING ON THE WATER

WATERFRONT HOMES
FROM LAKE TAHOE
TO LAGUNA BEACH

JUNE 2003

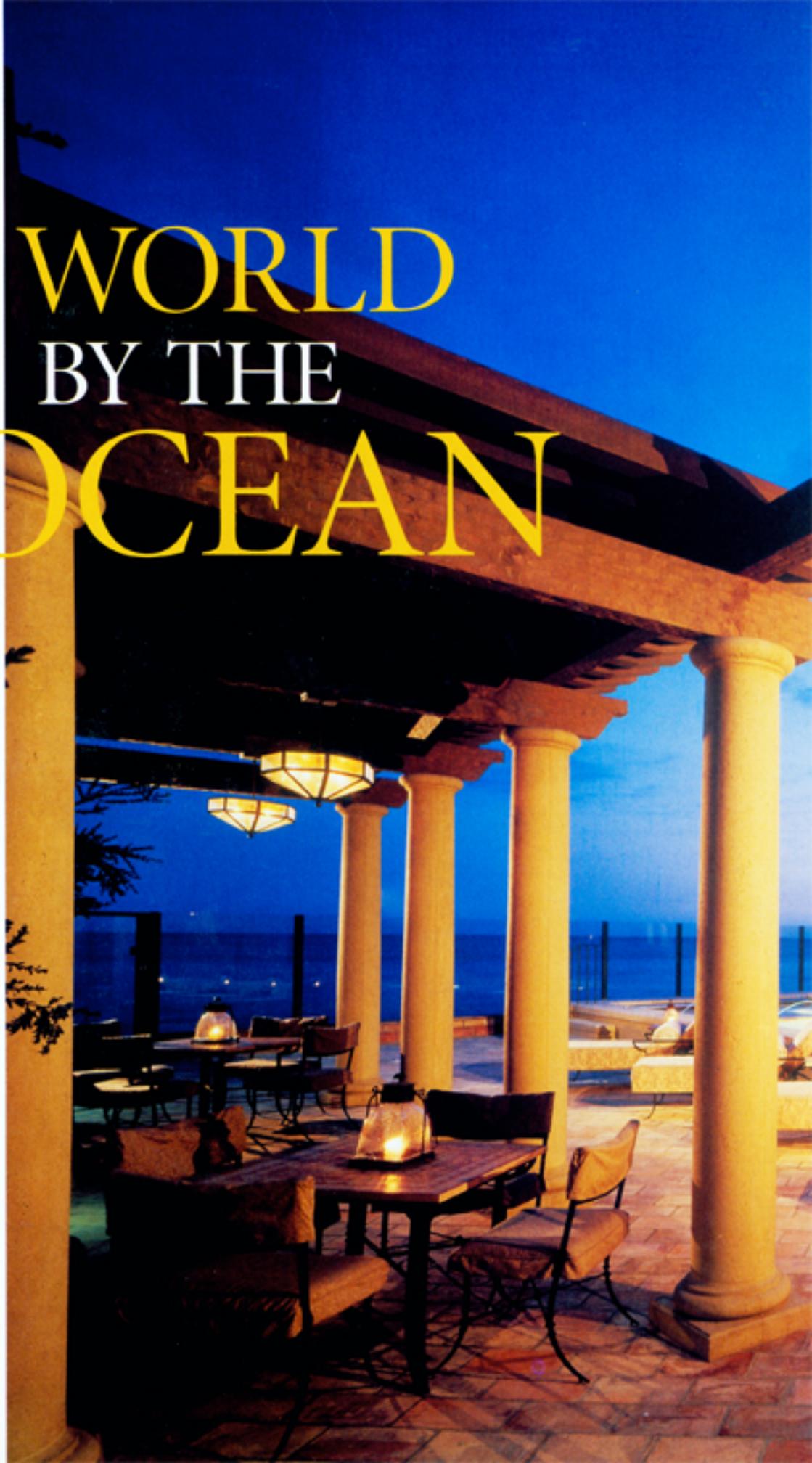
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OLD WORLD BY THE OCEAN





ARCHITECT RICHARD LANDRY CREATES
A LUXURY BEACH HOUSE
DESIGNED FOR FAMILY RELAXATION

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With its Mediterranean charm and high-tech interior, this beautiful beachside mansion in Southern California is carefully planned in every detail for family time, fun and relaxation. Inspired by a found photograph of a Tuscan villa, architect Richard Landry, AIA, of Landry Design Group, and interior designer Susan Cohen worked as equal partners with the client, in a collaboration as smooth as the white sand beach, made even easier by contractor George Pepper of Fort Hill Construction.

The oceanfront terrace with its fountain swimming pool, surrounded by two stories of shaded loggias, is designed for relaxed entertaining and family fun. Tables and chairs by Merle Sheridan of Mosaic; Fortuny patterned umbrellas and slipcovers by Silkworks; lanterns are by Colburn & Schwartz.



RIGHT: The open spaces of the home radiate from the focal point of the great room with its round fireplace and spectacular beach and ocean views on four sides. An abundance of comfortable sofas, chairs and ottomans are ready to sink in to, for cozy conversations. The china cabinet visible in the dining room is a converted bibliothèque by Château Collection. LEFT PAGE: An oversized round table that seats fourteen is designed for elegant but casual dining with the extended family, with reaching made easier by a recessed lazy Susan in the middle. The table was custom made by Dessin Fournier; chandelier is by Studio Metz from A. Rudin. The barbecue is positioned right outside, built-in with the outdoor bar; barstools are by Mosaix.



The beach retreat was designed for a large family, with grown children, younger children, grandchildren, and grandparents as well.

"The client likes rural Italian architecture, but because the home was to be open to the beach, a typical Italian villa would not be suited to the site," says architect Landry. We took that idea and converted it into a more contemporary language, with clean lines and contemporary forms, but with old-world materials." Santa Barbara rubble stone on the exterior is combined with hand-troweled, smoothly finished stucco and unpainted beams. Beams inside the house are reclaimed wood, cleaned and re-stained. All the wall finishes were made to resemble the authentic walls of a Tuscan villa and were created through an elaborate process of hand-burnished waxed plaster by Peter Bolton Painted Finishes.

Landry and his team, managed by associate Brian Pinkett, engineered high-tech solutions for contemporary living into this not-quite-traditional villa. The entire rear yard, grass and all, is built on a concrete deck on caisson footings, so that even if beach below erodes in a storm, the house will stand

firm. The swimming pool is raised to terrace height to protect it from the ocean's tides. Deep sheltering loggias all around protect the inhabitants from rain, wind, or excessive sun.

Inside the house, the very open floor plan radiates from the central round fireplace of the great room, and lends itself to easy entertaining. Windows throughout slide effortlessly into wall pockets and allow the indoors to flow seamlessly to the outdoors. The great room converts into a theater with a touch of a button. Murray Kunis of Future Home Media designed the concealed blackout shades that come down to cover the windows and darken the room. A large screen descends from the ceiling, and speakers pop up behind the screen out of reproduction antique chests. A curtain separates the theater from the kitchen, dining room and sitting area near the fireplace, which can continue to be flooded with sun for the non-moviegoers.



In the entry, guests are welcomed by an eclectic mix of colorful tile, faience vases in custom wall niches, satiny wood, antique alabaster vases, a wrought-iron chandelier and two striking portraits by the Mexican artist Jamali. The wood ceiling is constructed to give an illusion of slanting. Custom lighting by Lantern Masters; chandelier handmade by Studio Metz from A. Radin; chests are by Panache from Randolph & Hein.

The great room offers comfortable sofas and chairs inviting family and friends to sink in for cozy conversations and cuddling with the kids.

"We had to think very practically to make the sitting room work as a screening room," says designer Cohen. "All of the chairs can move around on casters and swivels to face the screen." The designers mixed flat and textured soft cotton fabrics with luxurious chenille and delicious cashmere throws for chilly evenings at the beach.

"There's no formality in the house, but it has an aged quality to it," continues Cohen. "We wanted that gracious old-world feel, not a new house but one with a history to it. It's designed for entertainment and enjoyment, and every room is comfortable and practical." The woods are all warm. Cohen and the client chose a warm palette of the colors of the sun-golds and terra cottas, suitable for the beach and the ocean. The walls are aged with a colored plaster finished with a waxed treatment for a vintage quality. The floors are a French terra cotta, "the perfect floor for living at the sandy beach," said the designer. "It hides a multitude of sins." Two woven chenille rugs warm the living room, and gold drapes have a deep terra-cotta reverse cuff.





LEFT: A focus of this warm family home is the kitchen by Cooper Pacific, customized with pizza ovens and warming ovens to meet the needs of casual life at the beach. BELOW LEFT: The home radiates from the great room and offers spectacular beach and ocean views on four sides. An abundance of comfortable sofas, chairs and ottomans are ready to sink in to, for cozy conversations or—when the room is transformed by tucked-away blackout curtains, speakers and screen—into a movie theater. The cabinet from Panache is topped with a mirror from Initials. The china cabinet visible in the dining room is a converted bibliothèque by Château Collection. Striped fabric is by Ardecora from Randolph & Hein; leather ottomans by Paul Ferrante; gold chenille fabric by Henry Calvin from Donghia. BELOW RIGHT: The seaside office features a custom red lacquered desk and Indian day bed from Charles Jacobson, upholstered in Kneederl Fauchere lipstick mohair and Christopher Norman stripe taffeta silk on the bolsters. Decorative pillow by Villa Roma. The desk chair from Thomas Lavin is vintage French c. 1935. On the floor is a custom woven silk and wool Tibetan carpet from Mansour Carpets.



Sheer curtains flutter at the master bedroom's retractable corner windows, which open to a magnificent view of the coastline. Luxurious draperies, bedding and silk velvet cushions combine with a high-tech electric bed and concealed TV. It's a very charming ambience, especially for a big house, which can be difficult to imbue with warmth and cozy comfort.



THE CLIENTS ARE VERY HAPPY. "We've worked with these clients before, and they are wonderful people to work with," says Landry. "We work all together as a team from the beginning of the project, and the goal is to give the clients the best house possible." Susan Cohen agreed. "It behooves the client to hire the architect and interior designer from the beginning, to have a united team, a meeting of the minds. This project was a joy working with everybody from day one to installation," she affirmed. "And I love to see how a house matures with a family living in it." ◉

LEFT PAGE: The master bedroom, wide open to the surrounding views and sea breezes, feels like the royal suite on an ocean liner. The toile de Jouy used for the draperies, bedding and cushions is from Old World Weavers, and blends harmoniously with the grass cloth walls, the soft chenille from Doughia on the inviting double chaise and the Fortuny print on the ottoman for an effect of muted luxury. Bronze tables are by Gary Hutton, ceiling light by Holly Hunt, and the inlaid mosaic on the corbelled fireplace is from Ann Sacks. RIGHT: Tumbled marble tiles and marble mosaics lend an air of antiquity to the elegant power room. The chest and mirror are from William Switzer at Kneedler-Fauchere. The floor is by Mosaix. BELOW LEFT: Headboard upholstered in Travers Terracotta chenille, Bedding and Draperies by the Linen Trees, Linens created by Beluxerous. Print, Bousac France from Randolph & Hein. Newport Pineapple lamp (symbol of hospitality) from Charles Fradin. BELOW RIGHT: All bedding and drapery fabrics from Keith McCoy. Headboard, canopy, desk and chair designed by Farmhouse Collection. Ottoman with boule fringe made by Villa Roma.

