

▶ THE KITCHEN A design duo delivers a sleek ode to entertaining.



EASY, BREEZY Esteban Lopez and James Niebling in a client's airy, ocean view kitchen.

ESTEBAN INTERIORS

When their sociable clients opted for a teardown remodel of their midcentury ranch in Point Loma, Esteban Interiors established the open-plan kitchen as the focal point of the house. During parties, guests can spill out a set of

doors that lead to the front courtyard or take in the action while lounging in the living room, where exposed wood beams and dark cabinetry contrast with white floors and sea-blue tile nods to the ocean views. "This is a kitchen that looks beautiful but really gets used every day," says Esteban Lopez.



TILE FILE

The hottest trend in tiles? Taking the look way beyond the backsplash. Think floor-to-ceiling finishes, and not just in the bath or kitchen. Ultra-luxe Italian tile line **Bisazza**, a favorite of Esteban, brings subtle bling to any surface, indoor or out. Its best-selling Opus Romano Collection of mosaics comes in an array of elegant hues, and this spring offers two additional sizes of classic square and a new rectangular shape. For a serious style statement, mix in tiles made of 24-karat gold. tuosognodesigncenter.com

MAD PATTERNS
Pop factor is high with Bisazza.

THE SCORE

BRIGHT IDEA

"We think lighting is the most important investment anyone can make," say the guys from Esteban Interiors. What's hot now? White and chrome fixtures. "This midcentury redesign is a great example of mixing iconic design with a modern color story for the perfect eclectic blend."



CHROME SWEET CHROME Esteban Interiors are fans of Jonathan Adler's Havana collection.



JOSH HERMAN

"The conical shape is the purest form of movement from a narrow base to a wider edge," says local sculptor **Josh Herman** of this large piece in navy volcanic glaze. atboomerangformodern.com

EAT CLAY LOVE Herman has earned a Hollywood following thanks to fan Kelly Wearstler.



LIGHT FANTASTIC These glowing sculptures add insta-mood to any room.

WILLIAM LESLIE

To create his organically shaped lanterns—or "lightsculptures" as he calls them—William Leslie looks to nature: swirls of wood grain, folds in seashells, ripples on sand. Leslie, a philosophy professor at Palomar, plied his craft from an architect in the late '70s. He makes the lightsculptures, seen at Downtown's Stingaree, with a bentwood frame and paper coated in polyvinyl resin. "It's kind of a papier-mâché process," he says. mixturehome.com



NEWLY MINTED The Esteban remodel for the Grant Grill

GLAM A GO-GO

"We were looking for a designer who could capture the charm and history of the hotel while adding a modern edge," says Tom Scaramellino of The U.S. Grant. Esteban's redesign of the Grant Grill is understated glam done right with an emphasis on modern urban luxury and accessible elegance. "A level of

sparkle, shine and brightness were needed to allow the space to come alive," says Esteban. Want the look at home? Just add a Moooi chandelier, Esteban custom bar tables with CaesarStone tops, Emeco bar stools, Bisazza tile wall panels and Josephine wall sconces from Ligne Roset. Voilà!

THE AWARD GOES TO...

"We want people to get inspired," says Jaimi Julian Thompson of S.D.'s **Artisan Design Group**, which just took the showroom award from the National Home Association of Home Builders. It is

a homeowner's dream come true, showcasing three kitchens (live chef demonstrations), multiple bathrooms, home office options (Murphy beds are in!), custom lighting and eco-friendly products. artisandesigngroup.net