



down to earth.

WRITTEN BY KIMBERLY OLSON | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHIPPER HATTER

ON A LONG DIRT ROAD THAT OVERLOOKS BUCOLIC SAN ELIJO LAGOON NEAR SOLANA BEACH—AN ECOLOGICAL RESERVE TEEMING WITH WILDLIFE—AN OUTDOORSY COUPLE FOUND AN IDEAL PARCEL OF LAND FOR ITS NEW HOME. “I grew up here, and I remember walking down this street when I was a little girl,” says the wife. “It’s almost rural, yet it’s in the middle of the city.”

To respect the lot’s lush surroundings and the couple’s planet-friendly values (the husband is an energy engineer), the two hired architect Tim Golba to design a stylish and ecologically respectful home, and they brought in designer Kristianne Watts to cast her magic on the interiors. The new residence would have to be family-oriented, dog-friendly and, because the couple often entertains, functional for parties, with a decidedly serene outdoor area. “They’re all about comfort and durability,” Watts says of her clients. “Our theme was a modern setting that was relaxed and homey, and we wanted to make it as green as possible.”

To that end, sustainability guided nearly every design decision. The opposing planes of the home’s butterfly-shaped roof, for example, were placed at the perfect pitch for solar panels to capture the sun’s rays, and bold geometric overhangs offer deep shadowing for natural temperature control. “We also used a lot of upper and lower windows to get rid of the warm air up high and pull in fresh, cooler air from the ocean down low, which is a great passive cooling technique,” Golba says.



STYLE SELECTION
Crafted from rusticated iron, this Mediterranean-inspired lantern has a casually sophisticated vibe that works well across a variety of aesthetics. Malaga Hurricane, \$50; zgallerie.com

INTERIOR DESIGN Kristianne Watts, KW Designs		
ARCHITECTURE Tim Golba, Golba Architecture		
HOME BUILDER Christian Naylor, Naylor Construction, Inc.		
BEDROOMS 4	BATHROOMS 5	SQUARE FEET 5,000



IN THE CLEAR

The great room is bathed in dynamic natural light that changes as the sun shifts throughout the day. Furnishings—including a Mondrian sectional from Hold It Contemporary Home and Carmichael chairs from Gus* Design Group—mimic the home's simple lines.

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Builder Christian Naylor incorporated a host of energy-saving elements into the home as well, from a special sealer to reduce air and moisture leakage, to insulation made of fire-retardant newspaper. The team even considered ways to incorporate the husband's board shavings—he's an avid surfer who builds his own boards in an in-house studio—into the construction. The efforts have paid off: "Our energy bill each month is only about \$5," marvels the wife.

The family knew they would be spending lots of time together in the main public areas, so it was critical that the living and kitchen spaces be completely open to each other, and to have the best views. "We wanted to connect the interior to the exterior and make it as relaxing as possible, with natural elements like wood tones and softer finishes," says Watts.



REDISCOVERY CHANNEL

Samantha Carlisle's *Surfboards Only*—a giclée on canvas inspired by the beach on Oahu's North Shore—commands pride of place in the gallery-like corridor. An ipe ceiling complements the flooring, which is made of teak rescued from old buildings in Indonesia, found at Indo Teak Design.

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So the modern architecture is complemented with organic elements, such as a kitchen island that Watts conceived and metalwork fabricator Todd Noe of Noe Design Company brought to life. “The goal there was to differentiate the island from the clean, modern cabinetry and create comfortable seating that could take a beating,” Watts says. The result is a stainless-steel bar-height countertop with a charcoal patina and two-seater teak benches that are bolted to the floor so the couple’s two young children can climb up without toppling over.

The flooring throughout the house was also chosen for its mix of beauty and brawn. “It’s reclaimed teak from Indonesia,” the wife says. “The kids



CLOAKING DEVICE

Sleek custom cabinetry in the kitchen, made by Peter Vivian of Artistic Freedom Designs, is sheathed in natural walnut veneers certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. The contrasting backsplash is made of recycled glass tiles from Oceanside Glasstile’s Muse collection.



ON THE GRID
 Porcelain and glass tile from Mandala Tile lines the master bath shower. Green design elements include low-flow plumbing fixtures and nontoxic, no-VOC paint from Sherwin-Williams.



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can ride skateboards on it and people's dogs have run all over it, yet it's held up." For added rustic charm, every bathroom vanity is a piece of furniture that was converted to accommodate its new use. "That's something I love to do," says Naylor, a master craftsman who rebuilds wooden sailboats as a hobby. "The homeowners bought in different pieces of furniture, and we repurposed them as cabinetry."

In the end, the couple didn't have to choose among style, function or environmentally sound design—the team delivered all three. "Sustainability doesn't come easy," the wife says. "People like to put the 'green' label on everything, but you have to do your research. Is this product really sustainable or is it just claiming to be? Our crew was really good at that. I brought in pictures that I tore out of magazines, and the team took my vision and made it a reality. The house has a clean look, it's really kid-friendly, and we love having our friends over." **L**

STABLE ENVIRONMENT
 Artwork in the master bedroom includes Carlisle's Winter Stallion, inspired by the expressive eyes of a black stallion that the artist saw on a cold winter day. A Kettal Landscape rocking armchair made of coated aluminum, rope and teak, found at Grounded, adds texture.