

DECOR

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THE MOST STUNNING ROOMS EVER



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MeredithSpecials

Bohemian Rhapsody

Vintage Indian fabrics and a fusion of contemporary upholstered pieces and Asian antiques bring global, coastal chic to this Malibu vacation home.

The deck of this Malibu home unfurls at ocean's edge, providing the perfect place to unwind on a chaise. Striped cushions add festive summer punch.



Longing to feel waves lapping a

their feet and to avoid the stifling heat of the Los Angeles hills in summer, a family of five sought cooling refuge in Malibu. Bring on the sand, surf, flip-flops, and designer Tim Clarke, who rejuvenated the family's recently purchased seaside home by transforming the dark and dingy Spanish residence into an exotic and relaxed retreat.

Out went dark finishes, heavy velvet draperies, and limiting views; down came walls and in came broader archways and wide-open vistas. "There was some strong architecture, but it wasn't consistent throughout the house," Clarke says. "It certainly didn't take advantage of the beach or the location."

With the house reoriented toward the ocean views, Clarke

introduced his signature style—one that avoids clichés by juxtaposing new pieces with vintage modern icons and exotic antiques. In keeping with the easy-breezy attitude of a seaside vacation residence, he utilized antiques sparingly, favoring simple sofas and armchairs upholstered in neutral textured fabrics for many of the rooms. A few Asian pieces, such as the Chinese armoire in the living room, and a Moroccan chest in the master bedroom serve as interesting accents.

The drapery fabrics also add cosmopolitan personality. The living room curtain is an Indian print, as are some of the pillows, which also include batik motifs and a number of vintage fabrics. "If we'd used plain fabrics all in solids, it would have looked bland," Clarke says.

The layout of the rooms is mindful of family life, with the living room flexing to accommodate multiple activities. There's generous seating for the family to huddle around the television; a game table and adjacent dining area allow smaller groups to gather and read, work a puzzle, play board games, or dine—yet still be together. Each gathering area also offers a view of the ocean through the arched windows behind the sofa.

With easy-care, sand-sifting maintenance in mind, Clarke spread jute flooring wall to wall in the living room, but he topped it with a softer, decorative rug in the seating area to pamper bare feet away from the main wear paths. "Even though I'm a designer and people pay me to make things beautiful, practicality is important," Clarke says. "I would hate to create a room someone wasn't comfortable in."

In the master suite, Clarke emulated the room's gorgeous ocean views and soft lighting by introducing multiple shades of turquoise, sandy beiges, and crisp whites. The vaulted wood ceiling is washed in a light gray finish for a gently aged look. "I wanted the room to look like it was washed out by years of salt and sand," Clarke says. After all, what else is more in keeping with an easygoing beach vibe than that?





This photo: Designer Tim Clarke painted the ceiling beams in the living room dark brown and added grass cloth in between for texture. The large armoire inside the arched niche is Chinese. **Opposite:** Watermelon-red roses draw out the room's passionate hues.

Contemporary Italian woven chairs in the dining room surround a vintage table refinished in chocolate brown. A Kapa shell light fixture from the Philippines hangs from the ceiling.







Printed linen draperies filter light without blocking it.



Above: The firebox in the master suite's seating area is raised so it can be viewed while in bed. The arched doors open onto a balcony that overlooks the ocean. **Opposite:** A worn Moroccan chest sits at the foot of a four-poster. Clarke had the trunk retrofitted to accommodate a pop-up television. A Chinese bureau stands in as a storage-savvy bedside table.