

Location: Del Mar, California
 Interior Design: David Michael Miller Associates
 Architect: Batter Kay Associates
 Builder: Wardell Builders
 Photography: Werner Segarra

To the OCEAN

WHITE WITH FOAM...

When an Arizona-based family ventured over to the west coast, they had only one thing in mind: RELAXation.

An oceanfront property that for nearly three quarters of a century held a modest clapboard beach shack, patched with countless additions over the years, was about to become the Holy Grail of their real estate hunt. With no thanks to Mother Nature for her all too frequent rants, the original cottage barely still stood — held together by its weathered and beaten boards — begging for a new beginning.

And who better to convert this recently-acquired gem of a property into the quintessential beach home than interior designer **David Michael Miller**?

With the homeowners being repeat clients for nearly two decades, **Miller** had a clear understanding of this close-knit family's dynamics in terms of aesthetics and function. As a large extended group who enjoyed all outdoor activities, including surfing and sailing, they decided to split the distance between their respective primary residences, which were north and east of Southern California, and settle in the quaint seaside village of Del Mar to build the ideal retreat for family and friends.

Enlisted from the get-go were the local talents of husband and wife team **Batter Kay Associates**, who are known for their simple Bauhaus approach. "Within a vocabulary that is modern yet classic, **Batter Kay** creates spectacular spaces that are luminous with light and radiant with a sense of energy." In keeping with the crisp, clean and ever-so-tailored atmosphere that **David Miller** is known for, this became a match made in heaven.

With builder **Terry Wardell** of **Wardell Builders** at the helm — a respected contractor who is as seasoned as any professional on the Pacific — the journey began.

*Written by Michele Perillo
 Photography by Werner Segarra*

An unobstructed oceanfront view was made possible through the use of Vitrocsa™ sliding glass panes. With a 3/4" ultra thin profile, the patented Vitrocsa Invisible Wall system features the world's slimmest sight lines.

As David Miller comments, "I have a profound appreciation for technology within the home, especially when it is beautiful. Visually, this product helped expand the rooms, bringing the interior to the exterior. It is a remarkable melding of beauty, engineering, and quality."



The casualness of these well-lived interiors with their chic, beachy vibe brings an instant sense of calm as you enter the home. By design, the furnishings are all upholstered in natural fibers, and have bleached wood frames. The accessories and art are notably free-formed and organic in nature.

Cocktail table and sandblasted fir chairs are from Christian Liaigre; pillow textiles are from Galbraith & Paul. All available through Trade Professionals at John Brooks. The floor lamp is from Gregorius I Pineo; chair fabric is from Rogers & Goffigon.

pting for a rather modestly sized home, which would remain true to its original footprint and pay homage to the site, the homeowners embraced **Batter Kay** and **David Miller** in their joint suggestion that a two-story configuration would provide the greatest advantage to optimize space while allowing the ocean itself to back-drop the interior. In the end, the high ceilings, sliding glass doors, and floating master loft provide a dramatic lightness to the structure, without defining or confining the space by its walls.

One of the most unique architectural elements of the home is the material use itself. Formed on-site, old school style, poured concrete boards were used to clad nearly the entire interior and exterior of the home. As concrete is made up of three basic components: water, aggregate (rock, sand, or gravel), and cement, the natural patina of the finished product was the perfect choice for the time-aged, casual, yet durable and modern appearance they desired.

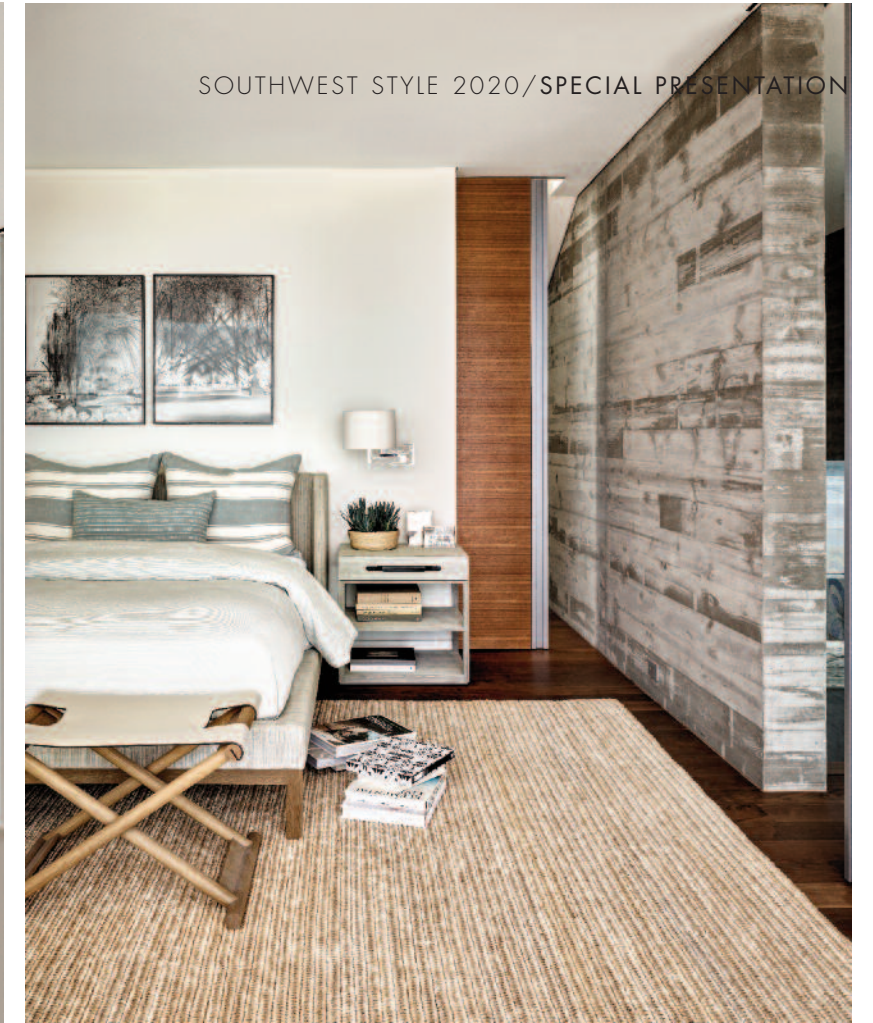
(Shown right) A **bulthaup** kitchen, with its ergonomically designed components, lends itself beautifully to the overall aesthetics. Beyond the beauty of its custom walnut face, the precisely engineered functionality works flawlessly right down to the finest kitchen detail.



Working with art curator **Lisa Sette** of **Lisa Sette Gallery**, **David Miller** selected a soulful collection of artwork, in varying mediums, which are displayed throughout the home. (Right)
Damion Berger - *Le Fiac II, Jardin des Tuileries*, 2009, pigment ink print

Creative about capturing space where others see none, **David Miller** worked hand-in-hand with **Batter Kay** to make the most of the 1,940 sq ft residence. Here, the master suite, which is situated high above the surf and sand, has clear story railings that seem to disappear into the sea. At night, retractable screens with one-way viewing provide privacy and reprieve — making this the perfect quiet getaway.

Textured rugs, linens, and leather play well against the smooth creamy walls finished in **Farrow & Ball's Skimming Stone 241** — a stony off-white plaster color. With its warm, light gray undertones, it provides a dreamy backdrop for the sun, sand, and surf palette that **David Miller** has incorporated throughout this entire resort-style home. Platform bed from **Christian Liaigre**, bed linens from **C & C Milano**, both at **John Brooks** through **Trade Professionals**.



At the completion of each project, when all is said and done, what seems to have mattered most to **David Michael Miller** over his three decades of designing private residences throughout the country is this: "To have created environments which all at once are familiar but new, give comfort but intrigue, are beautiful but invite — and always deliver a timelessness that never grows old."

Led by **David Miller**, his studio strives to create interiors that are rich, unique, and understated. **David's** consistent avoidance of design trend extremes, and his desire to maximize the greatest potential of each new project, makes his work a timeless distillation of style.

For **David**, the ideal ingredients of authentic and relevant interior design can be characterized by: a fusion with the interior's architectural context, a relationship to geographic/cultural influences, as well as the client's own lifestyle and color sensibilities. A careful blend of these elements provides for an original, personal, and thoughtful design aesthetic. Ultimately, it is this designed environment in which the client will live, and for that reason, the interiors should reflect the client's own identity.

The artful creation of these unique and original living environments, for all of its clients, is the mission of **David Michael Miller Associates**.



PHOTO: BRAD REED

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Providing durability both indoors and out, the scored and etched concrete floors add an instant aged patina to complement the hand-poured concrete board texture. (Shown below) A built-in self-draining track within the door rest offers a brilliant and much-needed solution to assist the sea wall during storms or high tide.

CREDITS: Interior Design: David Michael Miller Associates; Architecture: Batter Kay Associates; Builder: Wardell Builders; Windows and doors: Vitrocsa™ Invisible Wall Systems; Cabinetry: bulthaup Scottsdale, Robert Moric; Bath, kitchen, and bar fixtures: Clyde Hardware; Door hardware: San Diego Hardware; (Shown above) Lighting is from Alison Berger through Trade Professionals at John Brooks; Outdoor furniture is James Perse, Los Angeles.