

Su Casa

Our sneak peak inside
gorgeous local homes

Retro Fitted

YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE. THE ART OF INNOVATIVE REDESIGN

With a collapsible bar, a travertine fireplace and high ceilings, you might feel as if 007 is running late to his own party.

WRITTEN BY: MEGHAN MEREDITH
PHOTOGRAPHED BY: JEFF FARSAI

ESTEBAN INTERIORS
7605 Girard Avenue
La Jolla, CA 92037
(858) 729-0045
Showroom hours:
Tuesday – Friday, 10:30 am – 5:30 pm
Saturday, 11 am – 4 pm
www.estebaninteriors.com

The secret is out. The designers at Esteban Interiors are masters of their craft. They know what they are doing. Esteban Lopez and James Niebling combine talent to create a space that takes the client from a place of living to a place of thriving. Their latest project, a modern style arts and crafts home set atop breathtaking Alta La Jolla, is no exception. Not only do Esteban Interiors bring an intoxicating energy to what they do, they have a distinct way of blending eras to create an atmosphere of drama and sensibility that is unexpected. They weave the dream of artful living onto the plane of reality.

Men. The mood has been set. Anticipation lingers. The living room speaks of elegance and style with impeccable international sophistication. With a collapsible bar, a travertine fireplace and high ceilings, you might feel as if 007 is running late to his own party. The signature Murano glass adds to this sense of intelligence and smart living by its sleek and timeless beauty.

The style at Esteban Interiors is distinctive. James Niebling says, "Our style is eclectic, so we like to mix different eras in a new and unique way that gives it a modern twist." The different eras James Niebling speaks of are mid-century modern injected with the French 30s with an added contemporary feel. Niebling adds, "We like to mix a lot of different pieces in an unexpected way that people would not have thought of." The composite result is as striking as it is accessible.

Esteban Interiors key signature is their genuine collaboration with the client. Niebling says, "Ultimately the client is the one that has to live with the design, so we really try to do a lot of investigation and conferencing with them to understand not just their taste levels but how they live, because the environment not only has to suit our brand and their taste level, but it has to work for how they live. It can't be impractical for the way that they conduct their lives. So, all of those things come into the equation as we build our design concept." Esteban Interiors definitely has the modern touch in a world that is downsizing. As people are curtailing excess and finding their true passions, Esteban Designs is at the forefront with quality clean design that sets a minimalist tone.

On the initial inspiration of the design of the home, Niebling says "The inspiration was really

the architecture, because we had seen the initial plans that the architect had done with the outside that gave it a little bit of an arts and crafts with just a hint of an Asian feel to it. So the slated wood on the fencing outside, the split (travertine) stone with the rough edges, those are the elements that we wanted to start to carry in(side), especially since you've got the sliders between the living room and the outdoor patio. When that's all open it's almost one large room. So that was the inspiration to build upon in the living room." Esteban Lopez adds, "And the space had a rectilinear feeling about it so we wanted to embrace that orthogonal feeling that was going on and repeat some of those elements through the design phase." The living room not only has style, it has dimension that is at once captivating and inviting.



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-JAMES NIEBLING, ESTEBAN INTERIORS



Esteban Interiors brings the outside in with its inclusion of natural elements. American walnut is seen throughout the house while the calming water element of the entrance patio fountain and the natural fibers and neutral colors give the home a sense of solidarity. James Niebling says that the natural elements are client driven. "The elements related back to the client who wanted a modern feel but somewhat transitional, still very classic, timeless and approachable with a modern aesthetic."

Another high drama piece of the property is the panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean. The house seems to be built as an homage to the natural, wild beauty of the California coast. James Niebling adds his thoughts on how color selection frames the glorious view: "I think that

there is a lot to see from a view standpoint, so the goal was not to take a way from that but to soften and enhance what is there. It's all about the view, so the color palate is fairly neutral but it's these levels of neutrals that all work together and let the outside be this great drama." Esteban Interiors frames this view beautifully and exacts its focus. The interiors actually bring you out of yourself, successfully creating a symbiotic relationship with Zen living and intelligent style.

On the repurposing of the home while maintaining its authentic nature, Esteban Lopez says, "This is a typical California Ranch Style Home. We didn't try to take that out of it. We actually wanted to embrace that, and then push it forward in terms of the design cues that we were impacted by in the front of the house. So we wanted to reemphasize those elements all over again. In essence, the

interior design is a lesson in repetition and how to keep that repetition going throughout the house so that they speak to each other."

Esteban Lopez continues, "We were trying to blur the lines between European Deco and California Ranch Modern. That was our goal and that is why we chose the wood species that we did. We did a lot of changes to the architectural moldings. All of the casings for the windows, the doors and the baseboards are new. We wanted to give the space visual weight." This solid sense of structure is what gives the design its livability.

The kitchen is a good example of this livability. Esteban Interiors freshened up the kitchen, changing out hardware, adding new light fixtures, fresh paint and new stainless steel appliances. The result is stunning. The clean lines calm and

quiet things down and create a Zen atmosphere. One can think clearly and process easier inside this dwelling. Niebling adds "You can have these moments of quiet space and not have external distractions in your environment."

Esteban Interiors' biggest inspiration is authentic as well, "Our Biggest inspiration is our clients. We like to really get to know someone and to understand what it is they are looking for and help them through the process." The Esteban Interiors designers are clearly innovators. They are cutting-edge masters with a nostalgic flair, coupled with a high sense of style that grips the emotions and invites the senses. Esteban Interiors commands the eye to expect the unexpected, to savor the moment and to celebrate the organic nature of past eras while embracing a quality modern lifestyle.