

COAST

REFLECTING ORANGE COUNTY'S FINER LIFESTYLE | MAY 2009





White wainscoting and molding make the rooms cohesive.

Coming Home

A Newport Beach builder creates a family home in the community he loves.

BY LISA LIDDANE

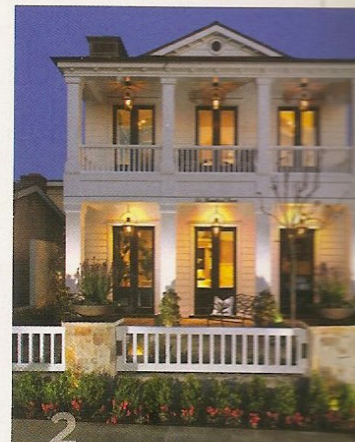
Andrew Patterson spent the summers of his childhood in Fenwick, Connecticut, a coastal borough dotted with picturesque East Coast-style beach houses. There, he developed an affinity for clapboard homes with wood shingle roofs.

His wife, Shannon Patterson, on the other hand, longed for a Greek Revival house from the South – complete with a balcony and a veranda.

So when the time came to build a home for Shannon and himself, Andrew combined the elements of both architectural genres.

That was the easy part.

Andrew's greater challenge was to make the home look elegant, feel spacious and function well within about 3,000 square feet of space on a long and narrow lot in Corona del Mar. After all, the house was not only going to be his home – it was also going to be his de



1 The kitchen exemplifies the Pattersons' penchant for a crisp look, with the black cabinets set off by white subway tiles, marble counters and farmhouse sink; **2** Andrew Patterson built a Greek Revival-style home with coastal flair for his family; **3** The great room opens to an outdoor room designed for entertaining; **4** Andrew and Shannon Patterson with their daughter, Reese; **5** The master suite feels airy because of the pitched ceiling and French doors that open to a balcony.

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facto calling card, a testament to his business.

But Andrew had been preparing for this moment. After studying construction management at Colorado State University more than a decade ago, he pondered his choices while living in San Francisco in 2000. "I saw a picture of the 'Wedge' in *Surfer* magazine and decided that that's where I'm going," he says. "I was 23 years old, had about 50 grand in the bank, and felt like I had to do it now. So I packed up my pickup truck and drove to Orange County."

He began fixing up homes, which eventually led him to start his own firm, Patterson Construction Corp. in Newport Beach, which specializes in custom homes. Looking out from the third floor deck of his home, he points out four custom homes his company has built that are visible from where he stands.

"I've built a lot of homes in my neighborhood," he says. "Many of my clients who live in the area have become our friends."

Creating custom houses in the community enabled Andrew to hone his craft, focus on the integrity of the materials and construction and figure out how to make the most of the lots. Most importantly, he realized that this was a community to which he and Shannon belonged.

One of the things he did to eschew the typical practice of dividing the lean lot into two (one house in the front, the other in the back) was to use the entire length of property. This gave him and Shannon space for a formal living and dining room, an outdoor room and great room next to the kitchen, all on the first floor.

In a nod to Shannon's request for a balcony, Andrew built one the width of the house outside of their master suite.

Another way Andrew maximized space was to add a third floor deck, complete with a hot tub, a shower plumbed for hot water and the sunset vistas.

The home is set back enough so that it doesn't look as if it were squeezed into the lot. As a result, there's enough room in the front yard to make it a natural gathering and entertaining place for friends and neighbors, even if it was not intended that way.

The home is styled in the Greek Revival tradition, with a small pedimented gable and oculus at the top, spare moldings and simple pillars. It has the white clapboard siding, black shingle roof and black French doors that Andrew loves. At night, the cou-