

WANDERLUST

Patterson Custom Homes, Brandon Architects and Blackband Design join forces to bring a Cabo-contemporary vibe to this Newport Beach home.

BY CLAIRE HARPER // PHOTOGRAPHED BY RYAN GARVIN





The kitchen's striking black-and-white backsplash nods to its Spanish-inspired design. Opposite page: The clean-lined exterior of the three-story Newport Beach home.

"I love looking at travel magazines—my homepage is even set to *Travel + Leisure*," says Wendy Blackband, co-founder of husband-and-wife design firm Blackband Design (blackbanddesign.com) and the interior designer tapped for this three-bedroom Newport Beach project. "I am always so inspired by travel and find a lot of influence from resorts and restaurants around the world," adds the Costa Mesa-based creative. For the waterfront home, owned by two empty nesters who recently returned to O.C., and crafted by Patterson Custom Homes (pattersoncustomhomes.com) and Brandon Architects (brandonarchitects.com), Blackband drew inspiration from resorts in Cabo San Lucas and along the Mediterranean. The result? "A mix of Cabo-contemporary architecture with old-world Spanish interior features and an overall modern twist," she says.

One step through the oversize pivot front door and the first striking detail meets your eye. "We wanted to make a statement with

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the art on the wall by using our unique textile pieces," says Blackband. From there on, the home boasts a combination of sleek finishes—like beautiful caramel stained woodwork—and layers of textural and patterned textiles to give authenticity to the space. "A big part of the project was the mix of materials—from modern and earthy to old and new to more rustic—like terra cotta and handpainted ceramic tiles, Arto and Moroccan tiles, and ornate Spanish-style details in the furnishings that contrast with the clean lines of the home," says Blackband. The main bedroom on the first floor is a key example of that approach. Featuring a varied-wood bed, drop-down Arteriors pendants and modern chairs with a biomorphic-style table at the foot of the bed, it's a true Moroccan oasis. "What really makes this room come alive, though, is the black-and-cream organic patterned rug," says Blackband. "This room is my definite favorite—I love its vibrancy."





Moving into another of three standout bedrooms, the master suite, Blankband carried the same deep neutrals and muted earth tones throughout this space. “These tones grounded the room while unique antique brass pendants added a dose of luxury flair,” says the designer. The bedroom also reveals a striking drywall ceiling with stained wood beams and stained wood vertical louvers, which divide the bathroom, notes Blackband.

The bedroom leads into the spalike master bath, which features rich stained wood cabinetry with integrated hand pulls, dark honed limestone flooring in varying lengths and crisp white sinks that contrast with the dark stone countertops. A trio of custom Zentique copper and crystal pendants draw the eye upward while forged iron sconces flank the black nickel mirrors. The designer says it best: “Exotic slab veining mixed with ornate,

Spanish-inspired light fixtures and a frosted glass divider between the shower and water closet all contribute to the bathroom’s wow factor.”

Back on the main level, the open floor plan leads into the caramel-stained kitchen, complete with an oversize island and a dramatic black-and-white handpainted ceramic tile backsplash. The space transitions seamlessly into the dining, living and bar spaces—and reveals a stunning waterfront patio beyond—a nod to its resortlike surroundings. In the living room, the design team chose to give the furnishings a low profile as to not obstruct the beautiful views. A white linen square-arm sofa is a “West Coast-casual” staple in the middle, with leather and iron chairs to the side, which offer structural appeal, while the carved wood-and-iron coffee table pays tribute to the Spanish vibe. “What really makes the area special is the bar adjacent to the living room. A textural sand-colored penny tile covers the entire back wall of the wet bar, which features an Absolute Black granite countertop and a black woven pendant above,” shares Blackband.

“Never knowing we would complete the home during a pandemic, this project has kept us holding on tight to the hope of travel and exploration ahead,” she says. The result is a magical blend of Cabo and the Mediterranean wrapped up into one Newport Beach dream abode—passport not required. ☐

Clockwise from top left: The home’s chic wet bar; the main bedroom suite opens to a waterfront balcony; the third floor has two rooftop decks with an enclosed lounge area between them; Wendy Blackband’s thoughtful touches—from throw blankets to florals—are seen throughout the home. Opposite page: The luxurious master bathroom.