

# CALIFORNIA HOMIES

THE MAGAZINE OF ARCHITECTURE  
THE ARTS & DISTINCTIVE DESIGN

## A HOME FOR ART

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Newport Beach Island Retreat  
Restored Victorian in San Francisco**

**STINSON BEACH  
GARDEN**

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Architect Erik Peterson remade a Lido Isle abode opening up the floor plan and adding glazing to make the most of its waterfront locale. White-painted brick faces the living room fireplace and ties back to the finish on the exterior. To keep the focus on the view, the wife, who handled the interiors, made sure the furnishings were understated, both in silhouette and palette.

# Island Rebirth

ARCHITECT ERIK PETERSON OF PHX  
ARCHITECTURE TEAMS WITH CLIENTS  
FOR A STUNNING RENOVATION

TEXT **LISA BINGHAM DEWART**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **MARK TANNER**





AN ARIZONA COUPLE'S SEARCH for a home in Newport Beach took two years and covered some serious ground—they looked at properties from Newport Coast to the Balboa Peninsula—before choosing a Lido Isle property facing the water. “The house was in a wonderful community and in nice condition, but there were certain elements we wanted to change,” notes the wife. “The biggest one was the first floor, which had a large wall down the middle separating the kitchen from the living area that impeded the full view. We wanted to open that up.”

Fortunately, choosing the right architect for the job proved an altogether easier task: They turned to architect

Erik Peterson, of PHX Architecture, whom they had first worked with some 18 years before to create their home in Paradise Valley, Arizona. Peterson worked closely with builder Patterson Custom Homes throughout the project. As luck would have it, Peterson already had some projects in Southern California and was in the process of opening a studio in Los Angeles.

Peterson's savvy approach transformed the house, all without adding a single extra inch of space. Outside, white-painted brick, black steel windows, and a striking metal roof give the structure a stylish, contemporary feel. Inside, the centerpiece is a new, curving stair, which climbs upward to

an enlarged skylight. “It's the key sculptural element,” says the architect.

That feature and a floor-to-ceiling glass panel at the front door allow the sun to stream in and through the interior spaces. “A signature for us is natural light,” Peterson emphasizes. “On a long, thin lot, you have to figure out how to bring it in.” To give the clients the edge-to-edge glass at the back of the house and the more open floorplan they desired, “the look required lots of steel to massively reframe the space,” says the architect. To achieve the complex build, he relied on the team from Patterson Custom Homes.

The same white painted brick that clads some of the exterior was selected

**OPPOSITE LEFT** The clients avidly collected art for their new Lido Isle home and acquired pieces that reflect nature such as a Kim Cridler sculpture of a hare in the living room. For the Highland House lounge chairs, the client chose an easy-wearing Pindler linen.

**OPPOSITE RIGHT** In the dining room, a painting by David Kroll hangs above the fluted-front Hickory Chair sideboard finished in a crisp white. The piece is topped with a Circa lamp, which the wife notes is as an important accessory as is the rest of the home's decorative lighting.

**BELOW** As one of his major moves on the renovation, Peterson removed a wall separating the kitchen from the living area to give the home the open feel the clients craved. A matte black faucet and large lanterns offer distinctive accents against the neutral palette.





**RIGHT** When she was working on the house, the wife knew she wanted to have a collection of Beverly Penn botanical specimens. She hung the grouping above a Modern History console in the entry. Nearby is a Levi Selway sculpture, which the couple commissioned to fit the space formed by the stair.

**OPPOSITE** Peterson enlarged an existing skylight to bring in more natural light, which illuminates the sculptural stair. He added a piece of glass to bounce the light. In the evening, the feature is backlit to create a dramatic moment.





**RIGHT** A slightly shiny finish on the primary suite's ceiling contrasts with the rough-hewn beams there. Nailhead details define the Pindler fabric-covered Vanguard bed, while the trim on the Century bench bestows subtle pattern.

**BELOW** Especially in spots that have water views, the wife kept things minimal and understated, so a Highland House lounge chair in the primary bedroom sports an understated Pindler windowpane check and a pillow in a neutral leaf pattern.

for the interiors to underscore the connection between inside and out. "There's a modern touch, but a little Hamptons feel too, and it gives it texture," says the architect. Wood flooring in a golden-blond finish warms things up and allows sunlight to bounce off surfaces.

When it came to choosing other hard surfaces, Peterson and the wife, who trained in interior design and architecture, opted for materials like the elegant stone for shower walls and floor in the primary bath, which pairs with a metal-clad freestanding tub.



In the guest baths, simple tile on the shower walls contrasts with more eye-catching elements such as the plaid-pattern floor tile in one.

The wife's focus for the furnishings emphasizes a neutral palette and clean lines, but she notes, "really more of a transitional look that is comfortable." To that end, she covered generously scaled sofas and lounge chairs in the living room with easy-wearing linen. For the dining room, a table with a traditional-leaning double pedestal base feels fresh thanks to a bright white finish, while the sideboard boasts

a fluted front. "We didn't want attention brought to the furniture," she explains. "The focal points are the lighting, the artwork, and the view."

For Peterson, this project was particularly special. "All of us have grown in the years since we did our first project. Amy's sophistication has grown, and my experience of architecture has changed," the architect explains. "It's easy when you have a piece of land and can do whatever, but when you're faced with a challenge, it's more special. I think it's the right timing for us to do a project like this." CH

**RIGHT** One of the biggest draws of the home was its location on the water. To capitalize on the site, there are plenty of spots to lounge and entertain and take in the happenings on the bay, including the Pavilions loungers on the dock.

