



A nook in the living room has chairs from Los Angeles based Lawson-Fenning, upholstered in performance fabric from Loro Piana Interiors. Pillows are custom made from C&C Milano. The round side table is from Noir Furniture, atop which is a lamp from Circa Lighting by Kelly Wearstler through Visual Comfort.

OPPOSITE The entrance features a Dutch door painted in Stone Blue from Farrow & Ball. Hanging hooks are from West Elm.



THE PERFECT BEACH HOUSE

DESIGNER KATE TAYLOR TRANSFORMED THIS BEACH BUNGLOW INTO A LIGHT AND BRIGHT VACATION HOME

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FROM MOST PERSPECTIVE, the Laguna Beach house was perfect; it was going to serve as a delightful second home for a busy financial CEO in Chicago who for years had been seeking a serene West Coast getaway in this area. The 1,300 square foot cottage was right on the beach.

"It really was a little gem," said designer Kate Taylor, founder of Kate Taylor Interiors. "But it was also dark and crowded and not cohesive."

The house, originally built in 1940 with additions put on in the 1990s, was ripe for a renovation.

"We stripped it down to the studs," said Taylor, who worked with architect James Ward Henry II and builder Oligino Construction. "We reconfigured the kitchen and bathrooms. It's completely different to what it once was....yet it still has a quaint, beach bungalow appeal that the client and I wanted to maintain."

After a transformation that lasted 15 months, the two bedroom-two bathroom home is now "light and bright and modern," said Taylor.

"We didn't want it to feel overly nautical; some beach houses do go in that direction," she said. "We wanted it to feel sophisticated and kept it neutral with pops of color."

Taylor had a shorthand with the client, with whom she'd worked on two other homes, including his main residence in Chicago, which is in a vintage residential building. He wanted his West Coast abode - he visits about once a month - to feel different from his Chicago residence, which Taylor describes as "elegant, polished and luxurious."

"He comes on vacation to Laguna Beach and wanted something that was low maintenance and easy," said Taylor. "Comfort and livability were the most important things. I wanted it to feel totally different from his main home, but still have personality and be clean and modern and have a California vibe."

The entire second floor is the owner's master suite, done in soothing



The wall by the stairway to the second floor master suite is decorated with surfboard art from DecoSurf, in between sconces by Design Within Reach. Small white table is by Serena & Lily.

OPPOSITE The round brass-framed mirror in the entryway is from West Elm, above a Danish mid-century console found through 1stdibs.com. Sofa is from Room & Board, with custom pillows from C&C Milano, Restoration Hardware ottoman and Tufenkian rug.



ABOVE The dining nook features a custom banquette while the table is from Room & Board. Chairs from Design Within Reach, custom pillows from C&C Milano. The art is an oil on canvas painting by Glenn Ness, acquired through Sue Greenwood Fine Art in Laguna Beach. **BELOW** Tiles from Artistic Tile and Ann Sacks, Carrara marble countertops, Wolf appliances and hardware from Emtk. The stools are by Arteriors.



ABOVE/LEFT The guest bedroom features a bunk bed from Room & Board and bedding and rug from Annie Selkie. Wallcovering on the ceiling is Surfboards by Studio Four NYC. The mid-century dresser is from 1stdibs.com. Art by Jason Kowalski through Sue Greenwood Fine Art.

shades of grey and white. The bed is from Crate & Barrel and nightstands from Room & Board. A Tufenkian rug anchors the space, and there are interesting additions like the fine art photograph of milky white waves crashing against rocks, taken by Los Angeles photographer Jason Lawrence Olive.

Downstairs, the living room features a pale couch from Room & Board, custom pillows from C&C Milano and a cosy living room nook has chairs upholstered in Loro Piana Interiors fabrics. The second bedroom, also on the lower floor, has bunk beds from Room & Board, specifically for the client's nieces and nephew when they visit. Other fun and locally-relevant touches include a long board art piece affixed to one wall, and a painting of a blue Volkswagen done by Jason Kowalski, who once studied art in Laguna Beach. Pieces in the house were acquired through local galleries, mainstream retailers or sites like 1stdibs.com.

Taylor said the transformation was not without its challenges; structural curveballs included finding ways to open up the kitchen. Her client also wanted an outdoor shower.

"It was a huge hurdle," she said. "There was a lot of back and forth. But he got the shower." **CH**





The 1,300 square foot Laguna Beach home, first built in the 1940s, had to be ripped down to its studs and rebuilt.

OPPOSITE A bed from Crate & Barrel is flanked by nightstands from Room & Board with lamps by Circa Lighting through Visual Comfort. The end-of-bed bench is by Jayson Home.

