



Esteban Interiors

A Chic Point Loma Retreat

Nestled above the Pacific Ocean and minutes to downtown sits what was a nondescript ranch-style home that has been transformed by Esteban Interiors, with the helpful architectural eye of A2 Studios Architecture. This new icon, juxtaposed ever so carefully among more classic seaside dwellings, is the perfect match to this ever-popular residential enclave.

Entering through the Ipe wood gate you are greeted by a lush courtyard partitioned by what will be the future home of a custom 25-foot koi pond. This was originally designed as a linear planter and is adjacent to the second point of access to the home's modern and elegant kitchen. The kitchen is a culinary lover's dream and serves as the nucleus of the home. It is an artful collaboration with the homeowners, who wanted to be able to socialize with guests from any part of the home. The challenge was to create a warm environment with edgy style and modern conveniences.

Highlighting the space is a counter-height fireplace edged by a subtle band of stainless steel that is echoed throughout the kitchen. Wrapped with chocolate brown Venetian stucco, the fireplace serves as a point of interest. The largest feature of the kitchen is the unconventional use of concrete. The custom integrated sink and countertops were all poured and formed on site. Custom cabinets veneered in Treefrog "Palmwood," blue glass mosaic tile from Classic Tile & Mosaic, integrated Miele and Sub-Zero appliances, and black powder-coated pendant light fixtures from CB2 satisfy the luxurious aesthetic and complete the functionality sought by both designer and client. The shared fireplace column transitions into a dramatic living room with cedar vaulted ceilings, and a custom programmable lighting plan that sets the appropriate mood with the touch of a button. A porcelain tile floor from Cabochon is throughout the main living spaces and extends thru to the outdoor patio, and was chosen for its natural hue and similarity to Portuguese limestone.

Esteban and his partner James Niebling collaborated to plan the color palette integrating the wall colors, Venetian stucco, and the porcelain tile floor. The paint colors of choice were Farrow and Ball's Elephants Breath, used throughout the main living space, and Parma Grey, which highlights the dining room. Esteban used the homeowners existing furniture and added a new chandelier from Jonathan Adler as an element of glamour; sourced directly from the Esteban Interiors showroom. (858/729-0045, www.estebaninteriors.com)

Cool And Contemporary

Mid-century modern design is hot again. Clean lines, inspired forms, and simple materials all make for good design. Less equals more, and clutter is non-existent. Plastic and acrylic can be shaped into interesting textures, colors, and surfaces. Lightweight and easy to clean, these materials are practical, too. Colorful glass, hand-blown into many shapes and sizes, becomes art. Many mid-century pieces of furniture and glass are collected today from the '50s and '60s. Add a touch of hip to your pad.

— Lynn Hoaglin, photo by Vincent Knakal



Plastic "Ice" chair, "T-Table," and medium glass bottle from Lawrance Furniture in Encinitas; tall Italian glass bottle from Roche-Bobois in La Jolla; and vintage Italian glass pitcher, circa 1950, from Esteban Interiors in La Jolla