

Coastal Charm

California homeowners turn dark and outdated interiors into elegantly appointed spaces that blur the line between old and new and indoors and out.

A new bluestone patio featuring a sculptural chandelier and a streamlined fireplace provides a cozy retreat for Mark Tinker and Chandra West off their kitchen. Nestled close to the home, the pergola-capped space protects patio-sitters from midday sunshine and coastal winds.



Million-dollar views accessed

from this Los Angeles hilltop home have drawn the eye of many a Hollywood notable, including onetime owner Carol Burnett and the present-day residents, Emmy-winning director/producer Mark Tinker and his wife, actress Chandra West. The sweeping panoramas caused Mark, then a bachelor, to look past the home's out-of-sync interiors and sign on the dotted line.

"I walked from the living room to the dining room, looking across the canyon to the ocean and mountain views, and knew I had to buy this house," Mark says.

Later, when Mark and Chandra wed, they started a remodeling project that highlighted those exceptional vistas with the addition of French doors and larger windows. The renovation, led by

architect Tim Barber, also created character-rich interiors that suited the 1940s home's New England architecture.

Barber's design called for reconfiguring interior spaces, vaulting ceilings, installing beams and woodwork, overhauling the kitchen, expanding the master suite, and opening the house to new patio spaces. All the while, he considered the home's Eastern Seaboard influences. "We took our cue from the home's architecture, but then we cranked it up a notch," Barber says. "You won't find this type of detail in similar homes built in the same period. We installed paneling to refine the look and add visual heft. We placed built-in bookcases to make walls appear deeper. The white-painted woodwork gives the informal home a sense of grace."

This sense of graciousness also reminds the couple of homes they visited in Nantucket. "Their photographs from these trips were part of our concept file," Barber says. "They liked the idea that those homes weren't showy, that they had simple forms, lots of glass, and touches of watery shimmer."

Barber tapped into those themes by carrying coastal colors and earthy textures between indoors and out. "We used full-color bluestone on the patios because we like its beachy palette of browns, blues, and greens," Barber says. "We used a similar layering of colors in the living room, but we also carried those blues throughout the house."

A yin-and-yang contrast of refined and rustic surfaces gives the home a collected feel, which is underscored in the family room by a diversity of fabrics and finishes. "The homeowners wanted the new rooms to look like they'd been around for some time," Barber says. "So we layered colors and used different wood finishes to keep rooms from feeling stodgy or predictable."

The mood shifts to serenely sensual in the expanded master bedroom, thanks to a shaggy white rug, silver-leaf mirrors, and a bed dressed with a simple coverlet, velvet pillows, and a sateen throw. "No matter how right you get the big picture, you've got to pay attention to the small things," Barber says. "Those things are grace. They're what give your life pleasure."



This photo: Shimmering blue silk banding on hemp draperies and vibrant blue chair upholstery carry the home's coastal palette into the living room. **Opposite:** Architect Tim Barber added color-coordinated purpose to the paneled foyer by tucking a shallow bench clad in smoky-blue velvet into a niche.





Above: In the family room, Barber moved in furnishings showcasing fun fabrics and bleached and washed finishes. The paisley-pattern chairs pick up on the blues of the sofa, area rug, and television credenza. **Opposite:** Raffia-wrapped chairs designed by designer Peter Dunham, who worked with Barber during the initial stages of the project, pull up to a bleached oak table in the breakfast room.





“Blues don’t show up in masses, but because the



Opposite: “There are at least nine shades of cream and white in the master bedroom, layered with different blues,” Barber says. Silver-leaf mirrors reflect views while providing glamorous counterweights to the bleached poster bed. **Left:** Removing a rickety second-level porch made way for a cantilevered bay in the master bedroom that hosts a conversation grouping of furniture. **Below:** Sealed flannel-gray soapstone countertops reference the dove-gray color of the home’s exterior siding, while contemporary appliances, a blue-tile backsplash, and a collection of blue glassware give the kitchen a refreshing lift.



color is everywhere, you feel like you’re enveloped in watery blues.”
—ARCHITECT TIM BARBER