



essential #1
**CABANA
STRIPES**

Whether they evoke shady poolside lounges, chic nautical fashion, or big, soft towels, stripes are far and away the beachiest pattern out there. "For a modern spin on the classic motif, try railroading the fabric—running the stripes horizontally," says Tim.



style spotlight
**modern
casual**

CALIFORNIA DESIGNER TIM CLARKE SHARES
10 ESSENTIALS FOR OUTFITTING A BEACH
HOUSE WITH A FRESH, LAID-BACK LOOK

The raised beach deck yields sweeping ocean views over the Carpinteria shore's boulders. ■ SHOP THE LOOK: Loungers, Sutherland

PRODUCER MOLLY PASTOR WRITER STEELE THOMAS MARCOUX PHOTOGRAPHER DAVID TSAY



essential #2
**BEACH
 BUNGALOW
 DETAILS**

Classic bungalow elements like planked ceilings and board-and-batten siding help establish an easy come, easy go vibe reminiscent of super-casual surf shacks dotting the California coast. "In this house, the architectural details are really modern interpretations—thanks to their larger scale—of typical coastal cottage details," says Tim.

WE LOVE ... a smart, simple plan. The living spaces occupy an open, central pavilion flanked by the bedroom wings. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Siding in Rubidoux (32-32), Pratt & Lambert

essential #3
**A LITTLE
 BOHEMIAN
 FLAIR**

Let accessories relax your space. Incorporate a few cheeky island finds, like this umbrella on the front porch. With its batik-style print and fringe trim, it sets a "don't worry, be happy" tone for the house at its entrance. "It's just like a tropical cocktail that comes with a paper umbrella," Tim says. "It instantly transports me to a faraway island with no troubles whatsoever!"

WE LOVE ... this twist on classic woven furniture. It's not only sculptural and modern, but also super comfortable and lightweight for easy rearranging. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Furniture, JANUS et Cie



At some point, we've all fantasized about what it would be like to live on the Southern California coast. Just imagine: We'd wake up every day with a sunny disposition and a carefree outlook—not to mention a year-round tan. Our waterfront homes would be effortlessly stylish, full of soothing colors and casual comforts. In his clients' Carpinteria house, Santa Monica designer Tim Clarke takes all these dreamy elements and eliminates the kitsch to create interiors that show off California's cool side. His relaxed but refined approach mixes sleek and bold with organic and soft, earning him a reputation as the guru of modern bohemian style. Here, Tim shares 10 essentials for getting a seriously stylish but never fussy look.



ABOUT THE HOUSE

STYLE: California beach bungalow through and through, from the board-and-batten siding outside to the chilled-out vibe inside

SPACE: about 5,000 square feet, including five bedrooms, six baths, an open living room and dining area, and two porches

SETTING: Carpinteria, a small, charming beach town just south of Santa Barbara on the Pacific Coast Highway

VIEW: Sunning seals on the beach from one side of the house and the Santa Ynez Mountains on the other



essential #4
**SUPER-SOFT
 SLIPCOVERS**

Nothing says coastal casual like the untailored look and feel of linen slipcovers. They're less formal and lower maintenance than tightly upholstered pieces. For the living room sectional, where everyone (including the dogs) hangs out after long afternoons at the beach, Tim chose a chocolate brown slipcover. "The dark color hides everything—plus the whole thing can be washed!" he says. For the chair, he had a slipcover made using the "wrong" side of the striped fabric for a more faded, muted look.

WE LOVE ... one or two overscale pieces, like the extra-long sectional, to keep the vibe casual and inviting. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK**
 Shaker sofa fabric in Peat, Rogers & Goffigon



VINE IN EBONY,
 SCHUMACHER,
 FSCHUMACHER.COM



essential #5
**BAREFOOT-
 FRIENDLY
 FLOORS**

Tim installed French oak flooring throughout the home. "The wide-plank wood feels so good on bare feet," he says. "It's like having a boardwalk in the house." A simple wax finish protects the surface from sand and allows subtle imperfections to show through. Tim left several areas, such as the kitchen and dining room, rug-free to keep the mood low-key and summery and make cleanup a breeze.

FABRIC: DAVID HILLEGAS

essential #6
STATEMENT-MAKING LIGHTING

A sleek, 36-inch capiz shell orb creates a focal point in the airy dining room and casts warm, inviting light over the table—and identifies the house to passersby on the beach. "I always imagine my clients inviting friends over by telling them their house is the one with the giant glowing globe," says Tim. "Every house needs an icon."



PAIR AN
 UPHOLSTERED
 BENCH WITH WICKER
 CHAIRS TO KEEP
 THE MOOD CASUAL

"The wide-plank wood floors feel so good on bare feet. It's almost like having a boardwalk in the house" —Tim Clarke



AMIJAO IN SEA, RAOUL TEXTILES; RAOUL TEXTILES.COM

SHOP TALK
TOWER 20
 We've been obsessed with Tim's shop for years. For furnishings, accessories, and design services—including custom furniture—check out Tower 20 in Santa Monica; 310/452-8374 or timclarkedesign.com.



THIS BEADED CURTAIN ADDS JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF CALIFORNIA SURFER ATTITUDE



FABRIC: DAVID HILLEGAS

essential #7
GALLONS OF WHITE PAINT
 The first thing Tim did to this house was paint all the walls and ceilings white. "I wanted to make the background light to keep the focus on the stunning views," he says. All-white walls are vital for creating seamless transitions in open floor plans. Plus they show off patterned prints, bold accessories, and great artwork particularly well—just picture an art gallery and you get the idea. All White (2005) by Farrow & Ball is Tim's go-to shade.

essential #8
BOLD SPLASHES OF COLOR
 To keep the mood cheerful, try beachy-bright hues you might otherwise eschew, like citrusy orange or hot pink. "My clients wanted their beach house to be fun, modern, and not so serious, so we chose bolder colors than they have in their year-round house," says Tim. Just a splash of the unexpected here and there—such as the orange ottoman and throw pillows in the chocolate-and-cream living room (page 86)—is a great way to introduce some brightness without going overboard.
WE LOVE ... bean bag chairs, an affordable accent that's versatile and ideal for lounging with a book after a day at the beach.
SHOP THE LOOK: Bean bags, Pottery Barn Kids



essential #10
LARGE-SCALE PATTERN

One of Tim's tricks for getting a modern but warm look is to take classic motifs and interpret them in a fresh way. For example, in the master bedroom, a hand-blocked fabric dresses the windows. "The damask print gives the space that traditional warmth, but the large scale of the repeat adds a contemporary twist," says Tim. It works especially well here because it's among the few patterns in the room. "One big print with some oomph goes a long way," he says.

WE LOVE ... wraparound windows, especially when they surround a master bedroom sitting nook and open to a seaside garden. 🌿
 Sources: page 130

REGELLO IN BAY
 ON SOFT BLUE,
 LE GRACIEUX;
 LEGRACIEUX.COM



FABRIC: DAVID HILLEGAS

"The damask print gives the space that traditional warmth. One big print with some oomph goes a long way" —Tim Clarke



essential #9
SOMETHING WOVEN

The organic nature of woven accents lends a hint of rustic charm to even the most modern of spaces and keeps things casual by bringing beachy texture indoors. The master bedroom's headboard bears rope detailing that references sailing motifs. "It's nautical without being kitschy," says Tim.

WE LOVE ... that serene, restful vibe. When it comes to tranquil spaces, nothing tops a sun-drenched blue-and-white bedroom with an ocean view.