



FRESH LOOK In the home's formal upstairs living space, the color palette complements the panoramic coastal view framed by floor-to-ceiling windows, from the bluff-like taupe of the sofa to the verdant hillside hues repeated in a chartreuse armchair and a statement-making artwork over the sideboard from Peter Lik.

SAN DIEGO

SOARING VISTA

La Jolla's Esteban Interiors brings new life to a contemporary cliff-top stunner.

By AnnaMaria Stephens | Photography by Robert Benson

It's hard to beat the views from the bluff-top enclave of La Jolla Farms, especially when the property overlooks a pair of pristine canyons that part as they reach the sea. Leave it to San Diego design firm Esteban Interiors (estebaninteriors.com)—known for its contemporary colorful flair and bespoke luxury touches—to create a home that's as stunning as its setting. "The view couldn't be more perfect," says designer Esteban Lopez. "It looks like the world is being cut in half with a crevice between

two canyons that part to the ocean."

For the homeowners, a couple with three grown children, a visit to the Roche Bobois showroom in La Jolla set the project in motion. The wife had her heart set on the European retailer's iconic sectional sofa, among other pieces, for the pair's recently built 30,000-square-foot dream home, but the husband insisted that they hire an interior designer before making any major decisions. Luckily, they did not have to look for

CONTINUED...



“THE VIEW COULDN’T BE MORE PERFECT. IT LOOKS LIKE THE WORLD IS BEING CUT IN HALF WITH A CREVICE BETWEEN TWO CANYONS THAT PART TO THE OCEAN.” —ESTEBAN LOPEZ



...CONTINUED long—Roche Bobois directed the duo right next door to Lopez’s firm.

“Their house had been done in an Old World look which didn’t suit the home’s modern aesthetic,” says Lopez. “They are active people and very responsive to color, so we wanted to create as much as possible without chaos.”

A sofa upholstered in cheery Missoni fabric sets the tone in the downstairs living room, which also features steel-wire stump side tables and a chandelier from Roche Bobois. But the room’s true standout feature is an Esteban original. To encase undulating matte-white cabinetry, the designer built a floating walnut wall with soft back lighting. The wood’s glossy finish makes a perfect backdrop for two large paintings—including a Mick Jagger portrait by Andy Warhol—along with a signed electric guitar from the iconic San Diego pop-punk band Blink-182.

In addition to showcasing the couple’s impressive art collection, which includes works from Marc Chagall, Rufino Tamayo and Theodor “Dr. Seuss” Geisel, Lopez found unique ways to display the couple’s other objects, from Middle Eastern cookie molds mounted on museum stands to a trunk full of old masks that the designer turned into an eye-catching art piece.

“The owner gathered these masks on his travels around the world, so I mounted them on Lucite as a way for him to tell the story of how he found them,” explains Lopez, who hung the conversation piece on a Murano glass-bead wallcovering that has the shimmery appearance of shagreen.

Upstairs, Esteban Interiors took a slightly more subdued approach to the open-plan living CONTINUED...

RESTFUL RETREAT From top: In the master bedroom, interior designer Esteban Lopez reupholstered the couple’s pebble headboard and designed custom linens, including a bed covering with welting made from tiny Murano glass beads. The Charles of Paris lamps were the perfect find for the Christopher Guy side tables, which serve as nightstands. “The rectangular shape picks up the pattern in the stone wall,” says Lopez; a striking infinity pool with ocean views lines up with the horizon.



SET IN STONE Clockwise from top: A gray-on-gray family room with a fireplace and an Eames lounge is a favorite chill-out spot in the house, which also features a gym and a home theater; a display of masks gathered during the couple's travels; designer Esteban Lopez (right) and his partner—in both business and life—James Niebling, next to a table with vintage Blenko glass pieces gifted to their clients.



...CONTINUED and dining room, which features soaring ceilings, a fireplace surrounded by chiseled Jerusalem stone, and floor-to-ceiling pocket doors that open to an entertaining area replete with an outdoor kitchen and an infinity pool perched above the Pacific. "It's an enormous space, and it's all about celebrating the architecture and ocean view," says Lopez. "I wanted to bring things down to a human scale without detracting from any of that."

Lopez anchored a seating area with a Holly Hunt coffee table topped with 3-inch-thick cast glass, a substantial piece complemented by an elegant Donghia sofa in beige boucle and a Knoll Barcelona daybed in cognac leather. The space also features a handsome dining table and sideboard used for formal entertaining.

The room's palette of earthy neutrals is punctuated by more colorful pieces, including an armchair in crushed velvet chartreuse and an artwork by international photographer Peter Lik, who has a gallery in La Jolla. A large, custom-color area rug from Kyle Bunting looks especially chic against Chechen hardwood floors, an exotic material repeated on the wood-paneled ceiling. Lopez also gifted his clients a selection of brightly hued vintage Blenko pieces, a signature nod to his early days as owner of Vetro, an upscale glass shop in Little Italy.

"A lot of California clients tend to steer away from color, so we wanted to show how approachable a vibrant spectrum can be," says Lopez, who took his cues from the soft and bold natural hues that dot the coastal landscape outside. With inspiration so spectacular, it was impossible to go wrong. ■