

# PLAYA DEL REY

## SHADES OF WHITE



The Los Angeles home in Playa del Rey had to capture an understood sophistication in a clean contemporary manor. The owners had decided to transform the home they have lived in for years into their dream house. Their only thing that had remain was the six-foot Buddha made from a solid piece of walnut, acquired by the owners during their travels. Designer Ryan Jackson was asked to take on the challenge.



production OBJEKT USA-CANADA  
photos: Trevor Tondro

Left: Ryan Gordon Jackson founder and principal designer of Studio Jackson, Los Angeles. Beside that: the living room and the entrance of the Playa del Rey house that he redesigned for the owners, that lived there for many years. Top right: six-foot Buddha made from a solid piece of walnut became the center piece of the house.





**Project team**  
**Interior Design & Decoration – Studio Jackson, Inc.**  
**Architect – Harrison Design**  
**Contractor – Taconic Builder Inc**  
**Landscape Design Build – El Portico Inc.**

Playa del Rey is a coastal neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles. Rolling hills, the result of ancient, wind-blown, compacted sand dunes which rise up to 125 feet (38 m) above sea level, run parallel to the Pacific coast, from Playa del Rey, all the way south to Palos Verdes. The neighborhood is located next to Marina del Rey and not far from the International Airport.

Here Studio Jackson Inc. from Los Angeles, revamped an existing house for an active professional couple who are long-time Los Angeles residents. They shared a love for contemporary design and art as well as very large dogs, of which they have two (Leonbergers). The home owners both valued the concept of the home being a place for relaxation and retreat. They loved the location of their home but having lived in the space for over a decade, they were ready to refresh the house.

Studio Jackson was called in to help them to capture a desired understated sophistication in a contemporary manor.

Ryan Jackson, founder and principal designer: "As we started to audition their lifestyle against the existing space, it became apparent what functional tweaks needed to be made. That form would follow function. Aesthetically, the client's minimalist sensibilities and understanding of the contemporary design aesthetics were a compass throughout the design process. The house had great bones and the views were stunning. The home however lacked definition, detail and focus. A strong focus on how the home had to respond to their lifestyles both in functional and aesthetically was key."

The transformation was accomplished by redesigning virtually the entire residence, from creating the serene, garden-like approach with limestone pavers above a shallow pool to adding a minimalist glass foyer and opening the interior to maximize the 270-degree views available from all three levels of the home and outdoor deck.

In the selection of furnishings the clients challenged Jackson to bring a familiarity and comfort to the space that was smart, yet approachable. Jackson curated each piece with eye towards the decoration telling a story that was greater than the sum of its parts: contemporary, refined and fresh.

Jackson about the direction he was given by the owners: "They clients loved the location of their home but having lived in the space for over a decade, they were ready to refresh the house.

These pages: the interior of the Playa del Rey house after is was redesigned by Studio Jackson. With the emphasis on the great views, he revamped living room, bedrooms, kitchen and bathrooms. Center piece is the circular stairway made out of marble slabs.

As we started to audition their lifestyle against the existing space, it became apparent what functional tweaks were needed whereby form would follow function. They were ready for something new from top to bottom. The house had to be completely reimaged, with one exception – a six-foot Buddha made from a solid piece of walnut that the clients acquired during their travels. They didn't mind how, but he had to be incorporated in the home."

He continued: "The inspiration for this project, as with most of our projects, was a response in design to the owners lifestyle. Their love for the contemporary and minimalist design helped to aim the barrel for their team of consultants, but the trigger was that the home needed to be very functional. The dialogue with the design team was a strong part of this process and the inspiration thereof."

The collaboration of the redesign of the main stair and the three-story entry hall was taken on by SJI, Harrison Design and Taconic Builders. The process involved creating a three-story circular stair hall volume and a white marble slab stair floating from it. The stair hall had to culminate vertically to an almond-shaped lensed sky light which mirrors the light well connecting all three floors.

The largest intervention was altering the access to the great marina views from the front entry

door. Previously, the house opened to a large space that functioned as an entry, living room, dining room and kitchen. The design team created a new definition to the home by adding individual spaces in service of function, formality and usage. In so, they realized an impressive entertaining space focused on view sight lines.

"The project started with a very different design scope. In speaking with the owners to understand their requirements and thoughts for the project the mister had told me that 'they would be carrying him out of the house in a pine box'. From that, I understood that the project was worth spending on materials and finishes freely so the clients would get many years of enjoyment from them. Knowing they were creating their dream home, from the home they owned, the owners were open to the process and design suggestions and it showed: from the solid marble slab stairs and entry, to the in-bath glass sauna," according to Ryan Jackson.

