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88 INTERNATIONAL

*UNIQUE
EXPERIENCES*

**BEAUTY OF
IMPERFECTION**

*THE AXEL
VERVOORDT
STANDARD*

**MIAMI BEACH
TEMPTATIONS**

*ITALIAN WINE
ROMANCES*

**AFRICAN
BOULDER
SENSATIONS**



CALIFORNIAN BEACH BABE



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OBJEKT USACANADA
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This pages: the beach house in Del Mar, California, that was recently redesigned by Lucas Design Associates. They created a robust overall image, where the interior elements reflect the ocean spirit.
Right-hand page: the deck to the guest bedrooms.

Peter and Sue Cooper, Californian based New Zealander's, split their time between Newport Beach, CA and Auckland, New Zealand. They purchased this beach front property in Del Mar over 20 years ago, because it reminded them of the surfing beaches in New Zealand. The Cooper's asked Lucas Design Associates from Seattle, to design the beach house and an old house directly across the street to function as one and to refine the interior and exterior architectural style and overall aesthetic, starting from scratch.





These pages: the combined great room and kitchen area with counter stools by Holly Hunt and a rug by Stark. Appliances by Gaggenau, Sub Zero and Bosch combined with a Julien Sink and KWC Faucet. The built-in sofa with cushions is by BC Custom Upholstery, the scissor lounge chairs are by Saturn & BC Custom and the round coffee table is by Mayer Designs. The hanging necklace is by Chris Charteris.



This page: the founding partners of interior design studio Lucas, siblings David & Suzie Lucas. New York natives they are now located in Seattle, in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. Right-hand page top left: the kitchen with cabinetry of brushed Hemlock and antique brown granite island and counters. Beside that the exterior covered terrace with seats by Janus et Cie, and a concrete coffee table by 12th Ave. & DC Concrete The outdoor rug is by Driscoll Robbins. Below that the dining area of the outdoor terrace with Saturn dining table with Walter’s Wicker dining chair. The exterior modular sectional sofa is by Brown Jordan with Perennials fabrics. Center: the kitchen with stools by Holly Hunt. Beside that: the great room with custom built lounge and tables. Fabrics by Holly Hunt, Castel and Pindler. Bottom left: the exterior courtyard dining with Teak slab top by 12. Ave Iron / Andrianna Shamaris and solid Teak barstools by SJV Agricultural Stools. Bottom right: the upper level guest room with a Custom Bed Platform - Village Interiors. Fabric is by Glant.

Lucas goal at this Del Mar property was to design the two homes that could function both separately and as one. The intension was to be casual with a strong Japanese influence: all of the materials had to have a rugged durability. It was important for the Cooper’s to use natural materials when possible.

David and Suzie Lucas: “Unlike most beach houses, the design was complex, the materials were bold and the selection of the custom details and furniture offered an intriguing and intense experience. A strong sense of contrast now prevails between concrete pavers and crisp, clean walls, the solid oak flooring and the stained hemlock screens and the cozy shelter and the wild ocean waves. Many of the natural materials used, will weather over time, giving the home an earthy and organic feeling. Warm tones and floating ceiling planes in the great room ground the interior and offer a sense of protection against the sand and big beach experience. The tension between the outside and inside is really what makes this property unique. When you are in the cozy burned wood lined kitchen of the back house, the beach feels very far away, even though it’s not. ”

The Cooper’s wanted to build a home that would allow the family to gather, relax and unwind by the beach. The newly reconstructed houses needed to withstand the test of time. They were developed with the owner’s love of modern Western and traditional Japanese architecture.

The home was recreated to establish a strong connection to the environment and the family structure. The pair of homes was conceived as ‘fraternal twins’ inspired by the owner’s two sets of

fraternal twins. This guided the designers to the concept of relating the two houses to one another without creating exact replicas.

The result was a combination of two spaces with strong ‘family resemblance’ yet distinctive, individual personalities. One example of this is the use of board form concrete both on the ocean side home and repurposed as the shou sugi ban wall lining in the adjacent home. In this way, the homes are unified through material use and set on axis to each other.

The architect, Chris Light of C.J. Light Associates, was largely responsible for the buildings itself. Lucas worked very closely with the architect to create the unambiguous aesthetic language of the spaces. With the forms in mind that the architect established, David and Suzie Lucas designed the interior detailing and altered some spatial configurations to ensure optimal function for the expanding family. The process lasted two and a half years.

The project team prioritized function and flexibility in usage. The new configuration accommodates now parties of many sizes, from an intimate weekend for the couple to nearly two-dozen family members gathering for eating, resting, conversation, games and socializing. The architect was instrumental in blurring the line between interior and exterior and programming the exterior spaces to function in conjunction with, and as an extension of, the interior of the home. The dual use of the courtyard as a bar and game room exemplifies this intention.

The owners are avid collectors of Maori artifacts and contemporary New Zealand art and saw this home as an opportunity to showcase sculpture rather than more traditional wall hung paintings. The use of art is minimal throughout the home due to the sea-side location and required durability. Each house was conceived sculpturally while the furniture was seen as usable sculptures. Everything is minimal and curated and not pretentious.

The artworks include the hanging necklace, ‘Meeting Place’ by Chris Charteris in the great room and the porcelain cup display in the master bedroom. The Lucases worked with several local craftsmen to produce custom furnishings and rugs for the home including a Hiroko Takeda hand woven throw blanket and custom headboard in the master bedroom and a custom designed sculptural table lamp in the great room.





Left-hand page: the exterior barbeque terrace with solid wood counter stools from Kitchen Window - San Juan. Pendant fixtures are by Kitchen Island Fuse Lighting. The floor is made from fumed oak and concrete pavers. This page: the entrance with wooden screen panels of brushed and stained fir and a ceiling from Alaaskan Cedar. The floor is made of fumed Oak.