

THE HOUSE THAT DREAMS BUILT

A CLASSIC EAST-COAST ESTATE BRINGS A NEW MOOD TO SUNNY LAGUNA BEACH.

Laguna House stands out in a neighborhood of cottage-style beach homes. The stately residence is the fulfillment of a life-long dream to retire on the water, but challenged architects with tricky caveats. The client insisted on traditional east-coast style and finicky regulations from the local homeowners' committee to the California coastal commission presented problems. Then, just when all logistics were taken care of, the lot next door came up for sale, which offered an additional 88 feet of Pacific coastline.

"He bought the lot, which meant we could meet every one of his wishes. All building to that point was destroyed. We redesigned and started again. Fortunately, he had a style in mind, not a layout," says Donna Ballard of BB Architects Inc., who created the home with husband Blair.

The result is an arresting juxtaposition of east-coast style and west-coast living, built by Duane Fitzgerald Corporation. Laguna House is a stoic throwback featuring hammered rustic brick. White window trim accentuate the brick; clear redwood siding in a light tan adds warmth. A slate roof completes the old world feel.



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The 10,000-square-foot house faces the street with a large submerged courtyard. Retaining walls allow the space to meet strict height restrictions and keep the neighbors’ views intact. A pool with cascading waterfall and spa, and fully furnished outdoor kitchen and dining area are cosseted by traditional English gardens and box hedges. Three sets of Loewen doors with Gothic accents lead into the second level dining room for easy indoor/outdoor living.

The interior of Laguna House focuses on the staggering view of the Pacific coastline. Vaulted ceilings in the second level great room, kitchen and dining room are white and open-beamed to allow the sea breeze to linger. White wainscoting adds to the effect. The entire home showcases a gorgeous solid cherry floor; subdued moss green accents play off its hue. Lighting is low voltage and recessed throughout Laguna House to remain unobtrusive. Strip lights bring attention to the vaulted ceilings; step lights on the stairs permit shadow-free safety.



The back of the home revels in its view with floor-to-ceiling windows. Loewen double-glazed windows meet California’s efficiency codes and dampen the sound of crashing waves. Environmental concerns such as glare and salt water are eliminated by Loewen laminate glass and cladding.

They have a personal and hands-on approach. And the clean detailing is beautiful,” says Ballard.

complete this top story. The attached five-car garage, a luxury in the neighborhood, pampers another hobby on the north end of the house.

“Windows are a big budget item on a project like this. There are fewer problems with Loewen windows than with any other window manufacturer, and the Loewen team is always helpful.

Laguna House indulges every vice and virtue. The master suite on the first level offers massive his and her closets and an ocean-view soak in the tub. A bar and wine cellar, billiards and a movie room with drapes and theatre seating complete the first level. An exercise room on the third level provides impetus to work off popcorn. A spacious guest suite and outdoor deck

Ballard agrees the home is large, but says Laguna House is full of character and meets all expectations.

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ABOVE Corner windows bring new inspiration to kitchen tasks. BELOW LEFT French doors escort residents from courtyard to dining room. BELOW RIGHT With its brick components, the dining room eases the transition from outdoor to indoor.

PHOTOGRAPHER Gerry Kopelow
DEALER Window Concepts Inc., Orange County’s Loewen Window Center, Irvine, CA



PRECEDING PAGES A classic facade welcomes visitors and overlooks the courtyard. PRECEDING PAGE, INSET An outdoor deck runs the expanse of the second floor. TOP Vaulted ceilings, clerestory windows and wainscoting brighten the sunroom. ABOVE The kitchen perches above the Pacific Ocean coastline. LEFT A stunning view of the Pacific coastline is enjoyed at the back of the home.



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