

# CALIFORNIA HOMES

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## Outdoor *living*

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# a little *mad* in manhattan

Designer Chris Barrett  
Combines A Retro Style  
With Current Pieces  
For A Casual And  
Easy Going Beach Home

TEXT BY KATHY BRYANT  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KARYN R. MILLET







The living room features a bar from CBD; hour glass sconces in bronze by Urban Archaeology; a sofa by CBD with Holly Hunt fabric; and a vintage 1970s Carrera marble curved lamp with a parchment shade. The coffee table and television cabinet are by CBD. There are also Italian caned lounge chairs and a circa 1956 walnut and laminate two tier side table by Greta Grossman.

OPPOSITE The photograph of the Rowan Building is by Felipe Dupouy. The media room has a sectional by CBD and pillows by Tim Clarke.



**“We call it *Mad Man Meets Manhattan Beach*,”** says Los Angeles interior designer Chris Barrett says of the home she designed for a busy Hollywood executive. “The owner, Dick Hillenbrand, wanted a house that reflected him and his life style which is casual and easy going.” Hillenbrand, a founding partner of Heroes and Villains Entertainment, wanted to infuse a bit of classic 1950s charm with an updated twist into his home. Barrett’s design is spot on classic with vibrant notes and whimsical melodies.

Hillenbrand enjoys entertaining friends and family so he was looking for an airy, upbeat feel that reflected his way of living. “The retro style was perfect for that,” he says. “I think the ‘50s





LEFT The dining room table is by CBD with head chairs from Posse Fine Furniture. The Slim Aarons photo is from Hillenbrand's personal collection.

BELOW The upper terrace overlooks Manhattan Beach and the Pacific Ocean. Furniture is from CBD.



“We decided on picking colors that were fun and inviting.”

—Chris Barrett

look and feel can surprise people and put smiles on a lot of faces. But, to be honest, '50s is just a choice. Chris' ability to virtually do anything is what attracted me. I threw out a bunch of ideas and she ran with them.”

“We decided on picking colors that were fun and inviting,” says Barrett. The six thousand square foot house is on three levels with ocean views out most of the windows. The designer needed to make sure that each room flowed seamlessly into the other and achieved this through the use of complementary colors and textures. She brought in some beautiful retro furniture to anchor the motif and added artwork that fit well with pieces Hillenbrand already owned. A bonus was that Barrett could use vibrant fabrics from her custom fabric line. She also designed the outdoor furniture that expands the living space from the large family room to pool area.





This second floor has the master bedroom and bath. On the third floor are the living room, dining room, kitchen and decks with ocean views. "In this area many people put the living room on the top floor to capture the ocean view," Barrett says.

Hillenbrand is pleased with the overall design. "I love that every room has its own personality, but there's a cohesion throughout the house. I wanted a house where people weren't afraid to put down a glass or put up their feet. If you sit on it, you want to lie on it. And, if you lie on it, you want to sleep on it," he says. He is especially fond of the lights and lighting fixtures Barrett used throughout the interior.

"I loved working with Chris," he says. "Her eye and talents are undeniable, but her greatest skill is her ability to listen to and digest what's going on in her client's mind. She doesn't force her vision on you, but helps you realize exactly what your vision is supposed to be."

Hillenbrand is busy working up to twelve hours a day and often on weekends. "Like any big city, LA can get the best of you—especially in a business as hectic as mine," he says. "But my recipe for happiness is fairly simple. Love your work. Love your family and friends and whomever you deem God to be. And love your home. The first two I had wrapped up and Chris gave me the third." <sup>11</sup>

OPPOSITE The master bedroom has Phillips Jeffries wallpaper in natural weave raffia, drapery from Raoul Textiles and a custom bed from CBD. The mahogany and birch bench with cushion by John Keal is circa 1955.

ABOVE LEFT The Hillenbrand house makes a strong contemporary statement. ABOVE RIGHT This close up of a chair in the pool lounge has a Chris Barrett Textiles pillow and a vintage side table.