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"The family room is where the family gathers most," says Phoenix. A custom David Phoenix, Inc. sofa, two George Smith club chairs and two George Smith tufted back chairs arranged around a Richard Mulligan coffee table provide plenty of seating. A Paul Ferrante game table with antique chairs sits nearby. The color of the sand and ocean are evident throughout and serve to unify the indoors with the outdoors. A tan knotted Philippe Starck rug recalls the sand, while a distressed oak Paul Ferrante light fixture and the coffee table bring in wood elements.



A photograph of a bright, airy living room. The room features large windows with white frames, allowing natural light to fill the space. A beige sofa is adorned with several patterned and solid-colored pillows. A round mirror with a decorative frame hangs on the wall. A potted plant sits on a surface behind the sofa. A side table holds a lamp with a blue and white ceramic base. The floor is covered with a large, patterned rug. The overall aesthetic is coastal and sophisticated.

memories in Malibu

**Interior Designer David Phoenix And Architect
Steve Giannetti Create An Ideal Family Beach House**

TEXT BY VANESSA KOGEVINAS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEAN RANDAZZO



You would imagine having a traditional Hamptons meets California 1920s cottage style oceanfront residence on three lots in Malibu was the stuff of dreams, but for Mrs. Nancy Daly it became a reality. A consummate host, a philanthropist, an avid reader, a mother of three, and grandmother of five, Mrs. Daly was able to enjoy a warm, relaxed and comfortable gathering place for herself, her family and closest friends.

Her dream came true through her collaboration with interior designer David Phoenix, architect Steve Giannetti and builder John Finton. "She wanted the Pacific Ocean to be the backdrop and focus, with the interiors taking a back seat and the people being the color," says Phoenix. The 13,000 square foot house was built as a series of attached smaller buildings. "I wanted to make a house that felt as if had always been there, but with a modern sense of space and light," says architect Steve Giannetti. "We used as much glass as possible and set the middle section of the house slightly back from the coastline to create a more private outdoor space while still capitalizing on the long vistas of the Pacific."





OPPOSITE TOP For one of the seating areas in the living room a generous sofa covered with Lee Jofa chenille fabric is flanked by George Smith club chairs covered in a beige and gold toned F. Schumacher & Co. fabric. Two bent wood chairs from Richard Mulligan and an antique American pine coffee table provide a natural element in the casual yet sophisticated grouping. Philippe Starck Casual Trends diamond patterned rug.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM An antique American rag runner from Galerie Shabab is placed in a hallway that runs the length of the living room and dining room. Two Swedish blue painted chairs from Richard Mulligan on either side of an antique Swedish secretary cabinet from Lief give scale to the space.

ABOVE In the master bedroom a Ralph Lauren sofa grouped with two JJ Custom Furniture armchairs and a George Smith ottoman provides a sea-side resting place. A painted milk stool was chosen to serve as a side table.

LEFT An area at the bottom of the main staircase provides an antique Regency style bench settee from Brenda Antin on which to sit and read a selection from Mrs. Daly's extensive book collection. A wine cellar at the end of the space holds libations.





ABOVE The kitchen is made up of a large cooking and preparation area, a bar counter area, and an adjacent breakfast room. Waterworks tile was selected for the backsplash while granite was chosen for the island, over which are suspended two Paul Ferrante antique light fixtures. Rattan back Mimi London bar chairs are set in front of a granite bar counter with a large antique pine console set in the generous kitchen space behind it. A cylindrical Paul Ferrante chandelier hangs above the breakfast room's table, which is surrounded by American painted ladderback chairs whose pillows are covered in a Scalamandre fabric. A circular Philippe Starck rug set on Richard-Marshall wood floors delineates the space and complements the tones of the F. Schumacher & Co. curtains.

OPPOSITE A maple Richard Mulligan dining table is paired with light-colored Early American style chairs, also Richard Mulligan, in the dining room. The black stripes on the Paul Ferrante chandelier plays off of the faux bone inlay John Rosselli mirror from Hollyhock. A striped Aga John rug adds pattern to the space.



Giannetti used board and batten siding and shingles, all painted white, with Santa Barbara sandstone to anchor the structure, masterfully achieving an updated and fresh take on a Craftsman house appropriate to its time and oceanfront locale. "Nancy wanted the palette to play off of the color of the sand. She wanted a beachy, nautical theme that was low maintenance," says Phoenix. "We used limestone for all the floors and thirty foot wide pocket doors for the living room, both of which allowed for a seamless transition from the outdoors to the indoors."

For the light-flooded and large living room that has twenty-two foot ceilings they devised two seating areas—a sofa facing the ocean with two club chairs and two armchairs arranged around a low table make up the grouping nearest the fireplace with another having a sofa with two more club chairs and a pair of bentwood chairs that perfectly complement the subtle, soothing, sandy palette. The spaces are unified by an enormous cream-colored diagonally striped hook rug, which adds texture to the room. Included in the room's plan, Phoenix designed a casual dining area with a maple table surrounded by Early American style chairs.



“Nancy wanted the *palette* to play off of the color of the sand. She wanted a beachy, *nautical* theme that was low maintenance.”

—David Phoenix





OPPOSITE TOP "You feel like you're on a boat when you're in the master suite," says Phoenix, who designed the space to include a cozy seating area by the window, a writing area with a French desk from Ralph's Antiques paired with a Papa Bear chair and more seating with two Paul Ferrante occasional chairs flanking the bedroom's fireplace. Delicate sconces and a chandelier, all from Paul Ferrante, provide soft lighting throughout while Holland & Sherry shades provide protection from the sun. A custom cabinet at the foot of the bed cleverly conceals a television and a large Elizabeth Eakins rug in delicate tones with subtle repeating squares unifies the areas of the master bedroom.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM Interior designer David Phoenix.

ABOVE The walnut wood floors by Richard-Marshall Fine Flooring soften and complement the fresh and bright master bath, which boasts a Kohler tub set across from a vanity that is paired with a custom Cowtan & Tout fabric covered chair.

LEFT Blues run throughout the house and are evident in Mrs. Daly's bedroom, where antique Swedish nightstands are set on either side of the bed whose headboard is covered in soft blue and green floral Hodsoll McKenzie fabric. The client's antique plates add a pop of porcelain blue and the Hollywood at Home accent pillow perfectly ties in all the elements.



ABOVE Builder John Finton and architect Steve Giannetti masterfully achieved the updated Craftsman and California beach house aesthetic. They chose shingles and board and batten painted white as primary materials with Santa Barbara sandstone to anchor the structure complemented by French limestone flooring from Exquisite Surfaces. The living room's pocket doors allow an entire wall to open onto the terrace, where David Sutherland deck furniture with Ralph Lauren covered blue and white striped pillows and a matching awning provide a nautical note.

OPPOSITE The outdoor kitchen's BBQ and a round teak circular table and chairs encourages al fresco dining. Near it a fire pit provides a warm gathering place. All outdoor furniture David Sutherland except two rattan ottoman stools from Mecox Gardens.



Directly above this great room on the second floor, a knotty-pine paneled library has sliding doors that open to overlook the living room and create a loft-like feature. "The kitchen was always to be the hub of the house," says Phoenix of the large open space comprised of a cooking area, a bar counter, a breakfast nook and a family room. "It accommodates twenty without feeling crowded."

A terrace expands almost the length of the entire house and provides two outdoor cooking areas, a fire pit, a pool and multiple seating arrangements. At one end of the house are the guest quarters with four identical suites for Daly's children and other visitors. For her grandchildren, she built a bunkroom complete with costumes to play dress-up. "The master suite is flooded with light as it has windows on three sides," says Phoenix. A seating area near windows, a desk facing the ocean, two club chairs by a fireplace, a terrace and a generous master bath complete the private sanctuary.

"The biggest gift of all is that after it was completed, Nancy would include me in some of her gatherings," the interior designer says. "I've gotten a lot of enjoyment from seeing individuals take pleasure in this home. It's exactly what Nancy wanted. A beautiful place where the people she loved can gather." [11]