

WESTERN Interiors & DESIGN

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Light-filled Space

10
SMART
WATER-SAVING
SOLUTIONS

JUNE/JULY 2008



DENISE KURIGER

“ This house is about materials, not color. How can you compete with the color of the Pacific?”

Ocean outlook

Subdued tones, clean lines and durable materials draw dramatic Pacific views into a Malibu house that opens onto the surf

photography by ROGER DAVIES text by CAREN KURLANDER





It's a very specific decision to live on the ocean," says designer Denise Kuriger. "When I'm working on a beach house, I try to provide opportunities that let my clients really experience being on the water. They should be able to make use of exterior spaces and always be able to see the view." For a Cape Cod-style house on Southern California's Malibu shore, Kuriger did just that. The two-story cedar-shake structure, by architectural designer Scott Mitchell, has deep overhangs and wide porches that actively engage its site. Inside, the house transitions to a clean, pared-down envelope. "On both elevations, wall-size glass pocket doors slide away, and you're afforded an unbelievable panoramic view," says Kuriger, a Long Island native who worked in the offices of New York design veterans Naomi Leff and Victoria Hagan before starting her own Manhattan firm in 2005. "It's a complete indoor-outdoor house."

This blurred boundary between house and setting helped inform the material palette. Mitchell finished the interior architecture with wire-brushed Douglas fir for the walls and ceiling, and Kuriger bleached and waxed them to a light blonde tone that "absorbs the intense Malibu light," says Mitchell. "At the same time, the color and texture speak to the beach sand." The pale wood, along with reclaimed white oak flooring, creates a calm environment, which Kuriger intended to preserve. "We wanted the interiors to be unobtrusive," explains Kuriger, "so they could be the background for the view."

In the living-dining room, the designer curated a mix of furnishings that manage to hold their own in the space without pulling focus from the ocean vista. On one side of the room, she created a sitting area near the fireplace with a slate low table and two large custom chaise longues. "We chose materials that could stand up to the environment," says Kuriger. "Since it's a space that's opened up and exposed to the sun so often, colors would get washed out." With this in mind, she used sandy-hued linens from Manuel Canovas and Hinson & Company exclusively. "There's not much the sun can do to these fabrics except enhance them," she notes.

Instead of completing the room with a lot of small accessories, Kuriger added impact with two sculptural sea-grass chairs. "This room would feel bland without those chairs," she says. "And when they're set against a simplified background, it gives them





previous pages For a Malibu, California, house, designer Denise Kuriger worked with "earthy materials influenced by our proximity to the ocean and sand." Architectural designer Scott Mitchell connected the structure to its site with expansive glass pocket doors. Kuriger used teak pieces from Oasis Furniture to outfit the porch. The purple throw (far left) is from Chaz Stevens Design. **opposite** A hemp rug from Mansour Modern grounds the living area, where sea-grass chairs from Waldo's Designs add a sculptural touch. **these pages** Custom chaises, used as sofas, are covered with linen from Manuel Canovas and Hinson & Company. The silver bowl is from Calypso Home.



above The kitchen is “a marriage of traditional and minimal styles,” says Mitchell, who used boat-grade teak for the cabinetry and Jerusalem Halla limestone for the sinks and countertops. The range is from Wolf, and the bar chairs are from Tucker Robbins. **opposite** For the dining area, Kuriger (right) paired a Mitchell-designed table with Hans Wegner’s Wishbone chairs. The three candlesticks are by Gulassa & Company, and the rug is from Mansour Modern.



JOSEPH DE LEO

“We bleached and waxed the walls and ceiling to a really soft, mellow color,” says Kuriger. “We tried about twenty samples to get a perfect blonde.”

an opportunity to shine.” Hans Wegner’s Wishbone chairs—with light oak frames and natural paper-cord seats—bring “a little flirt” to the dining area. Hemp rugs from Mansour Modern define both sides of the large room, and they worked so well that Kuriger used them throughout the house. “I love doing projects where you hit the perfect note and then use it everywhere,” she explains. “It’s a simple approach to what could be an overwhelming situation.”

When it came to the expansive glass doors, Kuriger left them unadorned. “The ocean is the star,” she says. “We never wanted to hide the view in any way. Motorized shades can be used to block the sunlight, but this project wasn’t about window treatments.” When the doors slide away, the living space is extended seamlessly onto a porch, where Kuriger created inviting dining and sitting areas with sturdy teak furniture. “These hybrid spaces encourage the outdoor lifestyle,” says Mitchell. “They’re neither interior nor exterior, and I think they go a long way toward giving a beach house that beachy feel.”

Kuriger took the living area’s monochromatic palette and rich textures upstairs to the master bedroom. The tall headboard of a custom bed from Tucker Robbins balances out the high ceiling, and another hemp rug from Mansour Modern anchors a sitting area. A sofa, covered with the same Manuel Canovas linen used downstairs, faces a wood-topped low table. To break up the straight lines of the room, Kuriger brought in a chaise by Bruno Mathsson and a vintage wicker armchair. “The different shapes really add interest,” says the designer. Wide pocket doors, mirroring the ones in the room below, open the bedroom to a long balcony and ocean breezes.

From the architecture that reaches out to the shore to the design that brings its sandy colors inside, the house is intimately connected to its Malibu locale. “You can sit in the living area and feel like you’re outside looking at the ocean,” says Kuriger. “So much of the reason for building on the beach is to experience the external portion of the property. We tried to incorporate that into the interior world.” +



natural elements
bring easy style
to the beach

DESIGN DETAILS

Linen Textiles >>

Kuriger worked with two light-hued linens that could withstand the taxing beach climate. "Silk would disintegrate within a season," she explains.



<< Wishbone Chair

The softly rounded back and woven-cord seat of Hans Wegner's classic 1950 design add interest to the dining area while staying within the organic palette.

Sculptural Sea Grass ♪

To give the streamlined interiors a casual touch, Kuriger introduced curvy sea-grass chairs from Waldo's Designs. "They're fanciful," she says, "and they keep things not-so-serious."



Hemp Rugs ^

"When I found something that worked, I'd use it everywhere," says Kuriger, who felt that way about Mansour Modern's tactile hemp rugs and used them throughout the house.





In the master bedroom, where another set of pocket doors opens to water vistas, Kuriger utilized the same sandy hues as she did in the rest of the house. A custom Tucker Robbins bed is dressed with a duvet and shams made from Matteo fabrics. Vases from Calypso Home add a subtle bedside accent, and a throw from Chaz Stevens Design highlights a Bruno Mathsson chaise. The lantern is from Paul Ferrante.

DESIGN IDEAS

Inspiration from this issue



1 Choose elemental materials for an indoor-outdoor house. Designer Denise Kuriger selected a materials palette of metal, wood and limestone for a Malibu, California, residence that uses its oceanfront setting as part of its decor. A metal pendant hangs from the wood ceiling of the master bedroom (page 81) and allows the Pacific to be center stage. Find metal light fixtures for your house at Paul Ferrante, 310.854.4412, paulferrante.com.

2 Establish a focal point for a room with one high-design piece of furniture. In 1948, American architect and designer Florence Knoll challenged Eero Saarinen, a Finnish architect and designer, to create a chair she could curl up in. The result was the iconic Womb chair and ottoman, which Stephanie Sandston placed in a Missoula, Montana, living room (page 108). Get your fabric-upholstered Womb chair for \$2,777 at Design Within Reach, 800.944.2233, dwr.com.

3 Use bright colors and bold patterns to inject personality. Lynn von Kersting enlivened a Hermosa Beach, California, dining room (page 103) by upholstering carved chairs with red-and-white-striped fabric by Bassett McNab. Shop for jewel-toned textiles with dynamic patterns at Keith McCoy, 310.657.7150.

4 Consider furniture made from sustainable materials. Heliotope Architects anchored a Missoula, Montana, dining room (page 110) with a table made of madrona wood salvaged from a single tree in West Seattle. Purchase an eco-conscious madrona table for \$3,770 from Urban Hardwoods, 888.766.8199, urbanhardwoods.com.

5 Select nontraditional wall coverings to make a unique design statement. Wallpaper that depicts a world map covers the walls of a family's play room (page 107) in Missoula, Montana. Use a wall in your house to plan your world travels by visiting The Map Shop, 800.532.6675, mapshop.com.

6 Arrange accessories of varying heights or scale to add dimension. Denise Kuriger placed three metal candlesticks—short, medium and tall—on the table in the dining room (page 79) of a Malibu, California, house. The different sizes of the pieces provide depth and play off one another. To get some metal candlesticks for your table, stop by Gulassa & Company, 206.283.1810, gulassaco.com.

DESIGN IDEAS

7 Use unconventional plantings to create an exotic table setting. Inspired by the landscape of the Pacific Northwest, floral designer Anne Fordham set a Seattle, Washington, dining table (page 84) with an unexpected arrangement that includes wheatgrass, orchids and berries. For floral ideas, visit *Flowers* by Anne Fordham, 206.972.9926, annefordham.com.

8 Add warmth to an outdoor living space by outfitting it with a fireplace. Stephanie Sandston placed a fireplace/grill on the terrace (page 112) of a Missoula, Montana, house. The portable design, made by Rais, is crafted from Cor-ten steel and provides a rough-hewn sculptural look. Buy a \$1,550 fireplace/grill by Rais for your pool area at Shack Up, 406.586.6336, shackupdesign.com.

9 Pepper your rooms with tropical touches to give them coastal appeal. For a Hermosa Beach, California, living area (page 100), Lynn von Kersting found inspiration in the whimsical aesthetic of the West Indies, where she once lived. The designer hung nineteenth-century French pineapple sconces above the mantel, creating a carefree vibe with a traditional symbol of hospitality. Peruse an array of playful furnishings at Indigo Seas, 310.550.8758.

10 Dress a table with a tray that displays your favorite items. Architect George Suyama placed a round tray filled with fruit on a table in the courtyard (page 89) of a Seattle, Washington, house. The blackened-steel piece, which has a wax finish, is available for \$150 or \$220, depending on size, at 3 x 10, 206.256.0809, suyamapetersondeguchi.com.

11 Furniture made with natural materials adds texture. For the kitchen (page 78) of a Malibu, California, residence, designer Denise Kuriger chose a pair of rattan-and-mountain-pine stools crafted of recycled materials by basket weavers and furniture makers from the Igorot villages in the Philippines. A single stool sells for \$1,500 at Tucker Robbins, 212.355.3383, tuckerrobbins.com.

12 Select artworks for their personal appeal instead of matching them to the colors of a room. Denise Michaels hung *Great Central Valley Sky*, 2004, by Dennis Zieminski in her Tucson, Arizona, great room (page 92). You can view similar works at the Medicine Man Gallery, 800.422.9382, medicinemangallery.com. +



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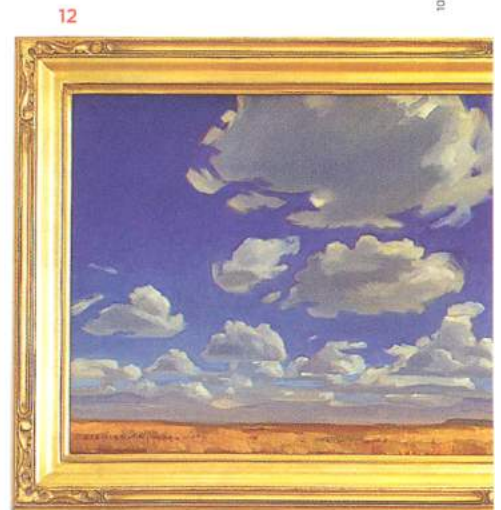
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10 COURTESY OF 3 X 10/SUYAMA PETERSON DEGUCHI