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Balboa Peninsula's 'Duffy' house sells for more than \$35 million, shattering record in Newport Harbor



The 5-bedroom home is spread across three lots, with 90 feet of bay frontage. It has a private beach, a solar system with Tesla batteries and two bars. (Photo courtesy of Tim Smith, Coldwell Banker)

By **SANDRA BARRERA** | sbarrera@scng.com | Los Angeles Daily News

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Remember the [waterfront mansion on Newport Beach's Balboa Peninsula](#) that generated international buzz with a YouTube video that spoofed Cali Swag District's viral dance hit "Teach Me How to Dougie?"

The video for "Teach Me How to Duffy" helped sell the house for \$35.008 million – about 22.2% less than the \$44.995 million asking price when it hit the market in Oct. 2018.

Even so, the house, which sold on Aug. 28, set a record.

The sale is highest-priced home to ever sell in Newport Harbor, said Tim Smith of Coldwell Banker, the listing agent. The record previously was held by the home of actor Nicolas Cage, which sold in 2008 for \$35 million.

But Smith expected as much.

The house was designed by Robert Sinclair, built by Patterson Custom Homes and finished by Blackband Design.

"The type of buyers that buy these (homes), and the buyer that bought this isn't going to go through the five-year entitlement process and build a house," he said. "They'd rather have something turn-key and they're OK paying for it. That's why we had more than one offer."

The towering 14,000-square-foot, five-bedroom house presented as party central in the "Duffy" video stretches across three lots, with 90 feet of bay frontage. It boasts a theater, sauna, solar system with three Tesla batteries, 57-foot-long pool with underwater speakers and a private beach with a dock.

"You can park eight Duffies on the dock just for starters," goes the song in a viral video that starred Smoove da General and Mr. Swag of Cali Swag District and a variety of young Instagram influencers, models and dancers.



Other highlights include a floating underlit staircase illuminated from above by a large skylight, 16-foot stone fireplace and 1,100-gallon aquarium.

There's also a five-car garage with EV plug-ins.

"The job of the 'Duffy' film was to let everybody in real estate, especially, know about this house," Smith said. "It did its job and because of that it gave us exposure that we never would have got."

More than half of the showings, he added, were people from outside of the area and saw the film first.

Tara Foster Shapiro of Pacific Sotheby's International Realty represented the buyer, whom she wouldn't identify.

But she said, "Their interest in the house stemmed from their admiration in architect Rob Sinclair's work. That is why we toured the property."

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Sandra Barrera was born and raised in the San Gabriel Valley to immigrant parents and has covered topics that range in interest to all demographics, from the Latin hip-hop movement and Argentine tango meetups to Quinceañeras. Her stories have also highlighted stories of local Black artists, Native American theater, faith-based fitness, nutrition and wellness programs, gay marriage, and Jewish life in Southern California, from kosher restaurants to an exhibit on home movies. She is a real estate reporter for the Southern California News Group. From celebrity-owned homes to architectural jaw-droppers, she specializes in big-ticket residential properties that are the stuff of dreams and lottery fantasies.

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