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Automated glass partions in Michael and Savanna Mothner's home in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

Indoor or Outdoor Dining? With These Hybrid Spaces, You Don't Have to Choose

Homeowners are ditching elaborate dining rooms and separate outside setups for a more blended eating environment

By Alina Dizik

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Gliding glass doors in the Mothners' Manhattan Beach, Calif., home. Video: Natasha Lee for The Wall Street Journal

After purchasing a Manhattan Beach, Calif., home for \$8.5 million in 2019, Michael Mothner, 41, wanted a dining room the family was “actually going to use.”

During a 2½-year renovation, Mr. Mothner created a formal dining space that borders an upstairs living room and kitchen, and opens up to a private terrace with a view over the family pool and the ocean. The indoor-outdoor setup makes it easier to host family dinners that are casual but not like a picnic. “We wanted something that doesn’t feel super formal and is going to be functional,” says the digital-marketing agency founder.

Blended Living



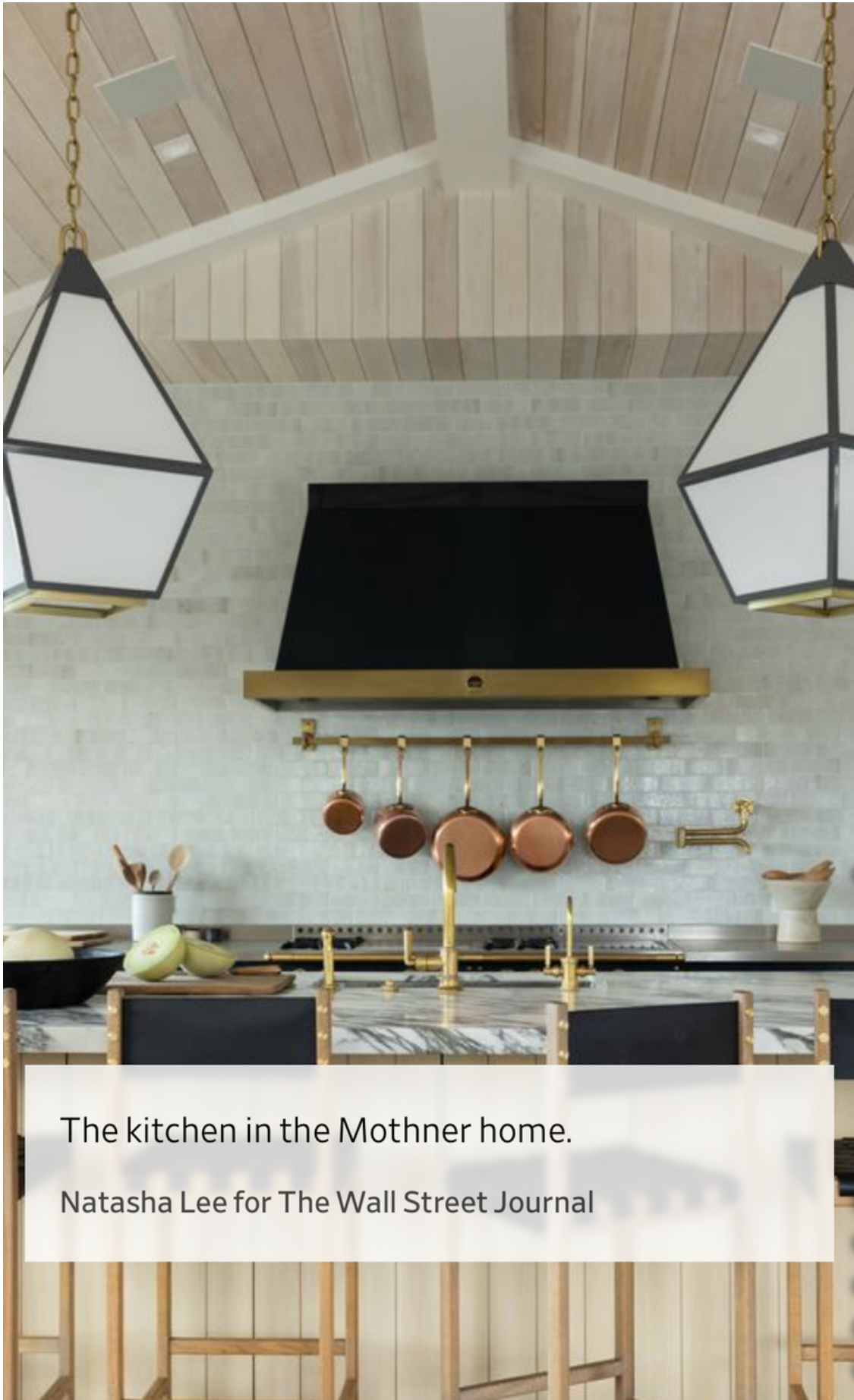
Michael Mothner's Manhattan Beach, Calif. home.



The home is designed to offer choices for indoor-outdoor gatherings.



Wendy Word, an interior designer who worked with Mr. Mothner and his wife, Savanna Mothner, says she was able to extend meals from the dining room to the outside by making the table and the rug easy to position partially outdoors. Another dining table is outside on a covered terrace. “They want to be able to gather spontaneously and be able to use the outdoor footprint,” Ms. Word says.



The kitchen in the Mothner home.

Natasha Lee for The Wall Street Journal

An upstairs living area designed by Wendy Word.

Natasha Lee for The Wall Street Journal



The dining room includes mechanized pocket doors that open to an exterior terrace.

Natasha Lee for The Wall Street Journal



An indoor dining nook.

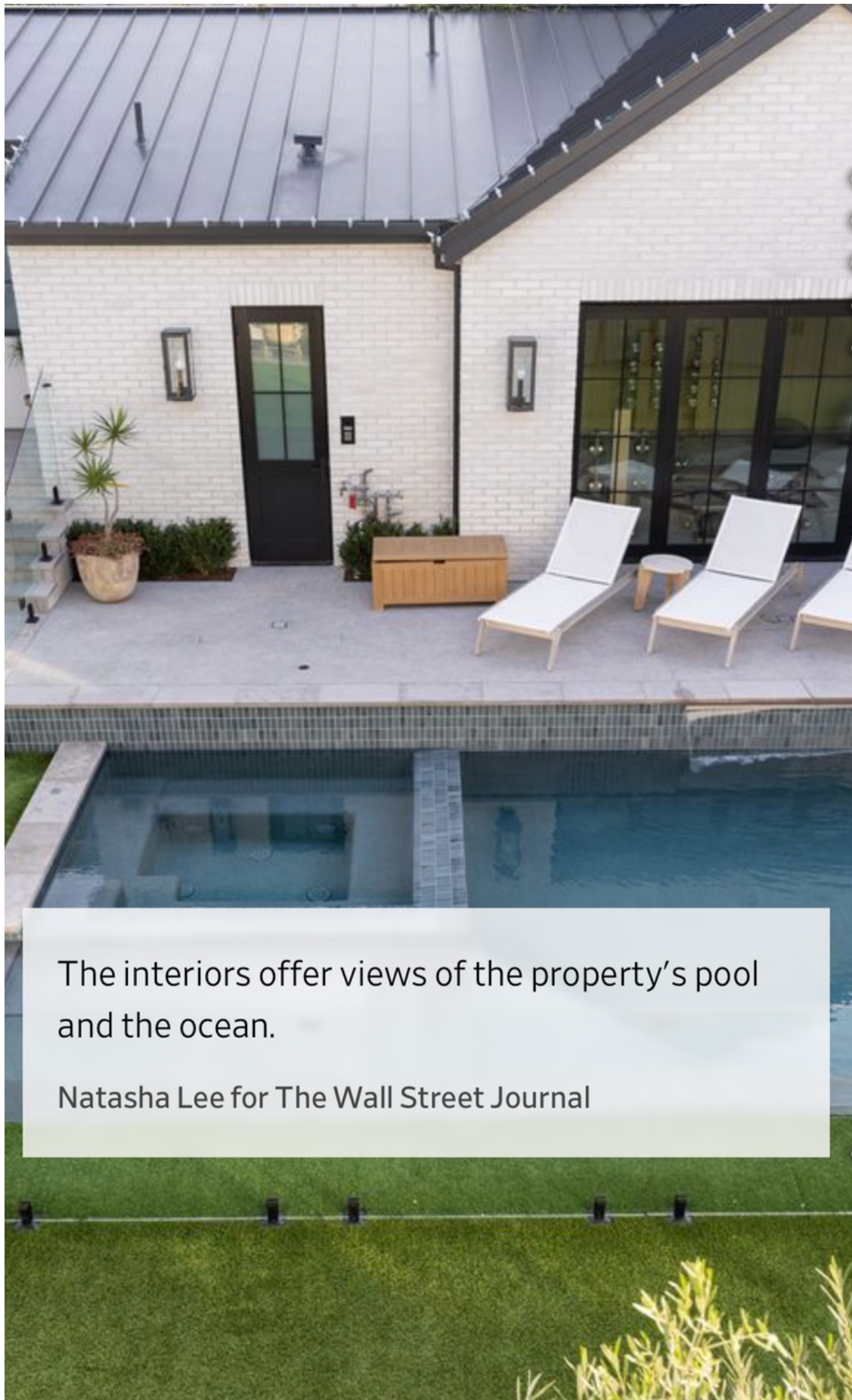
Natasha Lee for The Wall Street Journal



The covered patio.

Natasha Lee for The Wall Street Journal





The interiors offer views of the property's pool and the ocean.

Natasha Lee for The Wall Street Journal