

DRAMATICALLY SITED
AT THE EDGE OF THE
PACIFIC, IN CARMEL-
BY-THE-SEA, CALIFORNIA,
THE "BUTTERFLY HOUSE"
WAS ORIGINALLY
DESIGNED BY ARCHITECT
FRANK WYNKOOP
IN 1951. FOR DETAILS
SEE RESOURCES.

rock star

Designer *Jamie Bush* reimagines
a coastal California landmark as
a dazzling home for a young
family transplanted from London

TEXT BY MALLERY ROBERTS MORGAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN
STYLED BY MICHAEL REYNOLDS





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT HANNAH, KEVIN, AND POODLE PADDINGTON ON THE FRONT DECK. IN THE DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM, A PENDANT BY CHRISTY MANGUERRA HANGS ABOVE A CUSTOM BED BY JAMIE BUSH. THE MASTER BATH IS CLAD IN FLAMED QUARTZITE. TUB BY SIGNATURE HARDWARE WITH WATERMARK FITTINGS; CUSTOM CABINETS IN STAINED WHITE OAK.



“I wanted the interiors to celebrate the irregularities of pattern and texture in nature.”
—*Jamie Bush*

ABOVE A BRUTALIST CERAMIC WALL BY ARTIST STAN BITTERS ENCLOSSES THE FIREPLACE ON THE POOL PATIO. RATTAN POUFS FROM BONACINA 1889; CHAIRS AND OTTOMANS BY LIKA MOORE FOR BLACKMAN CRUZ; MARBLE COCKTAIL

TABLE FROM GLOBAL VIEWS; TEAK LOUNGES BY RODA. LEFT THE SON'S BEDROOM FEATURES A WICKER CHAIR BY PBTEEN WITH CUSHION AND PILLOW IN A ROBERT ALLEN FABRIC. WALL-PAPER BY POTTOK; CUSTOM SHAG RUG BY DECORATIVE CARPETS.



LEFT TWO PENDANTS BY APPARATUS HANG IN THE DINING ROOM. TABLE BY SIGLO MODERNO; HANS WEGNER CHAIRS WITH CUSHIONS OF ZAK + FOX LINEN.

OPPOSITE ON THE FRONT DECK, A BENCH AND STOOL BY ZACHARY A. BORDER A TABLE WITH CERAMIC-TILE INLAY BY BRENT BENNETT. GREEN-STAINED CONCRETE CHAIRS BY DESSIN FOURNIR.

Bush likens the restoration to an archaeological dig, with myriad discoveries both good and bad. Along with complex structural issues, the designer uncovered the home's original steel beams, which had been hidden under drywall. Rather than entombing them again, Bush left the steel members exposed, treating them with a new waxed finish. He also deployed materials that could move seamlessly from indoors to out, including wire-brushed teak and hand-molded bricks chosen both for their aesthetic qualities and for their ability to withstand the coastal climate. Oversize quartzite flagstones were meticulously pieced together to create floors that flow from the interiors through the pool courtyard and onto the driveway.

Since the family was downsizing from a much larger home in London, clever planning was essential. "It was like designing a boat—every space had to be considered and used to its maximum potential," says Kevin. Bush seconds the notion: "We designed an incredible amount of built-ins, hidden drawers, cabinets, and bookcases, every piece elaborately detailed. That kind of craftsmanship takes a lot of time, precision, and, most important, patience."

The interiors are outfitted with hand-troweled plaster walls, carved-stone sinks, custom bronze hardware, and hemp-and-silk rugs, all joined by pedigreed vintage furnishings as well as site-specific commissions from contemporary artisans such as renowned California ceramist Stan Bitters. "Jamie's great success was marrying midcentury with a contemporary sensibility and the practicality of a family home," says Hannah. "He also managed to indulge our passion for luxurious furnishings."

"I really love that the house is so compact and very transparent. Sitting at my desk I can see the kids playing in the garden—it creates an intimate family experience," Kevin notes. Hannah adds, "Our son's favorite spot is the hanging chair in the great room. The pool is in use almost daily, and the addition of the hot tub is especially appreciated after surfing in the chilly Pacific."

Ultimately the Comollis look back on their transatlantic and transcontinental shift with deep satisfaction. "This house is so hugely different from the homes we created in London and the English countryside. The project had many challenges and bumps along the way, but the end result speaks to a complete and unwavering commitment to quality and preservation," says Hannah. "We feel very fortunate to live here. To us the Butterfly House is a treasure. We feel honored to call it home."▲

"It feels like you're living in the most fabulous aquarium, in harmony with the seascape."
—Hannah Comolli

"It's a magical house in a magical spot," Bush says of the landmark architectural gem. "When you're in the living room, you feel like you're standing on the prow of a ship, with fog rolling in, seals swimming by, whales breaching, and pelicans alighting on the rocks. It's mesmerizing." Bush says his design concept was based on bringing the rugged, organic, even brutal quality of the shoreline into the look and feel of the interiors. "The essence of midcentury design is about effortless indoor-outdoor living," he explains. "I wanted the interiors to celebrate the irregularities of pattern and texture in nature. Hannah and Kevin really understood the power of that idea."



design notes THE DETAILS THAT MAKE THE LOOK

THREE-ARM FLOOR LAMP BY SERGE MOUILLE; \$7,380. DWR.COM

“The interiors balance glamour, practicality, and a bit of fun for the kids.” —*Jamie Bush*

HABITAT ACROPORA VASE; \$419. JANUSETCIE.COM



BAZAAR OUTDOOR FABRIC; TO THE TRADE. PERENNIALS FABRICS.COM

SWALLOWTAIL BARSTOOL BY BRIAN FIREMAN; \$6,100. SIGLO MODERNO.COM

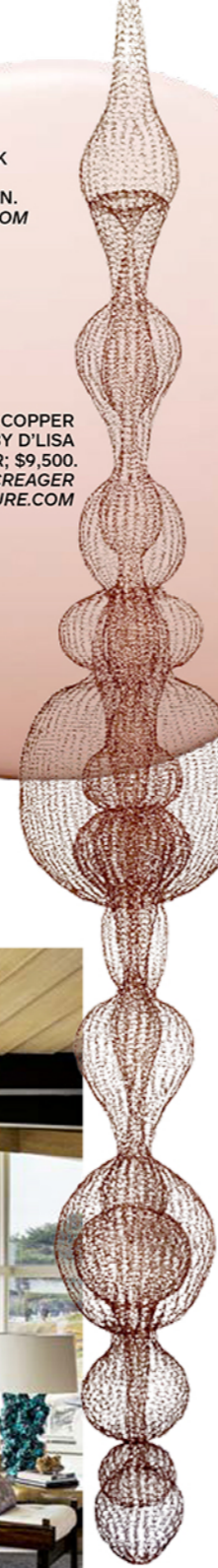


TONICO CHAIR BY SERGIO RODRIGUES FOR MEIA PATACA; \$14,000. 1STDIBS.COM

A WIRE-BRUSHED TEAK BENCH OFFERS VIEWS OF THE OCEAN FROM THE LIVING ROOM. ISAMU NOGUCHI TABLE LAMP IN FOREGROUND.

MIDDLETON PINK NO. 245 PAINT; \$110 PER GALLON. FARROW-BALL.COM

HANGING COPPER SCULPTURE BY D'LISA CREAGER; \$9,500. DLISACREAGER SCULPTURE.COM

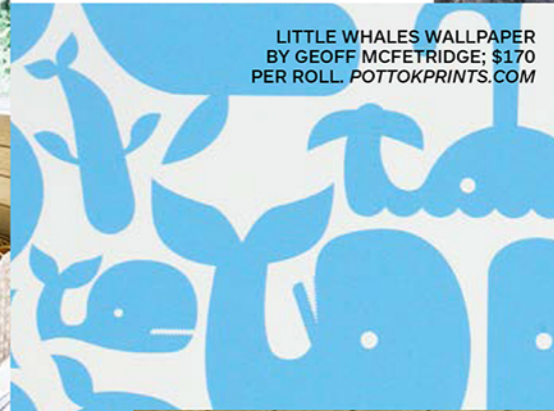


INTERIORS: DOUGLAS FRIEDMAN; PAINT: PAUL ARNBRUSTER; BARSTOOL: TIM BARNWELL; LEE JOFA FABRIC: GABRIELLE PILOTTI LANGDON; ALL OTHERS COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE COMPANIES



IN THE MEDIA ROOM, A PAIR OF GRAND SPLENDID OTTOMANS SITS BENEATH A CHANDELIER BY JANE HALLWORTH FOR BLACKMAN CRUZ.

LITTLE WHALES WALLPAPER BY GEOFF MCFETRIDGE; \$170 PER ROLL. POTTOKPRINTS.COM



EXPLOSION BLUE QUARTZITE; PRICE UPON REQUEST. ANTOLINI.COM



EBONIZED WALNUT BARSTOOLS FROM SIGLO MODERNO OVERLOOK THE KITCHEN'S CUSTOM TEAK CABINETRY BY DESIGNER GRAINS.



“*Jamie* selected furnishings that feel right for a midcentury house but still avoid clichés.” —*Hannab Comolli*

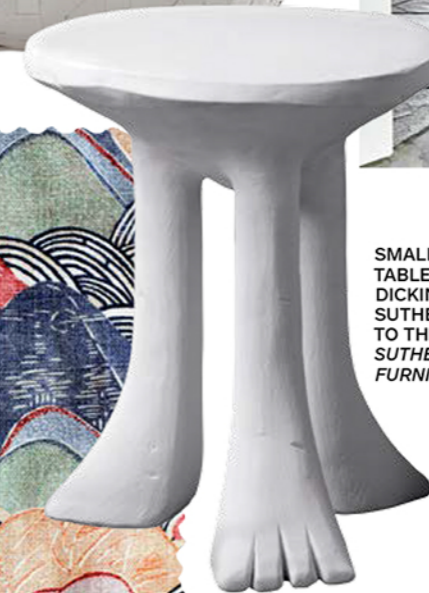
CANASTA SMALL TABLE BY PATRICIA URQUIOLA FOR B&B ITALIA; \$1,926. BEBITALIA.COM



EDO LINEN BY KELLY WEARSTLER FOR LEE JOFA; TO THE TRADE. LEEJOFA.COM



SMALL AFRICAN TABLE BY JOHN DICKINSON FOR SUTHERLAND; TO THE TRADE. SUTHERLAND FURNITURE.COM



TAIKO POUF BY TOMOKO MIZU; FROM \$3,745. PROPERTYFURNITURE.COM

