

# Californian LIVING



**DINING AREA**  
A mix of seating around the wooden table creates a relaxed atmosphere. Burano chairs, CB2. Casey armchairs, Bernhardt. Everly chandelier, Palecek

This new-build beach house has serious West Coast-style credentials and it's all down to interior designer Christine Vroom

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY SARA TRAMP



**KITCHEN**  
'The island is the focal point in the open-plan space. We chose white marble so it doesn't dominate and added a pop of blue in the stools,' says Christine. Brass Precision large pendant lights, LuxDeco. Drake stools, Essentials for Living. Cypress wall sconces, Rejuvenation

## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY**  
A detached beach house

**ROOMS** Kitchen-dining-living area, family room, TV room, office, laundry room, cloakroom, four bedrooms, four bathrooms

**LOCATION** California

‘Bespoke joinery in the office has created a streamlined space with a place for everything’



**OFFICE**  
The tucked away nook makes an ideal study. Beaded chandelier, Plum, is similar. Mimi chair, Regina Andrew

**WHY DID THE CLIENTS CHOOSE THIS HOUSE? WHAT WERE THEY LOOKING FOR?** Hermosa Beach is a small beach town in southern California that is popular with surfers – it has some great restaurants and a lovely community. The clients were looking for a place with ocean views where they could walk a block or two and be at the beach. They found this property while it was still being built and

fell in love with the design and the wonderful, idyllic location.  
**HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT?** I was hired by the developer to design the new-build property, which was replacing a rundown beach shack. The clients became aware of the project as the timber frame was going up. They kept me on to do all the interior decoration and source furniture and furnishings.

**WHAT WAS THE CLIENTS’ BRIEF?** They love to entertain and wanted their home to be beautiful but completely comfortable where they didn’t have any worries about durability. Of course, they wanted to make the most of the gorgeous coastal views so the main living space is on the top floor. The kitchen was a high priority and, as a multipurpose room with a dining area and family seating, it needed to be



**LIVING AREA**  
The dark blue chimney breast creates a focal point, with timber planks a nod to the coastal location. Chimney breast in Benjamin Moore’s Newburyport Blue. Haus chair in Napa Denim, Moss Home. Reclaimed oak plinth coffee table, RH

‘We kept patterns minimal so they don’t overwhelm the space, but they bring character to the new build’



**SONS’ BEDROOM**  
Textured wallpaper has the look of driftwood and the rug has a water-like appearance. Timber Driftwood wallpaper is similar, Andrew Martin. Colton 8318F rug, Feizy



**DAUGHTER’S BEDROOM**  
Texture and pattern in the lighting and furnishings enliven the neutral colours. Try Wriggle lamp with raffia shade, Endon Lighting at Moonlight Design



**BEDROOM**  
Blue wallpaper is a subtle nod to the beach location with darker wood tones for elegance. Seto Mini wallpaper in Delft Blue, Brook Perdigon Textiles. Harbour Cane bed, Serena & Lily



**MAIN EN SUITE**  
A mix of patterned grey tones adds interest to this space. Blomma marble floor tiles; Bardiglio marble wall tiles, both Bedrosians



**MAIN BEDROOM**  
‘The clients wanted a retreat where they could appreciate the ocean view,’ says Christine. Malibu Stoney beaded chandelier, Ro Sham Beaux

completely functional within the limitations of storage space. The island was key – both for entertaining and as the centrepiece of the room. Fortunately, there was still time to integrate new interior design ideas into the project, which I managed with the builder. **WHERE DID YOU FIND INSPIRATION FOR THE DECOR?** The client wasn’t keen on the traditional blue and white coastal aesthetic

so we steered away from the cliché but hung onto the dual colour scheme. To create a contemporary feel we looked at pictures of urban and beachside homes, picking out ideas and having a great time meshing them together. A palette of greys, whites and light wood tones provide the neutral backdrop so as not to clash with the ocean views. The look is modern and a little bit edgy with playful lighting and airy colours grounded with black and dark blue

accents. We’ve kept patterns minimal so they don’t overwhelm the spaces. **WHAT MADE THIS PROJECT SO SUCCESSFUL?** I’m proud of how we’ve given coastal colours a modern take so the house feels relevant with a twist. It was satisfying to take the project through to a full install of the furniture. I popped the champagne before giving my clients the tour – they were delighted. [christinevroominteriors.com](http://christinevroominteriors.com)