

LAGUNA BEACH

HILLSIDE REVIVAL

Natural beauty meets bold color
in a 1920s home along the
California coast



The walls are painted Whisper by Dunn-Edwards. The beach ball art is custom by Michael Paraskevas.



The walls are painted White by Dunn-Edwards. The sofa is vintage McGuire.

WITH SURF AND sand visible from nearly every window of this handsome Spanish Revival-style estate in Laguna Beach, its homeowners couldn't be happier. In fact, they were so hypnotized by the views that nearly 10 years passed before they realized they hadn't paid much attention to its interiors. They were still living with the furnishings that the previous owners had included in the sale of the house. So they called interior designer

Christopher Kennedy to help make the beauty inside equal that of its breathtaking exterior. Kennedy crafted a fresh, carefree plan, one that would involve refinishing and repurposing the passed-down pieces before introducing them to a shiny new cast of modern, eclectic finds. "I wanted everything to feel fun, young, and well-layered," says Kennedy, "but it all had to be very easy to maintain, too." Here's how color and creativity gave this home its second act.

1

Optimize the view.

With a plum location on a bluff, emphasizing the ocean views was a high priority. Kennedy created a sitting room in front of a large picture window; a pair of casement windows flanks the glass and sends in the sea breeze. Custom turquoise cushions and other blue accents repeat the water hues.

2

Upsize your artwork.

Kennedy commissioned local artist Terry Gottsch to create an oversize watercolor painting for the foyer, awash in the Pacific's watery blue hues, to serve as a reminder of what is most important in the home: its connection to the beach. A striped, vintage 1970s David Hicks textile transforms the off-the-shelf West Elm daybed into a one-of-a-kind piece.

3

Become a master of illusion.

To give the impression of extra space in this small guest bedroom, the designer painted the existing nightstand in a shade of turquoise just one shade lighter than the color he used on the walls. As a result, the tiny table blends into the background, lending an airy feel to the room. ▶



The blue patterned pillows are by Celerie Kemble for Schumacher. Above: The walls are painted Polished Aqua by Dunn-Edwards.

4

Highlight architectural elements.

Kennedy created a clever stand-in for a traditional headboard by painting the panels above this guest bed a darker shade of blue than the rest of the wall. “The paneling was existing, so creating the two-tone wall was our way of putting a fresh spin on the older architectural elements,” says Kennedy. Nautical sconces keep the bedside lighting plan simple.



5

Use white for contrast.

The home's Mediterranean-influenced architecture creates a striking backdrop for vivid natural color. The sun-loving geraniums, hot pink bougainvillea, and rust-colored brick flooring pop against the bright white facade and a parade of arched doorways and windows. ■ For more information, see Sources, page 102.



The exterior is painted Whisper, and the guest room wall (opposite) is painted two shades of blue—By the Bayou and Blue Moon—all by Dunn-Edwards.

