

TRAD *Home*



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Present Perfect Progress

Joe Lucas and Parrish Chilcoat design a house where past and future add up to a perfect present.

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Relationships are the real secret to a beautiful home. Take the long-standing partnership between builder Matt Morris and interior designers Joe Lucas and Parrish Chilcoat of Lucas Studio Inc. When their clients learned that the trio had already worked on a half-dozen houses together, they trusted it was a good match. Their instincts—which they'd also relied on when grabbing the house while it was still being built—proved correct. The result is a gracious home that balances modern technology with old-world charm in Manhattan Beach, California.

Though the couple and their two young daughters were drawn to Manhattan Beach's genteel setting—the tangle of car-free walking streets encourages children to play outside while their parents socialize—the family also enjoys its privacy. Morris, Lucas, and

Chilcoat put their heads together to finesse a layout that balances the clients' needs. Flipping convention, they put the den and the playroom at the top of the house, creating a secluded aerie that takes advantage of the location's vibrant light and extensive views of the Palos Verdes coastline.

On the first floor, the open-plan kitchen and living room, fitted with pocket doors that open the area to the outside, encourage neighborly interaction. (The kitchen's two well-stocked wine fridges also help!)

Floor plan in place, the designers—known for their traditional interiors—worked within a more modern aesthetic without sacrificing the classic and timeless elements that

Entry The bright handles on the CB2 credenza echo one of the home's accent colors.

Preceding page An overscale custom ottoman in faux ostrich from Zimmer + Rohde adds chic texture in the living room.









make up their mantra. “It’s a big thing for us,” Chilcoat explains. “While things will invariably change and you’ll want to switch things out, you don’t want a space that dates quickly.”

Though the exterior of the house, with its shingles and gas lanterns, may resemble a 19th-century Cape Cod beach cottage, modern finishes and materials are used inside to bring the decor gracefully up to date. Durable outdoor fabrics ensure that the home is both beach- and kid-friendly, while bright pops of citron yellow and moody teal give the rooms a contemporary look.

The home has a fully integrated state-of-the-art audio and video control system. Digitally forward-thinking amenities include a biometric entry programmed to turn on lights, music, and

appliances; iPhone and iPad control; and an intercom that, when engaged, pauses live television. This is a comfortable home that marries all of this modern family’s worlds—public and private, adult and child, indoor and outdoor, past and future—into a lovely present.

tips of the trade

Color tips from Joe Lucas

No white cabinets! Paint kitchen or bathroom cabinets an “off” color that will give the room more visual interest.

Paint trim a darker or contrasting color. This will show off the woodwork and is an inexpensive way to add a statement to the room.

Use art to add a burst of color to a room that has a more mellow palette.

Wallpaper the ceiling. Use a small, consistent pattern to add interest to the room without having to paper the walls.

Living room A black-and-white painting by Jamie Bush presides over the first-floor living room. The yellow-and-teal zigzag pillow is from Pierre Frey.



Living room. A Regency-inspired desk chair with sweeping arms and back by Bunny Williams Home sports brilliant yellow upholstery. A West Elm Parsons desk in the corner ensures that work, or homework, doesn't mean time away from family.



Dining room A pale palette prevails in the dining room. Mismatched dining room chairs from Bungalow 5 circling a custom dining table are a playful, modern touch. The light fixture is available from Design Within Reach. The wallpaper on the ceiling is from Osborne & Little. The homeowner's heirloom china sets a gracious table.







Kitchen Cabinets painted in Pratt & Lambert's "Armory" set the stage in the inviting, light-filled kitchen. The stools are from RH. Industrial light fixtures, discovered in Paris, hang above the island. Holland & Sherry's teal leather and nailhead detailing dress up a swinging door. The teal subway tiles are from Waterworks.





Breakfast nook A custom zinc-topped table from Harbinger is a hardworking choice for this well-used corner of the kitchen. The light fixture is from Visual Comfort. Upholstered in a faux leather from Pindler & Pindler, the banquette is dressed with pillows from CocoCozy and West Elm.





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Master bedroom Seafoam hues create a spa-like setting. Kravet's grass cloth covers the walls. The custom-made tufted linen headboard is upholstered in fabric from Pindler & Pindler, which also provided the fabric for a Roman shade and curtains that cover doors leading to the balcony. Adding a bit of drama to the sofa are pillows in a leopard print fabric from Peter Dunham. The light fixture, which complements the ceiling's strong architectural lines, is from Dessin Fournir.





Master bathroom Serenity now! Limestone tiles, a frameless shower, and a freestanding bathtub from Hydro Systems offer a luxe feel to the master bathroom, while a side table from Made Goods provides a modern touch. The light fixture over the tub and the wall sconces are from Visual Comfort.







Master bathroom A
built-in cabinet with antiqued mirroring on the doors offers an elegant storage option. Haisa limestone subway tiles cover the shower walls, while the same stone, in a mosaic pattern, is used on the stall's floor and ceiling. The rainfall showerhead is from Rohl. Mirrors from Made Goods flank a painting by Alex K. Mason. The stool is from Bungalow 5.



Girl's room Two paintings from Alex K. Mason hang over a custom-made daybed with a trundle. The colorful bedside lamps are from Jonathan Adler. The tables are from Bungalow 5. **Bathroom** Tiling the walls from floor to ceiling gives this small bathroom a sense of grandeur. The vanity is lacquered in Pratt & Lambert's "Blue of the Night."





Guest bedroom A sea horse table from Harbinger adds whimsy, while a patterned knit pillow balances a bright yellow bedcover. **Kids' study** A bulletin board shows off children's artwork. A bookcase from HD Buttercup allows extra storage for art supplies and books. A papier-mâché flower basket from West Elm adds a sculptural touch. Roman shades in a John Robshaw fabric from Duralee contrast beautifully with a built-in desk painted in Benjamin Moore's "Gentleman's Gray." The orange desk chair is from HD Buttercup.

