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House Beautiful

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There's a Movie!





In the dining room of a bachelor's Hermosa Beach, California, house, designers Parrish Chilcoat and Joe Lucas surrounded a square mahogany dining table from Inner Gardens with Dabney walnut and leather chairs from Hickory Chair. "The furniture shapes are masculine, yet very inviting," Lucas says. Vintage light fixture by Waldo's Designs. OPPOSITE: "Whitewashed brick makes the California Cape Cod exterior look modern," Chilcoat says.



Casual comfort defines the living room. "We're not big on formal living rooms because that's not the way people live now," Chilcoat says. An acacia slab coffee table strikes an organic balance to industrial lamps and three vintage iron stools that double as extra seating and side tables. A herringbone sisal carpet by Merida unites the room. "It's bulletproof, hides a multitude of sins, and adds humility to places that need it," Chilcoat says. Sofas are from the designers' West Hollywood store, Harbinger. Copenhagen leather chair, Restoration Hardware.





DAVID A. KEEPS: What did the 29-year-old professional hockey player who owns this house want?

PARRISH CHILCOAT: Nothing too slick—traditional. Yet casual and masculine. We gave it a more industrial, clean look as well, so that it had a younger, relaxed California feel. We did struggle over some things. Men don't get curtains, especially when you need 80 yards of fabric for a wall of windows where the afternoon sun really beats in. I don't think a room looks finished without curtains.

He clearly likes to entertain.

PC: Oh, he's heavily into entertaining, and he wanted to take advantage of southern California's indoor-outdoor lifestyle. That's why we set up the open-air loggia with a fireplace, a flat-screen TV, and overhead heat lamps, so he can use it all year.

JOE LUCAS: The house is really designed for entertaining, night and day. People can hang out by the pool and sit in swimsuits and towels on the outdoor furniture, and even on a lot of the indoor pieces, which we covered in outdoor fabrics. The living room has a bar, a keg tap, a sink, a wine fridge, and a beer fridge. Have we mentioned that this is a house for entertaining? The media room looks like it could hold a crowd.

JL: He said, 'I'm going to have hockey players over, and I need a man cave for watching games and hanging out.' He wanted it to be dark and cool, with a funky Hollywood lounge feeling. There's another full bar with beer taps—and the guest bathroom even has a urinal. Everything definitely says Dude.

Well, dudes will be dudes. What about more formal get-togethers?

PC: The kitchen, dining, and living room are very open and lend themselves well to entertaining. The doors in the kitchen on both the pool side and the ocean side open completely, allowing even more flow. The island has a massive mahogany top—you can get over a dozen people around it—so people can gather there at parties. And there's a big square table in the dining room for sit-down meals.



ABOVE: As a nod to the client's Canadian roots, the designers hung antlers from Big Daddy's Antiques above a Chinese cabinet in the lower hall. **OPPOSITE:** A fireplace and overhead heat lamps make it possible to entertain on the loggia year-round. It's furnished with a Provence love seat in synthetic wicker and St. Barts teak lounge chairs—all from Restoration Hardware—an Ikea Brommö deck chair, a white-painted African table from Berbere World Imports, and Brantley lanterns from Circa Lighting.

How did you make that big kitchen look so damn sexy?

PC: The island, cabinetry, backsplash, and stove hood: gray, gray, gray, gray. What makes gray so great?

PC: It goes with all the electronics in homes these days, and it's a more interesting backdrop for colorful furniture and accessories.

JL: Gray also has a crispness against white. It's slightly industrial. And it goes with my hair.

Any downside?

PC: You have to be careful with gray—it has just as many subtle variations as white. You don't want it to look dirty.

What are your guiding principles?

PC: We work in vistas. The room you're in has to look good, but what lies beyond has to relate to it or else you feel unsettled. It might sound cheesy, but there has to be a thread that connects everything.

JL: That can be as simple as having a bridge color or fabric. In this house, we used pale blue dining chairs to connect the gray kitchen and greige living room. But if you had a pur-

ple sofa and a lime green chair, you might add a pillow with an ikat print in those two wacky colors, and it suddenly makes sense.

Any decorating tips for living rooms?

PC: A living room needs comfortable seating—preferably with multiple seating zones, which looks more interesting and draws people in. In this house, we used two sofas in different shapes and fabrics on separate planes. Rooms all swathed in the same fabric look like they're hiding some defect.

JL: And we don't love when everything is shoved up against the wall. It looks like a middle school dance where the boys are on one side of the room and the girls are on the other.

PC: We also don't do a lot of leggy furniture, which tends to be very traditional. We prefer skirts to legs. Was it Albert Hadley or Billy Baldwin who said, 'Too many legs make a room look nervous'?

JL: I'm not sure, but I know it was Parrish Chilcoat who said, 'It looks like the furniture is about to run out of the room.'

What would you say a bedroom needs besides a bed?

JL: Lust.

PC: And blackout curtains.

JL: Although it's also nice to wake up to the sun.

PC: No, it's not!

What does this house look like when the sun goes down?

JL: It glows like a big lantern. And that relates to the lantern shape of the Cape Cod architecture and to the lanterns we used on the porch and in almost every room. It's very warm and cozy—the house you want to come to a party in. Something about it always makes me want to boil lobsters, steamers, and Dungeness crab, then pour a cocktail and watch the sunset. If the house were a cocktail, what would it be?

PC: A Dark 'n' Stormy: ginger beer and dark rum.

JL: It's a drink that gets you ripped and makes you want to party all night and sleep in the next day.

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The kitchen is a favorite place to host casual lunches and dinners. "The mahogany-topped island can easily fit 12 stools," Chilcoat says. "In a room this big, with east and west exposures, all this gray is grounding," Lucas adds. To set the cabinets and island apart, the designers painted them two different shades: Farrow & Ball's Down Pipe, a warm gray, on the cabinets, and Benjamin Moore's cooler Chelsea Gray on the island. Antique industrial pendants and a custom stainless-steel hood add sculptural focal points. The backsplash is acid-washed Seagrass limestone from Classic Tile.





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1. A vintage surfboard plays up the generous height of the upper stairwell. Rails are painted the same color as the kitchen cabinets. 2. Grays, taupes, and crisp whites give the master bedroom a cool, calm feeling. 3. The Michelangelo soaking tub from Hydro Systems takes center stage in the master bath. Ballard Designs lantern. 4. An outdoor shower is mounted above a patio facing the beach. 5. A Danish sofa, Moroccan tables, Swedish desk chair, and antique alpaca rug create an artful global mix in the study. 6. A towering custom bookcase anchors a living room corner. "All large rooms need something tall," Lucas says. OPPOSITE: Kelly Wearstler's Katana for Lee Jofa on the Hickory Chair headboard and a Harbinger lantern lend geometric punch to the guest room. A dark gray Roman shade "adds depth." At the foot of the bed, a hotel-worthy touch: a Waldo's Designs desk and armchair. "Everyone has a laptop," Lucas says. "Even guests need a place to work." Thomas O'Brien lamps from Visual Comfort. Quilt from Hollywood at Home.



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The "man cave" media room has a "loungy" feeling thanks to a deep, plump sectional in Pindler & Pindler Velluto velvet wrapping around walls swathed in Maya Romanoff Weathered Metals in Platinum wallpaper. Accent pillows are sparse. "Three to five is enough—two that match, one that's totally off," Chilcoat says. A parquet coffee table from Harbinger handily accommodates a roomful of hockey players. Framed prints by John Robshaw from Hollywood at Home.

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