

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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WAVE LENGTH

SHADES OF SAND AND SWELLS OF BLUE WASH OVER A LAGUNA BEACH
RESIDENCE INSPIRED BY ITS ENDLESS VIEWS OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

WRITTEN BY **HEATHER L. SCHRECKENGAST** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **KARYN MILLET**

INTERIOR DESIGN Barclay Butera, Barclay Butera Interiors
ARCHITECTURE Christian R. Light, C. J. Light Associates
HOME BUILDER Jim Birmingham, Seacrest Developers, Inc.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Michael Dilley, MDZA Landscape Architecture
BEDROOMS 7 | BATHROOMS 8 | SQUARE FEET 7,700



This page: Interior designer Barclay Butera paired a sofa from his line, Barclay Butera Home, with a Chaddock coffee table in the great room of a Laguna Beach house. *Opposite top:* Cowtan & Tout fabric covers wing chairs in the entry hall. *Opposite bottom:* An Arteriors lamp illuminates the space.



Set on an oceanfront bluff with sweeping panoramas of the Pacific, a coastal residence within the Montage Laguna Beach resort is a source of endless serenity for its homeowners. “It’s an uncluttered community, void of gimmicks,” says interior designer Barclay Butera. Known for his classic beach style—comfortable yet glamorous with a West Coast twist—Butera put his mantra to work here, but with a subtle touch. “Family was the focus and understated luxury was the main theme,” he says.

To accommodate family and friends, the owners desired voluminous spaces suitable for entertaining inside and out. “The husband likes a more Craftsman aesthetic,” says architect Christian R. Light, who, with builder Jim Birmingham, has worked on many homes in Montage. The Craftsman style melds perfectly with the community’s vernacular, but Light also wanted to, as he says, “contemporize the style,” which he accomplished with his pared-down version of battered walls, stacked stone and shingled siding.



To take in the ocean air, architect Christian R. Light opened the great room with pocket doors, which lead to a loggia and expansive patio beyond. Wicker sofas by Summer Classics sport cushions covered with a Perennials fabric.



Pendants by Ironies illuminate the dining area, which Butera furnished with a Chaddock table and chairs from his eponymous Newport Beach showroom. Kravet fabrics bring the ocean hues inside. A coffered beam ceiling with tongue-and-groove paneling and a rusticated limestone wall frame the space.

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Whether viewed from the street or from its ocean side, the home tricks the eye. What appears as a one-story residence is actually a spacious two-level structure. “It has a serious ‘wow’ factor,” Birmingham says. “You don’t realize its sheer size at first.” Light achieved this effect by winding a stairway from the entry on the main level to a light-filled courtyard and lower-level family room.

Inside the home, walls crafted from rusticated limestone complement columned arches framing the cabinetry. All of the molding, trim and baseboards are sleeker, more streamlined versions of their traditional counterparts. “Simplifying doesn’t mean eliminating,” explains Light, who worked with his colleague, Jodie Smith, and designer Melinda Grubbs, a frequent collaborator, on the interior architectural detailing.

The interior’s crisp white millwork sets an inviting tone for Butera’s casual yet refined design. Drawing inspiration from the ocean setting, Butera set out to create “fresh, beach-chic” interiors. To that end, he brought in new and custom-designed pieces from his own furniture line, Barclay Butera Home, and mixed plump upholstered seating with wicker and wood furnishings. “We wanted to keep the materials natural and organic in feel,” he says.

Proportion also played a significant role in Butera’s design. In the main great room, Butera gave the space functional versatility by creating two conversation groups: one that is centered on a plush sofa upholstered in creamy fabric and another that features four low-slung Ralph Lauren Home wicker chairs. A whimsical sailboat model perched atop a console offers a visual separation between the spaces, which the designer finished out with coral, shells and other sea-inspired accessories. In the



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Landscape architect Michael Dilley gave the landscape a tropical feel with succulents, and he added common coastal plantings such as the purple-flowering Pride of Madeira. Palm trees frame the ocean vista in the distance.



Butera appointed the patio, steps down from the loggia, with a row of comfortable Summer Classics wicker chaise lounges and accented them with striped pillows made from a Ralph Lauren Home fabric.

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lower-level family room, Butera provided flexible seating options via two sprawling L-shaped sofas, and he appointed the outdoor spaces with several comfortable lounge areas to encourage group entertaining.

When it came to fabrics, Butera opted for natural textiles in serene hues. “We used very little pattern, and if we did, it was faint and washy, nothing bold or jarring,” he says. Throughout, an ocean-inspired palette of white, sea glass blue and sandy beige tones washes over the home. Shades of indigo pepper the main spaces, upholstering high-back dining chairs and armchairs in the great room, in keeping with the nautical undercurrent.



Limestone flooring flows throughout the master bath, where a fluted column accents the dresser and vanities. Butera crowned the space with lighting from Baker's Thomas Pheasant Collection, and he chose a GP & J Baker fabric for the window shade.

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Accent pillows in a similar rich hue continue the palette outside, where bromeliads and Rhapis palms mingle with fragrant lavender and orange-flowering aloes. "The owners wanted native succulents, lush tropical plants and lots of color," says landscape architect Michael Dilley of the plantings he put in around the entry, courtyard, side, and rear of the home.

Steps down from the patio, a meandering path winds its way to the beach. "One only has to take a short walk along the shoreline," says Butera, "to understand the role the ocean and soft sands of Laguna Beach played in the inspiration of this incredible home." **L**



A floral linen from GP & J Baker adorns the master bedroom, which Butera furnished with a Ralph Lauren Home bed. A rug by Jaipur grounds the space, and sliding glass doors by Pacific Architectural Millwork open to the outside.

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