

# NEWPORT BEACH Dream Home

OWNERS ROBIN AND STEVE STRICKLER WORK WITH ARCHITECT GENE KIYOTOKI TO BUILD A HOME FOR A RETREAT FROM BUSY SCHEDULES, BUT ALSO A PLACE TO ENTERTAIN FAMILY AND FRIENDS

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**LEFT** The living room's soaring ceilings and tightly edited mix of furnishings create a serene and welcoming gathering space. **BELOW** The home's Hamptons meets West Coast ambiance creates design delight in the kitchen. Lighting provided by Urban Electric.



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WNERS ROBIN AND STEVE STRICKLER never imagined their two professions would work so well together until they built their dream house in Newport Beach. Robin, an interior designer and owner of noted Southern California design firm DesignWorks, and Steve, an engineer, merged their talents to create a chic and welcoming home in a charming neighborhood just minutes from Newport's Back Bay nature preserve. Robin designed the

home's interiors, while Steve managed the building process and took the lead in designing the backyard and pool areas.

Originally, their vision for the home was a Coastal Craftsman, but their architect Gene Kiyotoki had plans for a Hamptons-inspired one-story stunner that merged East Coast style with West Coast living that ultimately won the couple over. As a team, with contractor Mark Kemmerer of Markem Construction and landscape Architect Drew Kunde, they built the home from the ground up to meet their needs – which included lots of bright, light open spaces, room for alfresco entertaining including a pool and outdoor fireplace, a wine cellar, and a vestibule for the ultimate private master suite.

“The lot is right at the curve of our cul-de-sac and it was definitely a

challenge to have a large great room and keep everything – the living areas and bedrooms – wrapping around the backyard and pool,” said Robin. “But Gene and Mark were able to make our vision a reality and we are so proud of how the home turned out.”

The spacious, 3600 SF three bedroom, three bath home is a peaceful retreat for the now empty nesters, although their older children love staying in the two guest rooms with a jack-and-jill bathroom. In the design business for over 25 years, Robin knew exactly what she wanted in a home, and that included lots of French doors opening to the backyard – and of course a fabulous great room. The challenge was how to make the dining area in the great room feel separate from the kitchen. Robin used an unique wood transom

that really helps separate the two spaces and create defined areas for relaxing in the large-scale living space.

The interiors of the home are a lovely white with pops of grey and black, giving it a timeless feel that is perfect for a life lived close to the beach and bay.

“There’s nothing we love more than having our family and friends over to enjoy the wonderful year-round weather here,” said Robin. “This home really is our quiet retreat from our busy schedules. It is calming, serene, and exactly what we envisioned that we’d build, together.” called Modern Geometry; the one that graces the floor of the Malibu home is named ‘aXis’ for its spare, simple pattern. **CH**



The light and airy master bedroom marries coastal driftwood tones with a winning juxtaposition of crisp white furnishings, millwork and rich hardwood floors and beams. The wing chair in the bedroom is from Hickory Chair, available at Witford Home.

A view through the sun-drenched master shows the inviting gardens and pool. Designed to welcome guests year-round, the home includes deluxe guest rooms and space for family and friends to relax and visit.

