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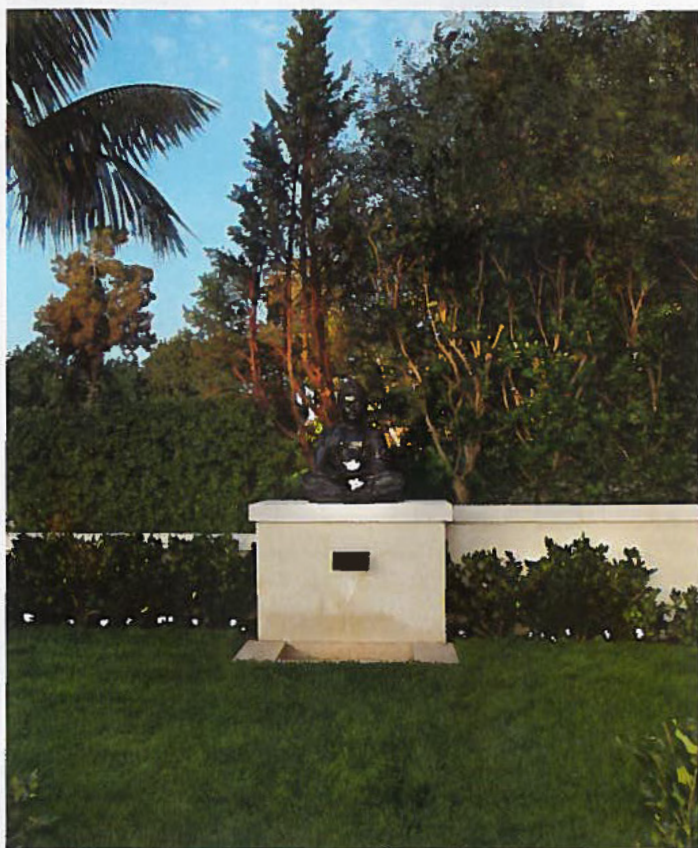
A DESIGN-DEVOTED
COUPLE BUILD A
CORONA DEL MAR
DREAM HOUSE
LOADED WITH SPA-LIKE
AMENITIES (CUE THE
ROOF-TOP POOL)

LAST RESORT

BY ALEXANDRIA ABRAMIAN :: PHOTOGRAPHY BY JERI KOEGEL



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT
The front patio area
features a limestone
fire pit; In the front
yard of this Corona
del Mar home, a
bronze statue makes
an innovative
garden statement;
The homeowner
refers to the water
feature, which is
bigger than a spa
and smaller than a
pool, as a "spool."





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE The third-floor cabana area doubles as a media room and lounge with Cantoni's Rosen sofa, chair and ottomans; The outdoor dining area features Cantoni's Elements dining chairs and a Zoom outdoor table base with a tempered glass top; In the kitchen, alder-stained walnut cabinetry is used throughout; Cantoni's Toto adjustable bar stools with leather seats create ample seating.



Ron and Kathy Chaisson have lived in many homes throughout Orange County, including three homes on the Balboa Peninsula and one at Pelican Crest. But when the "kind of retired" couple, as they describe their current status, decided to finally build their ultimate dream house in the flower streets of Corona del Mar, they opted not to skimp on the amenities. "We wanted this house to have the features of a resort," says Ron. "So we

designed it to have a pool on the roof, five patios, a spa, a gym, water walls in the courtyard, firepits, and steam showers."

To bring that five-star level of luxury to their newly constructed home, the couple conscripted some of Orange County's top home-building talent, including Patterson Custom Homes as the general contractor, Branden Architects and interior designer Trish Steel, who worked in concert with decorator Richard Bustos of Cantoni's Irvine location. Together the team created





a 4,500-square-foot, five-bedroom, seven-and-a-half bathroom contemporary house that cleverly adapts to its narrow, flower-street space where R & R get top billing in almost every room. Two stories tall and with lots of open spaces, it manages to feel spacious and not cramped. And from its third-floor outdoor water feature (Ron calls it a "spool," something between a spa and a pool), it boasts dead-on ocean views to boot. "Up to 20 people can fit in the pool, and once you're up there, it's so quiet, high above the bustle of Corona del Mar," says Ron. "You can see Catalina while sitting in the spa."

To maximize the interior space, architect Chris Branden created an open-flow design in the common areas, where rooms lead into one another without lots of walls. Between the family room/dining area and the kitchen/bar, Kathy envisioned an enormous fish tank delineating the spaces. Rick King of Exteriors Inc. was brought in to turn it into a reality: Now a 600-gallon, saltwater

aquarium with colorful swimmers looks more like an art installation than a dental office diversion.

"Overall we wanted this to be contemporary, but we also wanted it to feel warm, not cold the way a lot of modern homes do," says Ron. Key to creating that look was Bustos, who helped select key pieces from Cantoni's. "About 95% of the seating, table and case goods are from Cantoni, which really complements that architecture, as well as Kathy's art, which is in much of the house," says the decorator. "We focused on clean lines and neutral colors to get the modern look without things feeling sterile."

And as for that mahogany-lined elevator? "It's a requirement," states Ron. "With three levels, and lots of entertaining, we need that elevator for keeping the bar stocked up at the cabana, and for our big barbecue parties. Plus," he adds, "my wife wears high heels a lot of the time, so riding the elevator instead of taking the stairs makes life that much better for her." ●



LEFT, ABOVE The guest room's black and white décor keeps with the homeowners' contemporary vision. LEFT, BELOW Malerba Night & Day console and Mondrian sectional sofa, from Cantoni, are used in the family room. BELOW The formal dining room features Cantoni's Malerba One and Only table and chairs, as well as the company's Swing Art sculpture. A custom-built aquarium divides the dining room from the kitchen while still maintaining an open flow design.

