

DINING ROOM

The owners wanted an airy space but with plenty of seating for a crowd.

Party-size table The 13-foot-long tabletop is made of wood from an old bowling lane. It seats 14 in chairs that feature classic Eames fiberglass shells on wire-and-walnut bases.

■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Chairs, Modernica

Recycled Furnishings

A wire-basket chandelier lined with linen is the perfect informal touch.



beach-chic

just in time

The challenge: Whip a family's Malibu beach retreat into shape. The catch? Designer Sasha Emerson had to finish the job in four short weeks

THE SITE OF THE ONE-MONTH MAKEOVER



ABOUT THE HOUSE

STYLE 1990 Mediterranean-modern house with breezy interiors full of color and comfort

SPACE 4,000 square feet, with four bedrooms, four and a half baths, and big water-view decks on each of its three main levels

SETTING A quiet stretch of Malibu, off the main coastal highway but right on the beach

VIEW The ever-changing Pacific Ocean and the distant outline of Catalina Island

SEE SASHA'S DESIGN PERSONALITY! PAGE 88



BUILT-INS ON ONE LIVING ROOM WALL REACH 12 FEET HIGH

LIVING ROOM

Like the rest of the rooms, this one was already painted white—"a refreshing backdrop for a summer house," Sasha says. Part of the open first floor, the living room shared high ceilings, sand-colored stone floors, and ocean views with the kitchen and dining spaces, but it lacked a welcoming personality.

Mediterranean Palette

Pulling together emerald green, rich turquoise, and deep marine blue, Sasha worked from the bottom up, beginning with a pair of woven cotton rugs, each with a different pattern. She placed one in front of a large stone fireplace and a smaller one against the wall to create two conversation areas. Corresponding custom sofas were finished in just days. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Madeline Weinrib rugs, ABC Carpet & Home

Cozy Seating Arrangements

The smaller sofa (a seven-footer) invites intimate talks; the larger (twice that size) pairs with a round, ocean-blue tiled coffee table to accommodate bigger groups. Linen-wrapped poufs make for extra, movable seating.

■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Coffee table, Plain Air

Old Finds, New Uses

Wood lamps and a wire-and-linen chandelier cast soft light on the space. Shelves lining the wall hold vintage fishing floats that evoke the sea, audible through wide-flung doors.

■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Green glass floats, Big Daddy's Antiques



THIS MOUNTED MOROCCAN RUG FRAGMENT CAME WITH THE HOUSE

On the brink of summer, a Los Angeles couple with three teenagers bought a weekend house in Malibu. Though smack on the ocean, with room to spare for gangs of friends, it needed a serious style upgrade. Built in 1990, it came crammed with faux antiques, and its airy spaces were monochromatic, impersonal, and too austere for this young, energetic family. But with summer around the corner, there was no time for a major overhaul. Then, in a made-for-Hollywood moment, the homeowners placed a bid at a school auction on the services of interior designer Sasha Emerson. Sasha installed a casual, cheerful look on a super-fast deadline. Four weeks, one big online and local shopping blitz, and a few custom orders later, the house was fully outfitted for beach season—kids' quarters on the third floor; master suite on the second; and open living, lounging, and dining areas on the first. Here, Sasha shares her secrets for getting a bold but comfy beach-chic look in a flash.

LIVING ROOM DECK

One of the home's best features, ample decks offer private outdoor space on every floor. "The joy of living here is having all doors open and being outside," the owner says. Sasha chose patterned outdoor fabrics to re-cover the cushions on the existing teak furniture, while garden designer Eric Gomez refreshed a slew of ready pots and planters with succulents and other coast-tolerant ornamentals in aqueous blues and sunset pinks. A twice-weekly hose-down keeps the plants thriving year-round despite the salt-laden air.



CHECK OUT THIS DREAMY WORKSPACE—IT'S GOOD-LOOKING, SUPER ORGANIZED, AND FACES THE OCEAN!

MASTER BEDROOM

The owners call their bedroom "our sanctuary" because of its vaulted ceiling, wood-burning fireplace, and shimmering sea view. Only a few steps down from the children's floor, it's private and cozy, a feeling enhanced by its rich textures and quiet hues.

Relaxing Retreat To relate the space to the rest of the house but instill a tranquil tone, Sasha mixed in a few pops of turquoise moderated by calming, warm sandy and brown hues. The tempered palette, plus sumptuous textures like a sheepskin rug and linen-upholstered bed, create a restful vibe. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Rug, isheepskins

Savvy Shopping Meeting the time crunch head-on, Sasha divided her shopping efforts between online sources—keeping an eye on shipping schedules—and local stores that delivered. Again, her starting point was two simply patterned rugs, which sparked a series of associative choices: brown-and-turquoise floral bark-cloth curtains (quickly constructed by a seamstress) and turquoise bedside lamps she snagged at a swap meet. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Curtain fabric, F&S Fabrics

Shipspace Workspace Sasha made functional but pretty storage space by lining a pair of glass-front French bookcases with cheerful wallpaper. The clean lines of a Parsons-style desk topped with organizing trays lend a tidy vibe, while turquoise desk accessories connect the nook to the rest of the bedroom. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Wallpaper, Walnut Wallpaper

"We played up the prettiness of the house's airy, open spaces with beachy colors found right outside" —designer Sasha Emerson





SASHA'S FAVORITE SOURCE FOR MODERN BUNK BEDS: WEEGO HOME

BOYS' ROOM

Sasha designed the twins' room as an upscale bunkhouse, with one word in mind: "indestructible."

Modern Bunk Beds

Cantilevered frames and a compact design make these bunks a sculptural update on the classic. The lacquered wood finish makes them extra durable, too, to hold up under a stream of sleepover guests.

Sea of Stripes When she couldn't find a rug to fit the space, Sasha had two smaller nautical-striped rugs sewn together. Bedding with modified stripe motifs completes the picture of camp-style coastal quarters.

■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Rugs, Dash & Albert Rugs. Bedding, Area

GIRL'S ROOM

With specific tastes and a feel for fashion, the owners' teenage daughter wanted a room done in crisp white, soft turquoise, and red.

Splurge/Save Spending

Sasha paid a premium for the bed, custom-built in a flash and upholstered in white Ultrasuede. But she paired it with reasonably priced retail flourishes, such as the graphic rug and white-lacquered dresser.

■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Rug, Jonathan Adler. Dresser, West Elm

Hot Reds, Cool Blues The bright red floral pattern used for the pillows led to an equally bold custom lamp shade and other accessories. Cool blue accents temper all the hot red. ■ **SHOP THE LOOK:** Lamp, Serena & Lily



IN AN ALL-WHITE ROOM, SAVE BRIGHT POPS OF COLOR FOR SMALL-SCALE ACCESSORIES

sasha's secrets to a speedy redo

1 Think through all your needs, from linens and beach towels to accessories and art, and make a giant list of what *must* be done versus what you *want* to get done. Then prioritize, keeping in mind what you already have and what can be reinvented with paint, a new slipcover, or a pillow or two.

2 Stick to your style. Once you've decided on a look—quirky, formal,

traditional, relaxed, etc.—don't stray from it while shopping. Remember that the Internet is your friend, but check delivery schedules to make sure you'll get what you need fast.

3 Plan your layout. Knowing your room's measurements and having a furniture arrangement in mind will keep you on track as you choose your pieces.

4 Don't shop room by room. Instead, blitz stores like HomeGoods or Ross, which have liberal return policies, to find items for the whole house. Shop at night, when there are fewer crowds, and bring a friend (with a pickup!) to help.

5 Consider custom furniture. Domestic manufacturers often can ship custom frames in less than four weeks.

GET SASHA'S LOOK

FRESH, FEARLESS, AND A LOT OF FUN, HER BEACH HOUSE STYLE IS WEST COAST MODERN IN SHADES OF SEA GLASS

My style: A bit theatrical, essentially modern, and utterly tied to the natural world. To me, design is like a big puzzle to be solved with the right balance of color, comfort, and whimsy.

I can't live without:

Home-cooked meals, vintage ceramics, gentle ambient lighting, flea markets, the colors turquoise and eggplant, and textiles by designers such as Anna Sui and Marc Jacobs

What I love about the coast:

The sound of the surf, the smell of salt air, and the endless variety and dreamy quality of the light



Large Textured Vase, \$450; 828/275-8279 or elementclaystudio.com



Turquoise Riva Rug, \$325 (3½ by 5½ feet), Madeline Weinrib; abchome.com

"WIRE BASKETS MAKE GREAT STORAGE SOLUTIONS. I USE THEM FOR FIREWOOD"



Round Metal Basket, \$19; 800/320-9757 or wisteria.com



Slipcovered Ottoman (C2525-00), \$700; 800/892-7150 or leeindustries.com for retailers

Decorators White; benjaminmoore.com



Mischa Half Crackle Lamp, \$262; 877/441-9222 or cottageandbungalow.com

Rope in Sardis, and Tumbleweed in Antibes, \$118/yard; 718/834-1752 or hableconstruction.com

"OUTDOOR FABRICS IN MODERN PRINTS BEAUTIFY EVEN THE SIMPLEST WOOD FURNITURE"



Green Bentwood Chair, \$150; 866/755-9079 or conranusa.com



Jax Glasses, \$1.95 each; 800/967-6696 or crateandbarrel.com



Otto Black Matte 5-piece Place Setting, \$122; 323/653-8278 or tableartonline.com.



Tile-Top Nesting Tables in Cool Palette, \$935; 213/380-3185 or plainair.com



PHOTOGRAPH: LISA ROMERIN; LAMP: COTTAGE & BUNGALOW; FABRIC: DAVID HILLEGAS; CHAIR: COURTESY OF CONRAN USA; BASKET: COURTESY OF WISTERIA; OTTOMAN: COURTESY OF LEE INDUSTRIES; OTHER PRODUCTS: TED TUCKER



OPEN SHELVES ARE INEXPENSIVE AND QUICK TO INSTALL, PLUS THEY FIT RIGHT IN WITH CASUAL BEACH LIVING

KITCHEN

Stainless appliances, oak cabinets, open shelves, and French limestone counters all came with the house, so Sasha's main job in the kitchen was clutter control—editing knickknacks, clearing out chipped dishes, and stocking the cabinets with one stop at a Crate & Barrel sale. Her biggest addition was a pair of butcher block-topped islands that add prep area and define the amorphous space. Recycled metal bases, once work tables in a garage, provide extra storage and, thanks to casters Sasha attached, lend freewheeling flexibility to the room. Sources: page 120