

STREAMING LIGHT

PAUL MCCLEAN'S ARCHITECTURE, MICHAEL FULLEN'S INTERIOR DESIGN AND
JAKE WINKLE'S CONSTRUCTION MAKE THE MOST OF A COVETED OCEAN VIEW

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The great room sectional and swivel chairs are from A. Rudin; the console is by Minotti. The cocktail table is a Michael Fullen Design Group custom design manufactured by J. Alexander. The custom ottoman is upholstered in Hunt Leather. The area rug is by Jaipur. A walnut dining table by Knowton Brothers from Thomas Lavin has a playful base consisting of interlocking squares. The leather-covered chairs were custom made.

RIGHT Counter stools in the great room are by J. Alexander in Los Angeles.

BELOW Solid planes in a pale sand-hue palette create a private approach for the front façade, belied by the fact that most of the house is comprised of glass walls.

OPPOSITE A glass bridge, a signature feature of McClean's architecture, leads to a sheltered courtyard where ocean views can be appreciated out of the breeze. It also streams light to the basement below. Five vertical windows break up the solid expanse of the garage and enhance the openness of the basement courtyard.



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RANGE COUNTY'S SPARKLING ocean views are its real estate gold—a limited resource of natural beauty made even more precious by its scarcity. Ultimately, such properties must hold one design goal above all others: Maximize the ocean views. It was with that goal in mind that Michele and Michael Hanlon retained architect Paul McClean to design their new empty-nest home in one of the county's gated communities.

"It was essentially a tight suburban lot with neighbors on both sides," says McClean, an Ireland native who has developed a reputation as an alchemist of enhancing ocean views and streaming light into difficult, dark spaces since opening his firm in California in 2000. "By opening up the middle of the house with a courtyard, creating a sheltered environment from the breezes, we could essentially control the views and borrow the view to the ocean," explains the go-to architect for many A-list celebs.

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RIGHT A pair of guest rooms in the basement are accented by a water feature accessed by a stepping-pad bridge. Even here, the separation between indoors and outdoors is porous.

Squeezing the complicated floor plan, comprised of both a main floor and basement, into a narrow, sloped building site was no simple feat. Builder Jake Winkle rose to the challenge with both a careful excavation and the manipulation of multiple materials including a variety of stones, porcelain tiles, brick, plaster and wood.

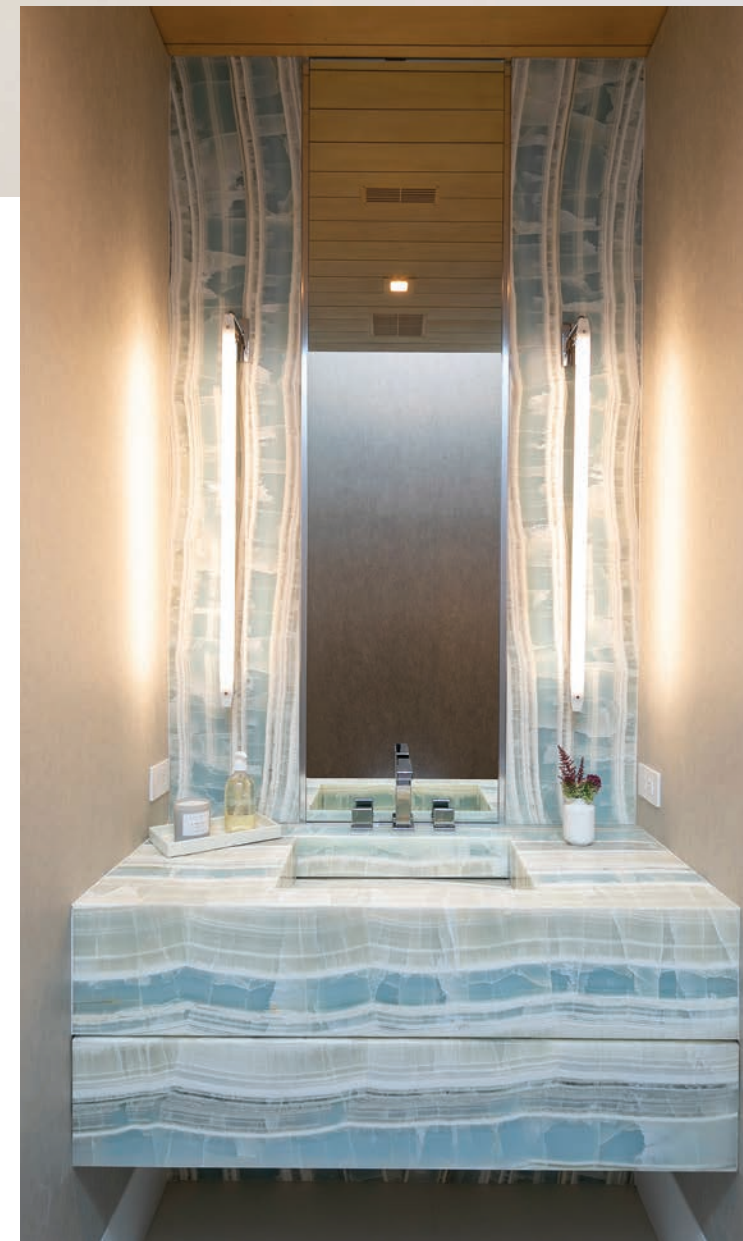
The idea of the interior courtyard is one of McClean's signatures, and it's the result of years of visiting ocean properties with clients. "People wanted to look at the ocean, but they always wanted to get away from the breeze as soon as possible." So his sheltered courtyard isn't just a pleasant space to spend time, it's a solution to a problem, as the best architecture always is.

Sharing his vision was interior designer Michael Fullen. "The home appears much smaller in scale from the street. But once you enter the gate, you are visually awakened by the openness of the design. Large expanses of glass on all sides of the home, and courtyards on both levels, allow you to see through the home and into the expansive ocean view beyond," Fullen expounds.



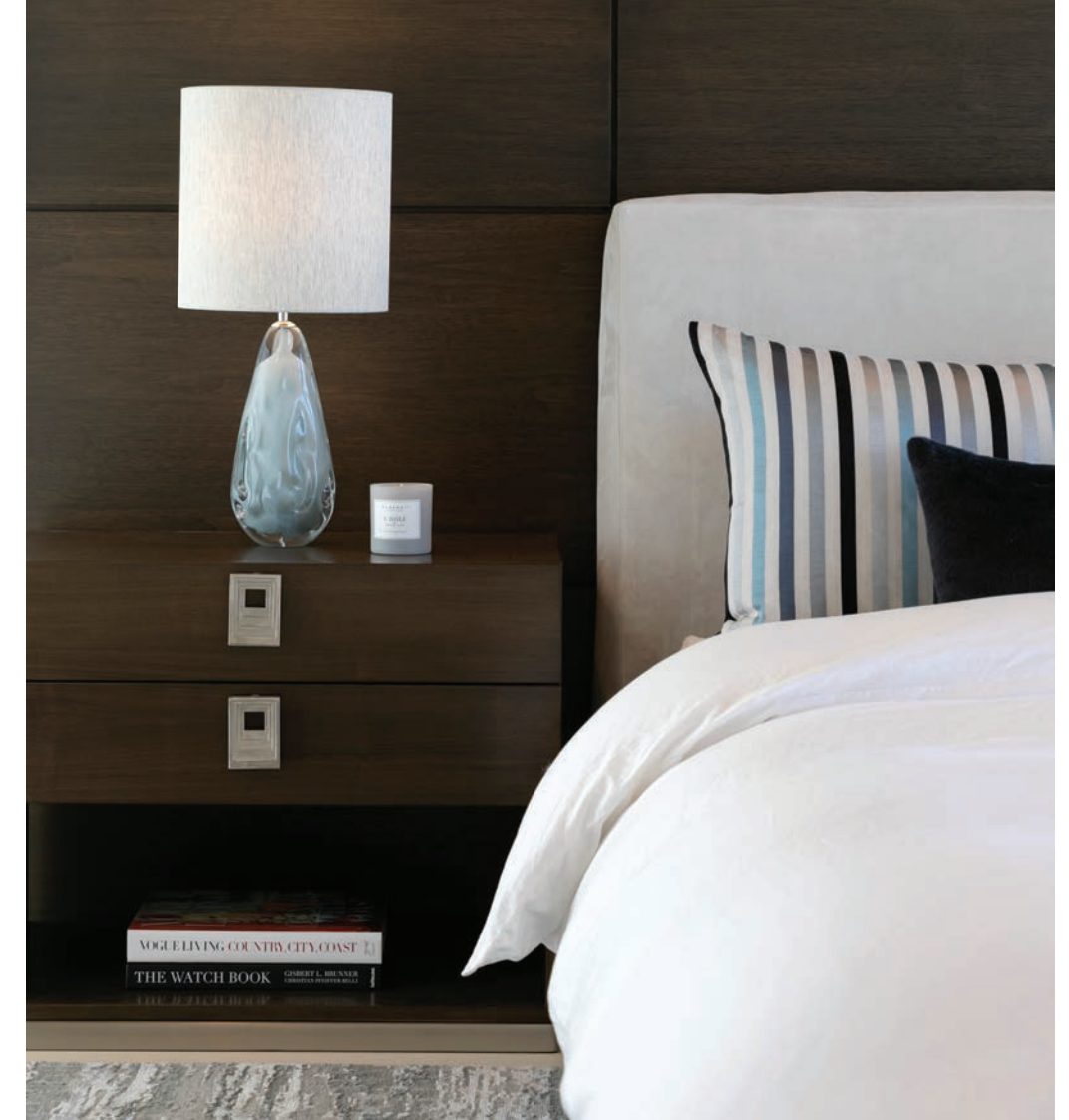
BELOW LEFT The baths all have skylights that bring in additional light. Light materials enhance the openness. Floating cabinets streamline the design. The free-standing tub is from Wetstyle. The shower stone is a vein-cut travertine and the wall above the vanity is textured limestone.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM LEFT The powder room vanity is a blue vein-cut onyx.



"We worked with a calm neutral palette on the main level and bold pushes of color on the lower level. We chose this direction on the main level to let the view play the key role. The interior recedes and becomes a part of the dramatic architecture and view beyond," he explains. Furnishings like the dining table, though large, are streamlined to allow the eye to soar to the ocean glistening outside.

In the basement, spaces open to an inner courtyard for stargazing that's completely surrounded by a water feature. The water connects two guest rooms—essential for visits from the couple's grown daughters—via stepping pads. "Considering this lower level was primarily a large entertaining area, we played with bold colors like orange and blue," says Fullen. For McClean, the need to push light into the basement posed the design's greatest challenge. The open courtyard, which unzips with glass panel doors, and the light-reflecting water feature lightened up the spaces to belie their basement location.



ABOVE/LEFT The master suite's bed is upholstered in a light color of suede that blends with the textured wall, which includes a minimalistic fireplace. The nightstand is custom. The lamp is from Porta Romano.

But the light-shedding piece de resistance arguably is the glass bridge that runs along the main floor, streaming light downstairs. "We like bridges because they change your perception. When you cross a bridge, it causes you to stop, look and absorb what you're seeing," McClean explains.

Ultimately, however, the clients were less interested in a showpiece than a home that felt livable. "They wanted a design that would truly be a home—warm, livable, inviting and friendly," Fullen concludes. **CH**