

HOME DINING RECREATION TRAVEL COMMUNITY HEALTH SHOPPING

# 805

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## HOME & GARDEN ISSUE



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# HAVING IT ALL ON HOLLYWOOD BEACH

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Passionate design-savvy homeowners worked with architects and designers to create a stunning, modern masterpiece. **BY MALLORY McCREARY** PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANTHONY PERES





**OPPOSITE:** The face of Hollywood Beach in Oxnard is changing as old cottages give way to new homes with modern amenities. Architects Scott Strumwasser and Tash Rahbar of Enclosures Architects used concrete, steel, zinc, porcelain tile, and exotic wood on the exterior to create a fluid composition that is modern yet organic and can hold up to the punishing ocean-side environment. **ABOVE:** “[The fireplace’s] location competed with the view, so we offset it at an angle to make it a feature,” says Strumwasser. Homeowner Harry Saperstein found the firebox sculpture by British artist Cathy Azria. It filters the flame to create “wonderful visual eye candy,” he says.

**Busy LA doctors Joan and Harry Saperstein** weren’t really looking for a second home. “We did something impetuous, which is not like us,” Harry says of their trip to Hollywood Beach in Oxnard in 2003. Their children were heading off to college; a beach house could be both a romantic retreat and a place to lure back their kids. “We liked this specific beach—no hoi polloi, not overly fancy,” Joan says. They found a little A-frame house with an amazing view—dunes, the Channel Islands, boats going out to sea—that reminded Joan of her East Coast roots.

By 2009, the little A-frame was gone, replaced by a 3,000-square-foot, three-story, three-bedroom, five-bath modern showplace. The Sapersteins “were very interested in the contemporary aesthetic and exploiting all the possibilities in terms of finishes and design,” says Scott Strumwasser, who, along with Tash Rahbar of Enclosures Architects, designed the house. “They were very open to being creative and looking at different materials. And obviously taking best advantage of the property.”

That meant using exterior materials—such as concrete panels and a breathable membrane waterproofing system—that weren’t yet typically used in private homes. It also meant orienting the

home on the tiny 35-by-75-foot lot to maximize the view, and keeping the line between inside and out blurred: A cement panel extends from outside the house into the kitchen, the same porcelain tile accents exterior windows and an interior fireplace, and the exotic wood decking on the garage and front door also tops the living room’s cantilevered ceiling.

“I WOULD BUILD ANOTHER HOUSE WITH THE SAME PEOPLE AGAIN,” SAYS JOAN. “WE LOVE THE PROCESS. WE FOUND IT VERY CREATIVE.”

The homeowners were heavily invested in the design and worked with the architects and interior designers from the beginning. “Because I’m a dermatologist, I have a visual eye,” says Harry, who spent months researching the newest materials and products. It took a year to hammer out the design, but all agree that the collaboration worked. “I would build another house with the same people again,” says Joan. “There were never-ending decisions,” Harry says. “But I’m used to problem-solving. If you’re dealing with professionals, it’s not an issue.”



A big challenge was to marry a modern aesthetic with beach living. “As much as [the Sapersteins] wanted a contemporary home, they wanted a place where their family could be comfortable,” says interior designer Johnna McHugh. So they went for a “minimalist effect that was still cozy without being cute.” They also projected 10, 15 years in the future: Finish materials, stair heights, and deck railings had to account for grandchildren-to-be; an elevator will ease strain on aging joints.

Though it’s a second home, the Sapersteins use it a lot—every weekend and two extended vacations a year—and thus wanted all the bells and whistles to make it a comfortable retreat. Remote-controlled shades and lavender-tinted glass block the sun, a high-tech lighting system creates different moods, and built-in heaters keep outdoor spaces comfortable at night.

“I wanted the place to be a transformative structure for my wife and me to enter this time of our lives,” Harry says. While the couple let their son’s fraternity stay in the old A-frame before it was torn down, this house is family-only. “We don’t lend this house anymore,” Joan says. ■

Strumwasser and Rahbar used translucent channel glass along one side of the house to provide privacy from the neighbors while flooding the house with natural light. A steel cable system and floating risers keep the staircase visually airy as well.

**INTERIOR DESIGNER JOHNNA McHUGH ON A MINIMALIST AESTHETIC AND REAL-WORLD LIVING: “YOU DON’T WANT TO HAVE A PERFECT ROOM WHERE THE ONLY THING THAT’S OUT OF PLACE IS YOU.”**



Custom German Bulthaup cabinets made it possible to have a full-scale kitchen in a tight space. "It functions very, very well as a kitchen but looks like an extension of the living room," homeowner Joan Saperstein says. Maximizing the view was also important. "I love the character of the living space and its relationship to the outside, looking from the kitchen through the dining room and living room to the beach and the islands," says Strumwasser.

**RIGHT:** Seamless-glass corner windows and an overhead skylight open up the view in the master bedroom. The first night the homeowners slept in the house "was magical," Joan Saperstein says. "We slept really late, which is unusual for us. We lifted up the shades and couldn't believe we were looking out at the ocean and the boats. It was all that we had hoped it would be."

**BELOW:** Heated floors and a wall-mounted towel warmer are some of the features in the master bath, with colors that reflect the sand and the sea. "From the bathtub you can see all the way down the entire length of the beach and out to the Channel Islands," says Joan.



## RESOURCES

### ARCHITECTS

Scott Strumwasser and Tash Rahbar  
Enclosures Architects  
Ventura, Los Angeles  
enclosuresarch.com

### INTERIOR DESIGN

Johnna McHugh  
Johnna McHugh Interior Design  
Los Angeles  
323-936-9683

### LIGHTING DESIGN

Janet Perkins  
The Perkins Group  
Los Angeles  
jspdesign.net

### CONTRACTOR

Dennis Howarth  
Dennis Howarth & Associates  
Oxnard  
805-217-9002

### LUTRON LIGHTING AND SHADE INSTALLER

Philip Clough  
Home Control Solutions  
Santa Barbara  
homecontrolsolutions.com

### KITCHEN CABINETS/DESIGN

Bulthaup  
bulthaup.com