









LAGUNA BEACH | \$19,995,000

39 SMITHCLIFFS ROAD

Inspired by classic sea villas along the Mediterranean Riviera, this finely appointed estate presents uncommon privacy with stunning views of the Lagunacoastline through Monterey Pines and manicured grounds. Sited on a prime oceanfront parcel in desirable Smithcliffs, the home graciously accommodates both family living and large scale entertaining within the ingenious five bedroom, five and a half bathrooms, 6,500 square foot plan. The Provence-style gatehouse of stone and wrought iron provides entry into a central palm courtyard with limestone fireplace and spa/water feature. The home immediately opens to the ocean upon entering the soaring rotunda foyer. Library, great room, formal dining, gourmet country kitchen, outdoor spaces and pool lounge area flow seamlessly while capitalizing superlative views from every vantage point. An exquisite master retreat on upper level has private oceanfront terrace, luxurious bath and dream closet. Guest casita with private courtyard entry, fireplace and spa bath. Master craftsmanship and layers of fine materials are articulated throughout including quartzite, Beaumaniere limestone, marble, glazed cabinetry, French doors, eight artisan fireplaces, picture windows, and honed wood beam ceilings. Truly a breathtaking living experience in convenient North Laguna Beach.



THE STANALAND GROUP









DANA POINT | \$14,995,000

I OCEANFRONT LANE

With Tuscan farmhouse styling, this romantic estate offers the perfect seaside retreat. Designed by esteemed architect Stan Schrofer, the home spans over 8,000 square feet and is only steps to the breaking waves of Strand Beach. The time worn travertine floors in French pattern, distressed wood beams, wrought iron circular staircase, stone walls, limestone fireplaces, arched openings and hand hewn cabinetry give a pure authenticity to the timeless European appeal. The home offers an exquisite master retreat plus three en suite bedrooms, two powder rooms, theater, and connoisseur's tasting room with 4,200 bottle climate-controlled wine cellar. Retracting sliding doors open the home to stone terraces, views and sea breezes. Stunning coastline and Catalina views are the backdrop while lounging by the pool and spa. The family kitchen provides a perfect environment for the gourmet with six burner Wolf range, stone pizza oven, large island and ocean view breakfast nook. Convenient subterranean parking and elevator, 24 hour security and gated entrance, private clubhouse on the sand – this home has it all.



JOHN STANALAND

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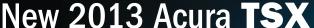
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the HOME & DESIGN ISSUE

48. TREASURED SPACES

From secret wine cellars to high-tech dance floors, these one-of-a-kind Laguna Beach rooms uniquely reflect owners' passions and creativity.

By Peter A. Balaskas

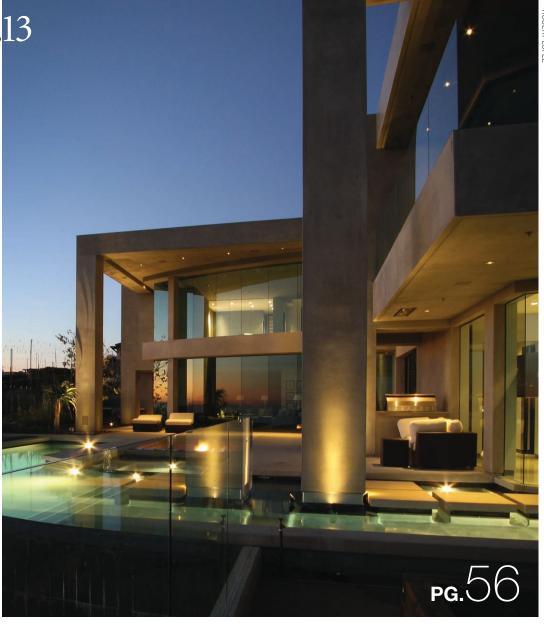
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Advanced technology plays an important role in many of Laguna Beach's cutting-edge homes.

By Peter A. Balaskas

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A Firebrand Media editor believes we should be doing more to promote STEM education.



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PHOTOGRAPHER: CHAD MELLON





















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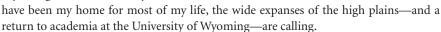


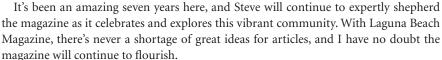
A NEW ADVENTURE

I JOINED FIREBRAND MEDIA IN 2006, SHORTLY AFTER STEVE ZEPEZAUER STARTED the then-small company. A few months later, we were launching Laguna Beach Magazine. I had never been part of a magazine launch before, and it was an exciting time. We hit the streets, literally, talking to community members and taking photos. I have loved every issue since—40 to be exact—uncovering new layers of Laguna and meeting interesting, talented and passionate people.

Over the years, Laguna Beach Magazine grew from four issues a year to eight, won two Western Publishing Association Maggie Awards for Best City Magazine and continued to capture this multifaceted town in new ways with compelling writing, outstanding photography and beautiful design. Of all the magazines I've worked on and helped launch, Laguna remained my baby. We've traveled the world together, said goodbye to a great friend-founding editor Moira C. Reeve-and had many wonderful experiences and interesting discoveries.

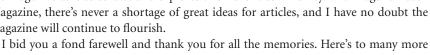
It's hard to leave something you love, but as I write this letter, I am packing for my next grand adventure: a move to Wyoming. While the sandy shores of Southern California





great tales!

Sincerely, Micaela Myers



CELEBRATING 40 ISSUES







Founding editor Moira C. Reeve, founder and CEO Steve Zepezauer and Micaela Myers in 2007

LAFAYETTE 148 **NEW YORK**

Laguna Beach

If you could have one high-tech home feature, what would it be?

system that

programs your

own playlist to

fit any occasion

a deluxe closet

that allows for

me to plan outfits

virtually. Also, it

would sort, store

and deliver the

pieces, so I don't

have to bother

with searching and

rehanging clothes."

EXECUTIVE PUBLISHER & FOUNDER Steve Zepezauer

EDITORIAL & DESIGN

CREATIVE DIRECTOR Sonia Chung



"I think having

heated floors

and walls in the

hathroom would

be awesome.

I despise that

terrible cold

feeling after I get

out of a nice, hot shower!" SEN OR EDITORS Linda Domingo All son Hata Alli Tong

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Tess Evrich

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ART DIRECTORS Stephanie Castro Paul Graff Jenn Prewitt

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later, the meal

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that actually

exists would be

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instructions

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calendarofevents

ART | ACTIVITIES | ENTERTAINMENT

SEPTEMBER



LAGUNA DANCE FESTIVAL SEPT. 5 - 8. LAGUNA PLAYHOUSE

Watch as Parsons Dance leaps, contorts and dances across the stage to David Parson's "Caught," featuring a series of 100 leaps in six minutes, on Sept. 5 and 6. Then on Sept. 7 and 8, catch the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet glide throughout a performance packed with elegant energy. (949-715-5578; lagunadancefestival.org)

FNTFRTAINMENT

LAGUNA BEACH LIVE!

AUG. 28 AND SEPT. 12, LAGUNA BEACH

Join Grammy-nominated jazz musician Anthony Wilson for an unforgettable live performance at Hotel Laguna's Rose Garden. Then on Sept. 12, enjoy the melodies of solo mandolin virtuoso Evan J. Marshall. (949-715-9713; lagunabeachlive.org)

"ANYTHING GOES"

SEPT. 24 - 29, SEGERSTROM CENTER FOR THE ARTS, COSTA MESA

Don't miss the chance to see this winner of three 2011 Tony Awards, as the traveling cast of Cole Porter's "Anything Goes" takes over the Segerstrom stage. (714-556-2787; scfta.org)

"FALLEN ANGELS"

OCT. 8 - NOV. 3. LAGUNA PLAYHOUSE

The powerful comedy "Fallen Angels" offers a

glimpse into the lives of two women who are best friends and have shared everything—including a Frenchman named Maurice. (949-497-2787; lagunaplayhouse.com)

UPCOMING CONCERTS

ONGOING, THE COACH HOUSE, SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

Steve Tyrell, jazz, 8 p.m. Aug. 23; Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, contemporary swing revival, 8 p.m. Aug. 24; Nicki Bluhm and the Gramblers, country, 8 p.m. Aug. 29; Marshall Tucker Band, rock/country, 8 p.m. Aug. 30; Funniest Housewives of Orange County, comedy, 8 p.m. Aug. 31; John Hiatt, new wave/blues/country, 8 p.m. Sept. 4; An Evening with Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra, Latin, 8 p.m. Sept. 5; Tab Benoit, blues, 8 p.m. Sept. 6; Dramarama, alternative rock, 8 p.m. Sept. 7; Great White featuring Jack Russell, blues-rock, 8 p.m. Sept. 20; The Blasters, roots rock, 8 p.m. Sept. 21; Michael Tomlinson, singer-songwriter

guitarist, 7 p.m. Sept. 22; Strunz & Farah, guitarists, 7 p.m. Sept. 29; Marc Cohn, folk rock, 8 p.m. Oct. 5; The Winery Dogs, rock, 7 p.m. Oct. 6. (949-496-8930; thecoachhouse.com)

ACTIVITIES

LAGUNA BEACH BOOKS PRESENTS SEAN MESHORER

AUG. 25, THE OLD POTTERY PLACE, LAGUNA BEACH

Join spiritual teacher, New Thought minister and author of "The Bliss Experiment" Sean Meshorer as he discusses his recently released book. (949-494-4779; lagunabeachbooks.com)

FESTIVAL RUNWAY FASHION

AUG. 31. FESTIVAL OF ARTS GROUNDS. LAGUNA BEACH

Fine art meets high fashion at this fifth annual competition-style show. Watch as a panel of judges chooses the winner who best blends upcycling with couture. (949-494-1145; foapom.com)

FOUR-DAY OUTDOORS EXCURSION WITH LA VIDA LAGUNA

OCT. 16 - 20 AND OCT 30 - NOV. 3, HUNTINGTON BEACH TO SAN CLEMENTE

Outdoors enthusiasts need not travel far to experience an exotic adventure through one of the country's most beautiful coastlines and ecosystems. Explore Orange County's magnificent coastline with La Vida Laguna's fourday cosmic encounter with nature, complete with active travel, luxury lodging and healthy, organic meals. This guided, all-inclusive sports adventure takes participants on a leisurely 35-mile journey from Huntington Beach to San Clemente via kayaking, standup paddleboarding and biking, with stops for surfing and yoga. En route, travelers stay at three- and four-star hotels and indulge in first-class cuisine by La Vida Laguna's gourmet catering division. Not to mention, participants will experience the bounty of Southern California's dramatic coves, tidepools and wildlife while building strength and endurance. (949-275-754; lavidalaguna.com)





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PACIFIC COAST TRIATHLON

SEPT. 8. CRYSTAL COVE STATE PARK. LAGUNA BEACH

Swim, bike and run your way through Crystal Cove State Park and El Moro Canyon at the 16th annual Pacific Coast Triathlon. (949-701-5590; octriseries.com)

SURF WITH A LEGEND

SEPT. 13 - 15, MONTAGE LAGUNA BEACH

Catch a wave at the second annual Surf With a Legend program. The retreat includes stay at the Montage Laguna Beach and events with surf legends Pat O'Connell, Jon Rose and Carissa Moore. (montagelagunabeach.com)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SOLAR DECATHLON

OCT. 3 - 6 AND 10 - 13, ORANGE COUNTY GREAT PARK, IRVINE

Twenty sustainably minded collegiate teams will reveal to the public for the first time their entries into the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon. (866-829-3829; ocgp.org)

CHARITY EVENTS

SPLASH BACK TO LAGUNA BEACH SEPT. 28, FESTIVAL OF ARTS GROUNDS, LAGUNA BEACH

Orange County AIDS Services Foundation presents its annual gala at the Festival of Arts grounds with a fundraiser that's guaranteed to make a splash. (949-809-5700; ocasf.org)

MARINE MAMMAL CABARET SEPT. 29, ALISO CREEK INN & GOLF COURSE RESORT, LAGUNA BEACH

Support the Pacific Marine Mammal Center and its ongoing efforts to help keep Orange County marine life happy and healthy while enjoying a whimsical evening out. (949-494-3050; pacificmmc.org)

CRYSTAL COVE ALLIANCE'S "WISH YOU WERE HERE!" GALA

SEPT. 28; THE RESORT AT PELICAN HILL, NEWPORT COAST

The gala will showcase recent updates to Crystal Cove State Park and its Historic District alongside an elegant four-course meal. (949-376-6200; crystalcovealliance.org)

ART

"EX-POSE: BEATRIZ DA COSTA" THROUGH SEPT. 29: LAGUNA ART MUSEUM

Laguna Art Museum showcases the contemporary works of artist Beatriz da Costa, who died in 2012 at age 38 after battling breast cancer. (949-494-8971; lagunaartmuseum.org)

"FAUX REAL"

THROUGH SEPT. 29: LAGUNA ART MUSEUM

The "Faux Real" exhibition brings together a collection of works by contemporary artists who mimic reality with a playful and often humorous twist. (949-494-8971; lagunaartmuseum.org)

"FRANK CUPRIEN: PACIFIC VIEWS, 1914-1938"

THROUGH SEPT. 29: LAGUNA ART MUSEUM

The mezzanine area of the Laguna Art Museum proudly shows the plein air artwork of a founding member of the Laguna Beach Art Association, Frank Cuprien. (949-494-8971; lagunaartmuseum.org)

"JOHN MASON: BLUE WALL" THROUGH OCT. 13: LAGUNA ART MUSEUM

"Blue Wall," an abstract expressionism blue ceramic sculpture measuring 7 feet by 21 feet and 8 inches deep, is on loan from artist John Mason for a limited time to the Laguna Beach art-seeking public. (949-494-8971; lagunaartmuseum.org)

Last Chance: Laguna Beach's legendary summer arts festivals all end by Sept. 1, so if you haven't gone yet, make sure to do so soon—or you'll have to wait until next year! LBM



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LIVE! AT THE MUSEUM, SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH. LAGUNA ART MUSEUM (949-494-8971; LAGUNAARTMUSEUM.ORG); FOOD AND WINE CLASSES, LAGUNA CULINARY ARTS (949-494-0745; LAGUNACULINARYARTS.COM): SAWDUST STUDIO ART CLASSES, FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS. SAWDUST ART FESTIVAL GROUNDS (949-494-3030: SAWDUSTARTFESTIVAL.ORG): MONTHLY WINE TASTING PARTY, FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, LAGUNA CANYON WINERY (949-715-9463: LAGUNACANYONWINERY.COM); ZERO TRASH – ADOPT YOUR STREET AND BEACH, FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, VARIOUS LOCATIONS (ZEROTRASH.ORG/LAGUNA): SATURDAY AFTERNOON TASTING ROOM, LAGUNA CULINARY ARTS (949-494-0745: LAGUNACULINARYARTS. COM); FIRST THURSDAYS ART WALK (FIRSTTHURSDAYSARTWALK. COM); FREE YOGA IN THE PARK, MONDAY - THURSDAY, TREASURE ISLAND PARK (949-494-9928: YOGAINTHEPARK.BLOGSPOT.COM); LAGUNA BEACH FARMERS MARKET. SATURDAYS, FOREST AVENUE AND LAGUNA CANYON ROAD; LAGUNA LAUGHTER YOGA, DAILY. MAIN BEACH (LYINSTITUTE.ORG); DIMESTORIES, SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, LAGUNA CULINARY ARTS (DIMESTORIES.ORG); NATURE HIKES, LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION (949-497-8324; LAGUNACANYON.ORG)





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UP FRONT | AROUND TOWN

PLACES | PERSPECTIVES | HAPPENINGS



Maxwell Borella (left) and Derek Ostensen (second from left) are overseeing the reconstruction of Big Bend.

REUITALIZING THE CANYON

This summer, the Laguna Canyon Foundation celebrated the completion of the first stage of a five-year plan to reintegrate native vegetation into scenic Big Bend's landscape. The venture, a partnership between the Laguna Canyon Foundation and the Orange County Transportation Authority, will restore an otherwise forgotten piece of property that many consider representative of the entrance to the city. "This property has been a degraded lot for years. ... Big Bend has been identified by biologists as one of the most critical wildlife connection points in the South Coast Wilderness system of parks and preserves," Derek Ostensen, president of the Laguna Canyon Foundation, explains of the initiative. Further construction throughout the year will introduce a walking loop, benches, more than 25 species of indigenous flora and 20-year-old oak trees to the area's 3.5 acres of creek and coastal park. Adding to the beauty of the revitalized land, the indigenous plants selected will attract a variety of birds and insects after a two-year maturation period. Derek comments, "I think the public will be enthused to see the plethora of native butterflies, hummingbirds and mammals that will come to occupy the site over time." —L.M.

09:38:42

After nine hours, 38 minutes and 42 seconds, a team of six swimmers between the ages of 50 and 59 called "As Seen on TV" completed a 21-mile trek across the channel that stretches from San Pedro to Catalina Island. They were so fast they beat the time set by the 30 - 39 age group.

LETTING SKIN BREATHE

As fall approaches, Southern California complexions may be in need of a pickme-up after long days spent beneath a hot, damaging sun. For a treatment that yields noticeable results almost instantly, try the Intraceuticals Facial or the Ageless Oxygen Facial at The St. Regis Monarch Beach's five-star Spa Gaucin. The two treatments favorites of celebrities including Victoria Beckham and Eva Longoriaaim to replenish and rehydrate skin using pure essential oxygen, and are recommended in series of six for optimal results. To kick off the process, aestheticians thoroughly cleans and exfoliate skin, priming it for infusions of rejuvenating serums and gels that brighten and firm, as well as reduce the appearances of fine lines and wrinkles. A thin application of nourishing cream to protect and defend skin against environmental toxins completes the routine, resulting in a youthful, radiant visage. (949-234-3367; spagaucin.com) —A.T.



Intraceuticals products found at Spa Gaucin



MAKING THE CUT

The men of Laguna Beach just may have a new favorite haunt. Local residents recently celebrated the opening of The Den Barber Shop and Shave Parlor, a self-described "classic gentlemen's barber shop" that began receiving clients in July. Operated by veteran barber Brandon Ferguson, the 700-square-foot outpost hearkens to vintage shops of the 1960s, offering straight razor shaves, beard trims, and cuts with clippers and shears. Despite its retro feel, the shop features a number of contemporary amenities, including a flat-screen television, a stereo system, a fireplace and plush leather seating. Well-stocked supplies of men's magazines, sports memorabilia, coffee and beer add to the ambience, and Brandon plans to enhance the space by converting the building's second story into an upper lounge. (949-715-7923)

BOWLS FOR THE HOMELESS

The fifth annual World Hunger Bowl will be held at Mozambique restaurant in Laguna Beach on Nov. 6. The event, which commemorates the end of Laguna's interpretation of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, will benefit the Collaborative Courts Foundation, whose homeless outreach program funds transitional housing, emergency medical care, medication and bus passes for clients, among other services. Initiated five years ago by Chairwoman Faye Chapman, who previously served on Laguna's Housing and Human Services Committee, World Hunger Bowl will feature a silent auction of bowls that have been handcrafted and decorated by local artisans. A live performance by musician Jamie Browning and restaurant tastings will complement the evening's festivities, which are slated to last from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Prior to the event, the bowls will be on view through the month of October in the lobby of the Laguna Gallery of Contemporary Art. (949-280-2885; worldhungerbowl.org) —J.C.



The fifth annual World Hunger Bowl will feature an auction of colorful bowls decorated by local artisans.

The students in Steve Sogo's advanced chemical research class at Laguna Beach High School have made breakthroughs developing a synthetic anti-venom to treat deadly snakebites; their findings have been featured in Chemistry World magazine and the Royal Society of Chemistry's journal, Chemical Communications.

UP FRONT | AROUND TOWN

PLACES | PERSPECTIVES | HAPPENINGS



Land artist Jim Denevan will showcase his singular technique at Laguna Art Museum's Art & Nature event.

NATURAL BEAUTY

Laguna Art Museum's first annual Art & Nature event will take place Nov. 7 - 10 at several venues around the city, including Laguna Art Museum, Heisler Park and Main Beach. By showcasing the talents of award-winning local and international artists, the event will celebrate the power and influence of art in Laguna, with the goal of inspiring ideas, raising awareness and bringing unique perspectives to the table. "The theme of Art & Nature speaks particularly to the identity of Laguna Beach, which for over 100 years has been a center for art, the appreciation of nature and environmental awareness," Marni Farmer, director of communications at Laguna Beach Art Museum, says. On July 16, the Laguna Beach City Council selected as the event's centerpiece exhibitor distinguished land artist Jim Denevan, who uses materials such as sand and soil to create drawings in natural landscapes. Featured in National Geographic and The New York Times, California-born Jim will bring his singular technique to Main Beach for the hotly anticipated oceanfront demonstration. "We're very excited to have this internationally renowned artist as a major contributor to the event," says Laguna Art Museum Executive Director Dr. Malcolm Warner. "We're delighted that the Laguna Beach City Council approved the project so wholeheartedly." (949-494-8971; lagunaartmuseum.org/artandnature) —K.L.



Laguna Beach resident Skip Hellewell released his latest book, "Loving

Laguna: A Local's Guide to Laguna Beach," July 1. Skip endeavored to compile a guide that encompasses his many discoveries about Laguna Beach, and to explain the history behind some iconic local landmarks



to residents and visitors alike. Skip comments of his experience in Laguna, "We tend to know [only] fragments of our town." His book represents an effort to build on that fragmented knowledge by dispersing information that he has collected since the 1970s, when he settled in Laguna Niguel with his wife. "[I collected] newspaper articles and kept a file, and became progressively more interested in the stories as I found them," Skip explains. Readers can dive into Laguna's history through reading the tome, which covers topics ranging from architecture to the myriad Hollywood stars that have walked Laguna's streets. To help Laguna residents explore the terrain of their own backyard, Skip also has penned detailed descriptions of the best local hiking routes and scenic locations that offer ample sightseeing. (lovinglaguna.com) — J.C.





PRECIOUS GEMS

In July, Newport Beach-based jeweler Lugano Diamonds celebrated its partnership with Montage Laguna Beach by opening a second location, simply called the Salon, within the luxury resort's grounds. Unique selections of exclusive designs, delicately crafted to perfection, will now be available at both of the jeweler's coastal outposts. "We're delighted to partner once again with Lugano Diamonds, a company whose values are so closely aligned with those of Montage," Montage Laguna Beach General Manager Todd Orlich says. "We are proud to work with an organization whose ongoing focus is to deliver a superior product, an exceptional guest experience and an unwavering commitment to the local community." Since the company's founding in 2005, Lugano Diamonds has expanded substantially, and now offers an overwhelming array of the world's rarest stones. Exclusive to its Montage Laguna Beach location, Lugano Diamonds will offer the "Something Borrowed" program, which allows brides to borrow exquisite gems for on-site wedding ceremonies. (866-584-2666; luganodiamonds.com) LBM

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Not pictured: Alex Gerrard, colorist

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Morrison
— HAIR—

COMMUNITY

"ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE" AT THE SUSI Q GALLERY

1 Tom and Jean Wilson, Brian Manning, Judy Teverbaugh, Margo Stuart 2 Lindsay Tognetti, John Keith, Mike Beanan, Patsee Ober 3 Artists and attendees of the exhibition 4 Susi Q Executive Director Nadia Babayi, Johanna Felder, Loren Harris-Heller









The Laguna Bluebelt Coalition and the Susi Q Senior Center joined together July 31 in debuting "Another Day in Paradise," a collection of scenic photographs captured by the winners of the Second Annual Bluebelt Photo Contest. Guests of the event—aptly held at the Susi Q Gallery—enjoyed a selection of wine and seafood appetizers as well as raffles, one of which included the prize of a glass sea star designed by local artist John Barber. Many of the artists featured in the exhibition attended the soiree in support of their pieces, which celebrate the remarkable beauty of Laguna's coastal landscape, tidepools and underwater environments. Nadia Babayi, executive director of the Susie Q Senior Center, said of her organization's instrumental role in the evening: "We appreciate the work of the Bluebelt Coalition in protecting [and] restoring the marine life and look forward to continuing our partnership." The exhibition will remain on view at the Susi Q Gallery through Sept. 6. —T.E.

LAGUNA DANCE FESTIVAL BRINGS COLOR, ENERGY

1 Beatrice Hui and Stefanie Maughan 2 L-R from front row: Debbie Naude, Desmond Richardson, Karen Wilson, Kathy Conway, Robbie Prepas, Edie Tonkon, Nancy Meyer, Renee Weiss, Christine Rhoades, Joy Dittberner, Bryan Holmes 3 Shawn Yard and Jodie Gates 4 Glorya Kaufman and Jodie Gates





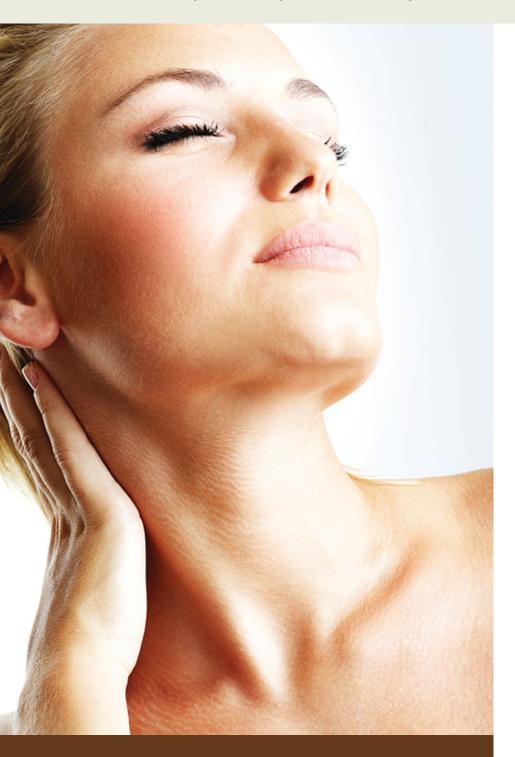




The Laguna Dance Festival continues to inspire, entertain and engage, as its annual fundraising event, "Visual Immersion," drew 185 guests. Ardent dance fans gathered at the elegant seven-degrees venue on June 20 for an evening of celebration, which honored Desmond Richardson, a renowned choreographer and dancer, as well as one of the festival's longtime partners. As guests entered the venue, they were welcomed with Champagne before a gourmet buffet-style dinner. Afterward, a vibrant performance by professional dancers entertained guests as large video screens displayed colorful images of dancers' movements to music—a truly "visual immersion" into the art of dance. Additionally, dancers performed pop-up movement pieces around the venue, which created a more intimate, interactive environment between dancers and guests. Laguna Dance Festival's fall offerings, which will be held at The Laguna Playhouse, include Parsons Dance (Sept. 5 - 6 at 7:30 p.m.) and Aspen Santa Fe Ballet (Sept. 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Sept. 8 at 2 p.m.) —A.T. LBM

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CHEESEBURGERS IN PARADISE

From fast-casual to gourmet burgers, Laguna's restaurants offer several savory options for this all-American favorite.

By Beth Fhaner | Photos by Edgar Obrand



Umami Burger's signature Truffle Burger includes house truffle cheese and truffle glaze.

CRAVING A JUICY, MOUTHWATERING BURGER with all the fixings? Since National Cheeseburger Day is Sept. 18, we toured some of the best places in town to find delectable burgers. Whether you have a hearty appetite for a giant burger loaded with multiple toppings or desire something a bit on the lighter side, Laguna's eateries will certainly satiate your hunger and please your palate. "Cheeseburgers in paradise," indeed.

DRIVE-IN DELICIOUSNESS

Locals and visitors alike agree that some of the best cheeseburgers in town can be found at Husky Boy Burgers along Coast Highway in north Laguna. Established in 1951, this classic drive-in style burger joint is home of the famous Husky Burger—a cheeseburger topped with pastrami and loaded with lettuce, tomato, onion and Thousand Island dressing on a sesame seed bun. Other tempting choices include a Baja cheeseburger—with Ortega chili—and Swiss mushroom burger. For diners seeking healthier options, garden, turkey and lean buffalo meat burgers are also on the menu, in addition to Kobe beef. Husky Boy uses 100 percent trans-fat-free oils, and any burger can be double- or triple-sized. Finish your meal with a frothy root beer float or milkshake. (949-497-9605; huskyboyburgers.com)

STELLAR SIGNATURE BURGER

Beef burger fans are in for a real treat at Lumberyard, where you can indulge in a premium, half-pound certified Angus chuck cheeseburger with cheddar, tomato, lettuce and onion on a toasted egg bun. Additional fixings include avocado, bacon, bleu cheese or caramelized onions. Or opt for the Signature Lumberyard Burger with bleu and Swiss cheeses, caramelized onions, bacon and mushroom chips. When paired with French fries, sweet potato fries, or coleslaw, Lumberyard's juicy and flavorful burgers make for a perfect meal. As owner Cary Redfearn explains, "We buy excellent



The Lumberyard Burger is topped with two cheeses.

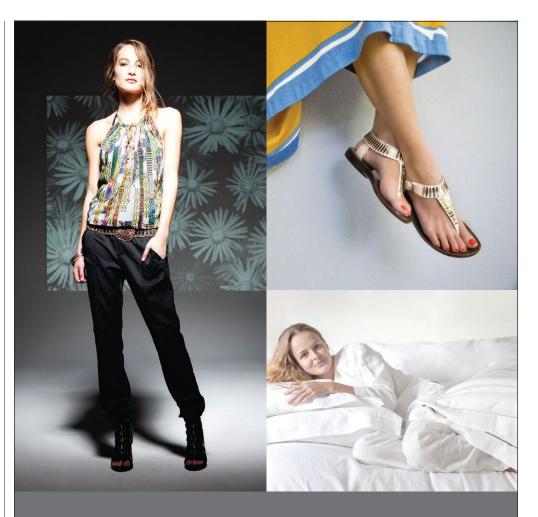
quality, certified Angus chuck beef and grill it as ordered, then put it on a good bun that's especially baked for us. It's as simple as that. We don't need to complicate things." (949-715-3900; lblumberyard.com)

A BURGER BONANZA

At the casual, laid-back Hennessey's Tavern, customers have an extensive selection of burgers to choose from. Two top choices include gourmet burgers such as The Dublin Burger, which is topped with Irish cheddar, applewood smoked bacon, lettuce, tomato and the restaurant's signature sauce, and the Mustang Burger with jack cheese, barbecue sauce and an onion ring. Other favorites include a mushroom burger, bleu cheese bacon burger and Hawaiian burger.

Additionally, the Moo Cluck Oink! burger comes with a fried egg, crispy bacon and cheddar cheese. For those seeking healthier fare, turkey, veggie and Earth burgers are also available. Like the veggie burger, the Earth burger features a meatless patty and includes Swiss cheese, spinach, avocado, pineapple and tomato. Don't miss Two Timin' Tuesdays, where patrons can get two burgers for the price of one.

"I like to order the burger sampler [made up of four mini-burgers with cheese, mushrooms, avocado and barbecue sauce with bacon] when I need a burger fix," Hilary White, a frequent visitor to Laguna, says of her preference. "It's delicious, offers a variety of toppings, and is the perfect size for smaller appetites." (949-494-2743; hennesseystavern.com/laguna_beach.html)



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UP FRONT | WINE & DINE

PLACES | PERSPECTIVES | HAPPENINGS



Rock'n Fish's blue cheese bacon burger arrives on a grilled French roll with carmelized onions and garlic aioli.



The Maro burger features a grass-fed beef patty, aged Vermont cheddar and Nueske applewood smoked bacon.

ORIGINAL CREATIONS

Patrons of Umami Burger can indulge in sophisticated fare based on the Japanese concept of umami, the savory "fifth taste." Good bets include the Truffle Burger (roasted garlic aioli, house truffle cheese, truffle glaze), the B.U.B. (twin smushed patties, bacon, beer-cheddar, minced onions, pickles, mustard, house ketchup and served with a middle bun), and the Original (Parmesan crisp, shiitake mushroom, roasted tomato, caramelized onions and house ketchup). Additionally, any burger can be served in the truly decadent Poutine Style, which translates to bun-less over fries with house gravy. Non-beef burger choices include a triple pork burger, an ahi tuna burger, The Greenbird (turkey), the Earth burger (a mushroom and edamame patty), and a lemon miso crab melt. Though there are no substitutions regarding the burgers, new burger creations are always being concocted for the "Feeling Special?" menu. (949-342-1210; umami.com)

MORE GREAT CHEESEBURGERS

230 FOREST AVENUE (949-494-2545: 230forestavenue.com) BJ'S PIZZA AND GRILL (949-494-3802; bjsrestaurants.com) THE CLIFF RESTAURANT (949-494-1956; thecliffrestaurant.com) THE DECK ON LAGUNA BEACH (949-494-6700; deckonlaguna.com)

GREETER'S CORNER (949-494-0361;

thegreeterscorner.com)

HOUSE OF BIG FISH & ICE COLD BEER (949-715-4500; houseofbigfish.com)

JOHNNY ROCKETS (949-497-7252; johnnyrockets.com)

MOZAMBIQUE (949-715-7777; mozambiqueoc.com)

NICK'S LAGUNA BEACH (949-376-8595; nickslaguna.com)

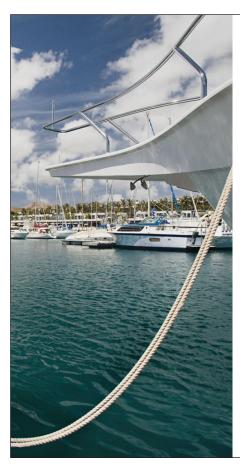
RUBY'S DINER (949-497-7829; rubys.com) TOMMY BAHAMA LAGUNA BEACH BAR & GRILL (949-376-6886; tommybahama.com)

BEACH-VIEW, GOURMET BURGERS

Guests can enjoy a gourmet burger while overlooking the Pacific at Rock'n Fish in the heart of downtown Laguna. Choose an oak-grilled Angus burger topped with crisp lettuce, tomato, red onion and pickle on a sesame seed bun. Or try an oak-grilled blue cheese bacon burger topped with Nueske bacon, Shaft's blue cheese and caramelized onions on a grilled French roll with baby lettuce, tomato and garlic aioli. A choice of one side item, including French fries, sweet potato fries, coleslaw or spicy macaroni and cheese, complements the burgers. (949-497-3113; rocknfishlb.com)

SUSTAINABLE, GRASS-FED BEEF

Argentinean-influenced Maro Wood Grill offers its customers a thoughtful, sustainable farm-totable experience. Diners can feast on the Maro burger, an 8-ounce grass-fed ground beef patty accompanied by aged Vermont cheddar, Nueske applewood smoked bacon, organic lettuce and tomatoes, and house-made pickled onions and garlic aioli on an artisan potato bun. "Our burger is made with locally sourced, grass-fed beef from Paso Robles and prepared with artisan, organic and house-made items," Executive Chef Debra Sims says. "The combination of the local beef, the natural wood fire and hand-picked organic ingredients truly make this one burger not to miss." (949-793-4044; marowoodgrill.com). LBМ



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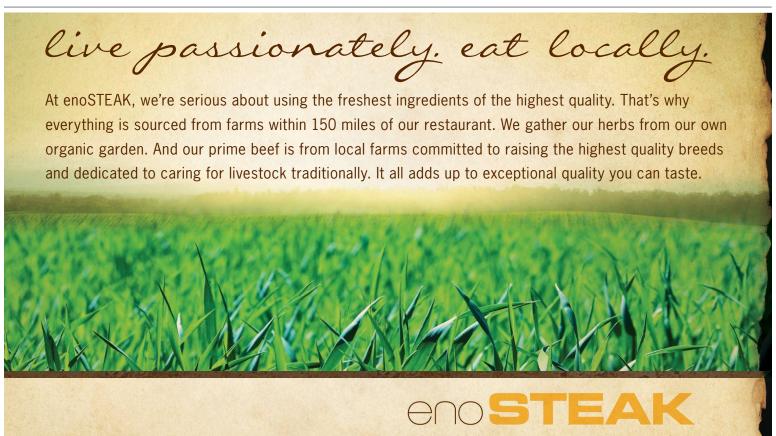
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UP FRONT | ACTIVE

PLACES I PERSPECTIVES I HAPPENINGS



A SET ABOVE THE REST

Ty Loomis is using his AVP status to illuminate a path to global awareness and education.

By Ashley Breeding

BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE IS A COMMON ASPIRATION AMONG YOUNG BOYS—"YOU WATCH them on TV, and they're surrounded by pretty girls, screaming fans and beer," Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP) player and local Ty Loomis (half) jokes. "It doesn't get any better than that."

After 12 years of touring in the AVP, Ty is using his stardom to educate, engage and empower others about various issues affecting the world today. In August, Ty plans to travel to the Middle East with three fellow pros to entertain U.S. troops and teach them to play volleyball.

We caught up with Ty before he departed to see if he could give us a few fitness pointers. We're certain this 6-foot-3-inch athlete no doubt still has pretty girls and screaming fans at his side, too.

Laguna Beach Magazine: What is your favorite thing about volleyball?

Ty Loomis: I've become cultured through my travels and experiences—that's the biggest thing. You get to learn a lot about different places and, ultimately, yourself. Volleyball is also a sport where fans get super close to you, and that's awesome.

LBM: What are your favorite local beach volleyball courts?

TL: I play at Main Beach and at Emerald Bay. It's great to play with and get to know the local community.

LBM: What's your greatest AVP highlight?

TL: I've got two: The Pan Am Games in 2007 in Rio de Janeiro, where my partner [Hans Stolfus] and I played two guys who had won the '04 Olympics on their home beach in front of their 7,500 fans, who were booing us. We lost, but still took the silver medal. It was our Super Bowl moment.

Also, in 2009, I won my first AVP tournament with Casey Patterson. It was Fourth of July on Coney Island, it was live on NBC and it was the grand slam of prize money.

LBM: How did you keep the booing from getting in your head and ruining your game?

TL: Oh, we just gave it right back to them. It just fuels us more.

LBM: What advice can you serve up to new-comers to volleyball as well as players who want to advance their skills?

TL: Just get out there and play, play, play. Also, get on YouTube and watch AVP and FIVB [Federation Internationale de Volleyball] footage—it's great inspiration that has helped me a lot.

LBM: What does it take to stay in top performance shape?

TL: I circuit train at the gym, work out on the beach—sprints, fast feet and running against a resistance band—and do some yoga every day. I'll also do things at home, like foam roll while I watch the basketball game. And I stick to a healthy, whole foods diet and take raw vegan supplements. It's the stuff your body really needs.

LBM: When you're not in the sand, where can we find you?

TL: My other big dream is to be an Internet entrepreneur. These days, my focus is shifting to my site [intellectualrevolution.tv], an intellectual discovery website. This might be my last year in the AVP, but I'll always play volleyball.







IN THE BAG

Volleyball pro Ty Loomis serves up his top picks for a day in the sand and under the sun.

By Karlee Prazak

When setting up for a day at the beach playing volleyball, besides the inevitable court in the sand, there are a few additional essentials that will keep you spiking harder and digging lower during any beach-time bout. LBM

WILSON OFFICIAL AVP GAME VOLLEYBALL

at Dick's Sporting Goods, Newport Beach (949-640-1107; dickssportinggoods.com)

SUNTEGRITY SUNSCREEN at Roots the Beauty Underground, Laguna Beach (949-424-4266; roots-beauty.com)



QUIKSILVER FOUR-WAY STRETCH BOARDSHORTS ("The loudest colors," Ty recommends) at Quiksilver, Laguna Beach (949-376-0245; quiksilver.com)



OAKLEY

OAKLEY SUNGLASSES ("The

stylish versus the athletic styles," Ty

says) at the Oakley O Store, Irvine (949-788-0255; Oakley.com)





Lisa McDennon has brought her design creativity into homes from Laguna Beach to Thailand.

SAVVY STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Interior designer Lisa McDennon showcases chic space-saving designs.

By Somer Flaherty

LAGUNA BEACH INTERIOR DESIGNER LISA McDennon has been designing homes here and abroad in Thailand, New Zealand and Fiji for 16 years, but her newest undertaking is a foray into retail with a pop-up home-decorating store in Laguna Beach, which includes upholstery, furniture, lighting and one-of-a-kind objects. With just the right balance of practical interior design acumen and now design retail experience, Lisa was the perfect choice to get us on board with the latest in creative and innovative storage solutions.

Laguna Beach Magazine: What is the most challenging part about designing a space with great storage solutions?

Lisa McDennon: In order to create a successful space you have to address the client's basic needs first, making a space that is functional but at the same time providing something beautiful. So if providing storage within the space is required, it's

important to seamlessly integrate it into the framework of the room. ... For me, creating unique storage solutions is like putting together a puzzle, getting everything to fit exactly in its space and ending up with a great overall composition.

LBM: What unique things have clients stored?

LM: I once designed a special niche in a hall linen cabinet for a client's beloved cat, including a custom drapery and a pullout litter box tray. I've also designed a dining room bench ... that also doubled as a toy storage chest for a young family.

LBM: What are some budget-friendly ways to incorporate storage solutions?

LM: I love using baskets on open bookshelves to store and organize smaller items, and stack boxes with lids for photos or oversized documents. Not only are they versatile and decorative, but they are also inexpensive and fun.

LBM: Any splurge ideas?

LM: The most amazing thing I've ever seen was

a bed that was on a motorized lift and housed a Jacuzzi tub recessed into the foundation underneath. Talk about taking advantage of the space beneath your bed!

COURTESY OF LISA MCDENNON

LBM: If someone wants to tackle an area that is very messy (like a home office) what are some tips for not getting overwhelmed?

LM: Tackle your project in steps. Identify what your goals are: if you want more filing, your equipment hidden, et cetera. Then identify what needs to be added or removed. ... Before anything new is added to a space, be sure that you [purge] any unnecessary paperwork, equipment and clutter. Sometimes it's as simple as ditching the dusty stationary bike in the corner and replacing it with a more useful filing cabinet or cozy chair.

LBM: Any tips for keeping storage out of sight?

LM: Using furniture such as armoires, ottomans and trunks to store items is always a beautiful way to provide storage for a space.

SMART STORAGE

Design has never been more practical.

By Somer Flaherty

Get smarter (and more stylish) with storage. Shop locally for the latest contemporary spacesaving designs. LBM

DESIGN HOUSE STOCKHOLM

vertigohome.us)

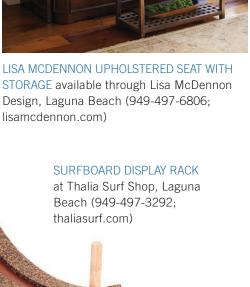
WAVE HANGER at Vertigo Home,

Laguna Beach (949-494-7547;



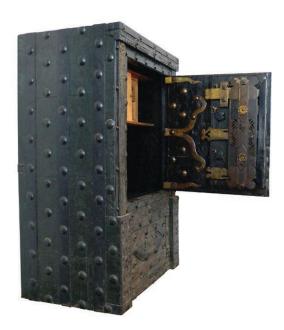
Beach (949-497-3292; thaliasurf.com)

lisamcdennon.com)





BIGSO SHOE BOX at Crate & Barrel, Costa Mesa (714-825-0060; crateandbarrel.com)



ANTIQUE SAFE WITH SHELVING at Trove, Laguna Beach (949-376-4640; trovegallery.com)

QUALITY OF THE COAST

Surfrider Foundation's Chad Nelsen explains the current coastal conditions and how we can help improve them.

By Amory Zschach and LBM Staff



Surfrider Foundation Environmental Director Chad Nelsen is passionate about protecting Laguna's beaches.

A GRASSROOTS CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION dedicated to coastal and nearshore issues, the Surfrider Foundation focuses on water quality, coastal development, beach management and access, as well as ecosystem protection.

For Environmental Director Chad Nelsen, the larger issues facing the country's coasts and oceans are reflected within Laguna's ecosystem. Climate and sea level changes, in Chad's opinion, demand discussion and response. Dominated by rocky headlands that trap beach sand, Laguna does not currently face severe impacts from beach erosion; however, as sea levels rise, beach erosion and coastal flooding downtown will become more of a challenge.

Another challenge is water pollution. Chad sheds light on these issues and tells us how we can each do our part.

Laguna Beach Magazine: What are the challenges for our local coast?

Chad Nelsen: We are going to be challenged by sea level rise; this is something that we as a community need to figure out. If you look at any maps of potential threats from sea level rise inundation in California, downtown Laguna Beach is underwater. It has almost no elevation and already floods any time there is a big storm. ... Also, our beaches are comprised of a very thin lens of sand over rocks, and in many places we've built right up to the edge of the beach with seawalls. As a result, sea level rise could cause our narrow beaches to disappear unless we take action. That is going to be a big challenge in the next 50 to 100 years.

LBM: What is being done to address local ocean health?

CN: The designation of the Marine Reserve is a step in the right direction. ... In the next decade we are going to see a real improvement in the size and abundance of marine wildlife that has dwindled from past overfishing. There's also been a lot of work in the rocky intertidal areas by Laguna Ocean Foundation to improve monitoring, enforcement and protection of those ecosystems. Also, the Orange County Coastkeeper and their kelp bed planting clearly played a role in the incredible resurgence of kelp in town. Since the late 1980s there had been almost no kelp off Laguna, but it has really come back since about five years ago. Kelp is the rainforest of the sea and having that kelp back is a great indicator that the offshore ecosystem is getting healthier.

LBM: Which local beaches are most polluted?

CN: The beaches are all pretty good in terms of water quality—except for Aliso. The water quality challenges are directly related to the size of watershed draining to the beach. Laguna has hills right up to the edge of the coast and the greenbelt behind it, making for good water quality at most of our beaches. Main and Aliso beaches drain larger urban areas and pick up more pollutants.

LBM: What outside contributor has the biggest effect on our coast?

CN: Urban runoff still threatens our coasts, and we all have some responsibility for that. Everybody's yard drains to the street and goes down the storm drain to their beach. Pet wastes, oil from cars, pesticides and herbicides, cigarettes and plastic waste are all contributors.

LBM: What can each of us do to help lessen the effects on our environment?

CN: Everyone can do their part to minimize ocean pollution—use less plastic bags and containers, fix your car if it's leaking, reduce chemical use in your yard, et cetera. Sadly, a good deal of trash on our beaches comes from offshore—so a lot of it we can't control. Fortunately, Laguna has great local organizations (Laguna Ocean Foundation, Transition Laguna, Zero Waste) that provide many opportunities to get involved if you are interested in addressing ocean issues.



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There'll Always be Texas

By Sugar Mama

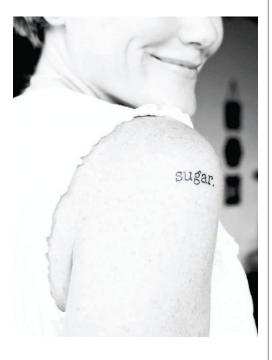
As a required part of his fifth grade curriculum, my eldest son was asked to write a report on the pope, who, at the time, was Pope Benedict XVI. The timing also coincided with the news of his retirement, and each student was asked to include his or her feelings about this decision. My son is not Catholic, and he really has no opinion on anything other than how buying him a Porsche now, when he's 10, is a good investment given the high inventory of luxury items in our current, low demand economy. But he did manage to eek out a few lines about the papal party line of feeling old, tired and struggling with arthritis. "What a cop out," my son wrote. "He was probably just scared of failing." I warned him that this could result in a trip to the principal's office given his is a Catholic school, but who was I to censor his feelings when I refuse to do the same?

Especially when they cost me love, friendship and wheels of brie?

My family and I had just returned from a summer vacation in Texas when I ran into a couple of friends at the grocery store. One had just come back from Jackson Hole, Wyo., and the other, Paris. I have family in Jackson Hole, so all the things she enjoyed were not lost on me. As my other friend launched into her Paris trip, however—how great the community bikes were, how there was an unseasonably pleasant breeze standing in line at the Louvre, blah, blah, blah—I shrugged my shoulders and, said. "Eh, I've never really been a fan of Paris."

"Never been a fan?" they repeated back, utterly in unison.

To my defense I've been to Paris three times, and, each time, a little less destitute than the last. But even as the opportunity to eat three meals a day progressed from one baguette and a travel-sized package of Nutella every other day, the city of



romance has consistently failed to woo me.

"But a dirty little farm town in Texas in 100-degree weather does," my friend said as the other silently mouthed, "Wow."

Right there in the middle of an Albertson's parking lot, my desire to shoot firearms at Coke cans over shooting le breeze with Mona Lisa had single-handedly blasphemed the most beloved city in the world.

As it turned out, my son ended up receiving an A on his paper with no incident. There was even a note in the margin that said, "Interesting point of view." Not so with my lack of joie de brie. I continue to find solace, however, in one of Pope Benedict XVI's most famous quotes: "An 'adult' faith does not follow the waves of fashion and the latest novelties."

But, of course, he had never been to Texas. LBM



VIDEO

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BLOGS

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LAGUNA'S CAPITOL BUILDING

Celebrating its 95th year in operation, Laguna's old guard dining establishment embodies the town's maverick spirit.

By Bruce Porter | Photos by Allen Bradley

WHETHER BY DESIGN OR INTUITION, LAGUNA BEACH HAS FOUGHT tooth and nail to stave off corporate America from adding another notch in its belt. Strip malls are few and far between and look nothing like the ones on the other side of the greenbelt. The nearest McDonald's is in Laguna Niguel. Residential homes are mostly custom built. Original artwork is preferred over old masters prints. There's a strong tradition of eschewing cookie-cutter efficiency in favor of eclectic inefficiencies.

The White House stands as a testament to Laguna's longstanding commitment to supporting its own. Originally called Bird's White House when it was built in 1918, the restaurant has evolved over the years—though always with a healthy distance separating its family-owned, hands-on approach from, say, the Sizzler's mechanical flow-chart to bottom-line profits.

STANDING THE TEST OF TIME

"At a time when businesses around here are going corporate, with rigid structures, we've stuck to our own way of doing things, realizing what we do works for us," says Travis Grogan, a waiter with the restaurant for two years. "We've survived while others have failed because we've embraced our identity as a Laguna institution. We've tried to







White House General Manager James D. Schultz

stay unique. This place has seen four or five generations of people come through this town. The owners, the management and the people who work here try hard to make guests feel at home every time they come in."

"It's been here for so long; it's been touched by so many people," General Manager James D. Schultz says modestly of the venerable establishment he oversees. Jimmy, as his friends know him, began working at the White House in the early 1980s. He mentions conversations with out-of-state strangers who cite the White House as evidence of their visit here—like Laguna's version of the Empire State Building. "Johnny calls it 'world famous,' "he adds, quoting longtime bartender John E. Daub. "I don't know, but I sure have come across a lot of 'small world' stories. Or guys who will say, 'My wife and I had our first date at the White House 35 years ago.'"

High-profile residents, like brothers Frank and Phil Interlandi, acclaimed cartoonists for national newspapers and magazines, were staples of the bar crowd back in the 1970s. "Reggie Jackson and O.J. Simpson used to come in almost every Saturday and sit right over there," Jimmy says, pointing to the barstools at the far end of the lounge. "Kobe Bryant has a favorite table in the back of the dining room, though he didn't come around much this season."

A complete list of celebrity visitors—from Mick Jagger to Michael Jordan—would be impossible to detail. It would be superfluous, in

any case, for a venue that's always been a locals' favorite above all. It's the locals, and even the thousands of tourists who've sought it out, who tell the real story of this place.

THE MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Over the course of its 95 years, the White House has taken on a number of guises—some good, some bad, but never boring. In the 1960s, owner Jules Marine championed "amateur chef night" on Mondays. After-hours music was jazz at a





Visitors can dine on the restaurant's patio, which was moved to the front of the restaurant in 1995.

time when jazz fans were young and predisposed to running up hefty bar tabs. The next owner, Bob Mikels, tested out an 89-cent buffet and altered the menu's emphasis, which gave the White House a reputation as one of the premier steakhouses in the beach cities.

It didn't hurt that there were few upscale restaurants in the area at the time. Nevertheless, a shuffle of ownership, a lack of a visionary hand and an air of complacency nearly led to its demise by the end of the 1970s. Trendy hot spots were popping up all over the place, adding a competitive element that the White House was unprepared to meet. Suddenly, Laguna's flagship restaurant wasn't the only game in town.

"When I first started working here, the White House was open 24 hours," Jimmy says. "When the bar closed you'd have people wander over to the dining room to get some breakfast at 3 or 4 in the morning." With an arched eyebrow, he adds, "So that was interesting."

"It's probably something restaurant management would prefer to forget," an insurance agent sitting at the bar says, before asking to remain anonymous. "Back then there were three bars in town



that catered to the heavy drinkers: the Sandpiper, the Marine Room [Tavern] and the White House. It's not like that anymore, but back then, yeah."

Once infallible, the restaurant waffled and soon began to lose the goodwill of its patrons and the community. Prospects were grim when, in April 1981, the White House was sold to an unassuming fellow named George Catsouras. Changes in the company's culture came swiftly and decisively.

"George has done wonders to the place," volunteer community liaison Sande St. John says. She used to have an office across the restaurant's back alley. "The one thing I know he stresses is good service—the customer is always right."

In the early days, the White House stretched south to the end of the block, but over the years the property has been subdivided to its present size—half of what it was in the 1970s. George has also overseen several structural and cosmetic improvements. Now, it barely resembles the White House Cafe seen in old black-and-white photographs.

The year after he bought it, George had the restaurant completely redone. "The last major remodel was in 1995," Jimmy recalls. "We took



The White House's Rasta Pasta is just one example of the restaurant's unique dishes.







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The White House hosts an assortment of live bands and local disc jockeys.

out the fireplace and put the patio out front. We took out the Tiffany lamps and put a door between the bar and dining room."

APPROACHING THE CENTURY MARK

Today, the remnants of a staid steakhouse are all but gone. Jazz has given way to modern tunes. It's half restaurant, serving an inventive take on California cuisine, and half nightclub, providing an energetic yet cozy party atmosphere with live music and deejays spinning dance tracks nearly every night. Bartenders are liable to recommend a Pink Floyd, but thankfully they haven't forgotten how to make a terrific Old Fashioned.

An expanded menu includes some outside-thebox recipes. "Putting banana in a seafood dish is different; it's original," cooking instructor and caterer Caroline Cazaumayou of CaliFrench Cuisine says of the Rasta Pasta on the White House's dinner menu. Even the usual favorites are served with something extra, like the smoked Gouda and garlic mayonnaise on the White House Burger.

Caroline also says she loves the new colors of last year's interior makeover—though this may be the one change George has made that has not met with universal approval. "It's the White House, but it's orange," another patron quips.

On any given afternoon, the customers sitting around the bar will credit Johnny's dry wit as a primary reason for making this their go-to watering hole. He claims to have started here in 1982, at age 26, but he barely looks 40. Perhaps his trademark bow tie—green on the Saturday afternoons when Notre Dame is playing—contributes to his youthful appearance.

Sunday brunch has earned a stellar reputation. "We're visiting friends in town," Bob Adams says. He, his wife and two children are down from Portland, Ore., and are finishing their meals on the patio. "Look around; what's not to like? I've had eggs Benedict in just about every major city in the country, but I have to say this may be the best hollandaise sauce I've ever had."

George's transformation of the White House will never really be complete: Like any successful business, it remains a work in progress. His kids Demetri, Lexi and Zoe now help as co-managers of the once-again thriving Laguna landmark. It's possible, however, that George will be remembered more for his contributions to the community at large.

For nearly three decades, George has donated his restaurant's services to everything from the Memorial Day pancake spread hosted by the local police and fire departments to arranging a yearly Christmas party for low-income families, complete with presents.

"George is incredibly generous," Sande says. "Any emergency I have in the city, I just call him up and he'll feed everybody. And I'm not talking

THE NEXT GENERATION OF REGULARS

"My girlfriend and I came in for salads, which were really good," Megan Lechmann says, unwittingly showing how easily lunch can turn into a late night. "We ended up having a few drinks and before we knew it, we were out on the dance floor. A lot of the bars charge a cover after 10 p.m., so it's nice to be able to stay in one place."

"We like to dance," Megan's friend Lindsay Bledsoe confirms. The two 26-year-olds came from Dana Point to celebrate Megan's soon-to-be sister-in-law's birthday. "They always play good dance music," Lindsay adds. "It has a nice dance floor, and it's never too crowded on Friday nights."

"It's perfect for a nice quiet dinner outside, then fun, party dance music inside," Megan explains. "When you have one establishment that can accomplish all that, you've got a good place."

The crowd becomes steadily younger as the night wears on, but not exclusively so. Men and women in their 40s and 50s get out on the dance floor, too, especially when the deejay spins a 1980s hit like the Human League's "Don't You Want Me."

Later, Kristin Byrne and a friend demonstrate that the White House is also a good place for singles to meet. "We were writing love notes to this Aussie boy," Kristin says, holding out a cocktail napkin marked in pen. "The bartenders would take them to him. The Aussie boy would write back, and they'd bring his notes to us. We only tipped a buck, but the bartenders didn't seem to mind. They ran our notes back and forth all night. They were awesome!"

Just then, a handsome guy with a playboy tan joined the table. I turned off the tape recorder. Your guess is as good as mine as to how this fairy tale romance plays out.

bread and water. It's all delicious. He feeds everybody who comes to the back door. He can't stand to see anybody go hungry. He really cares about this town—the man has a heart of gold."

The White House plans to celebrate its 95th anniversary with events throughout the summer. With an enthusiastic core of frequent flyers, there's every reason to expect an even bigger celebration when it hits the century mark. Amanda Burke, an interior decorator and regular for more than two decades, says fondly, "It's the personal touches, the attention to small details, that sets it apart. Many of my fondest memories have come out of this place." LBM



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REBUILDING LIVES



The Friendship Shelter staff celebrates 25 years.

Friendship Shelter has given Laguna Beach's homeless more than just a place to sleep; it's given them a means to thrive. This year, the nonprofit celebrates 25 years of serving the community.

By Patrick Mott | Photos by Jody Tiongco

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, LIVING ON THE streets of Laguna Beach was a dead end. Many of the homeless would spend their lives ricocheting from panhandling to prison, from hard drugs to halfway houses, locked in an everaccelerating downward spiral. Every night, including Christmas Eve, the pews—and the floor—of St. Mary's Episcopal Church on Park Avenue would fill with the homeless and hopeless, where they would be given a blanket, and a safe and dry place to spend the night.

Then a group of Laguna Beach residents, organized in part by an English Episcopal priest who had been working at St. Mary's, decided that simply feeding and sheltering the city's street population wasn't enough. Rehabilitation—in effect, helping them to reclaim lives of sobriety, sufficient employment and a roof over their heads—had to be the answer.

The result became one of Laguna Beach's most enduring social successes, Friendship Shelter, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

INSIDE THE SHELTER

A former residential hotel on South Coast Highway in the heart of the city's business district, Friendship Shelter is low-profile in both appearance and function, but in the last quarter century it has served more than 6,000 Orange County homeless with a success rate—based on former residents that have found "stable housing, sustained employment and sobriety"—hovering around 70 percent. The institution is not a simple way station for

the chronically down-and-out.

On a typical weekday mid-morning, most of the 32 residents of Friendship Shelter—19 men downstairs and 13 women upstairs in dorm-style rooms with bunk beds and communal shower and bathroom facilities—are out in town, mostly looking for jobs, working or volunteering. Getting a job, says the shelter's outreach manager Taylor Mathieson, is paramount, since 80 percent of all residents' earnings go into a savings account intended to eventually be used for a security deposit on a place to live when residents are ready to start living on their own.

The shelter is a kind of oasis, containing all the essentials a formerly homeless person needs to navigate a typical week: a dining room with free meals (including sack lunches) cooked and served by volunteers, a "resource room" with computers, a laundry area, a donation room filled with food and clothing suitable for job interviews, a small library and a communal room for regular meetings with staff and residents. All residents are assigned specific chores. Several regular classes are offered in such subjects as financial fitness, job interview techniques and self-esteem build-



In the dining room, residents can enjoy free meals.

A small library is available for residents' use.



Volunteers prepare and serve all of the meals offered by the shelter.

ing. There are mental health support groups, Alcoholics Anonymous and other 12-step meetings, and assisted access to local doctors, dentists and other service providers.

Random drug tests and room inspections are conducted periodically. There is a waiting list for admission to Friendship Shelter, and residents must pass a drug test in order to be approved for admission to the program.

Taylor estimates that 60 to 65 percent of the residents are in recovery from alcohol or drugs and about half have mental health issues. "With others it can just be bad luck or a chain of bad decisions," she says. "Some are health-challenged and come from hospitals; some come from jail and don't know how to transition into society yet; some have been living on the street or in cars. We get a lot of the 'couch surfing' population—people who may be homeless for the first time and don't know how to navigate the system. It's hard to put your life together when you're constantly moving like that."

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

"[Homelessness] has changed a lot in the last 30 to 35 years, starting with the government's releasing a lot of people from mental health institutions and stopping the institutionalization of people with serious mental illness-which is a very complicated issue," says Friendship Shelter Executive Director Dawn Price. "People shouldn't be locked up if they don't have to be locked up. But what happened is they let people out without any alternative treatment options, so



The shelter offers an on-site "resource room" with several computers.

COLIN, FORMER RESIDENT, 44:

"I was homeless, jobless, on parole, evicted and a mess. I had just enough clean time to get in here, but once I got here my life just took off. I mean, just being able to get up and take a shower in the morning changes the whole trajectory of what your day's going to look like. The important thing is that you have someplace to start and someplace to come back to. For a homeless person, that means the world. You sense you have a home.

"I live on my own now and I work full time and have a part-time job. My life is full. I'm studying to become an alcohol counselor. I want to be educated enough to know how to help people.

"I owe everything I have to this place. Without these people I'd still be on the street smoking crack. They had a design for me long before I could even see it. Had the people at this place not been as tenacious, and as willing, and as giving, and as generous, and as patient, and as hardworking as they are, I wouldn't have made it."

people ended up on the street. And to this day that is an ongoing problem. It doesn't surprise me that Laguna Beach was among the first places in Orange County to have a compassionate solution. We're an extremely forward-thinking and compassionate community."

And also a wealthy one—still, says Dawn, Friendship Shelter has enjoyed support across the local social and political spectrum.

"This is not a left-right issue," she says. "This is a common sense issue. There are lots of reasons why people who line up on the right side of the political spectrum support us. ... We're helping save tax dollars by getting people back on their feet and back out into the community, and turning them into taxpayers. And even in the case of people who can't work because of their mental health disabilities, we're saving a lot of money by helping them live in a less costly setting than an emergency shelter. The people who live on the streets spend a lot of time in jails—very expensive. A lot of time in emergency shelters—very expensive. But housing is far less expensive."

One of the keys to such across-the-board support, Dawn says, has to do with simple empathy.

"One of the big 'Aha!' moments for anyone who comes in here, volunteers and gets involved—or works here, for that matter—is that the big difference between a person in this shelter and someone in our own family is what's available to them in

GREAT GATSBY GALA

The estimated cost of successfully graduating a resident from Friendship Shelter is about \$7,000. Nearly two-thirds of that money comes from private donations and fundraising events.

The biggest fundraiser of the year is the annual Friendship Shelter Gala, which Executive Director Dawn Price says accounts for more than one-fourth of the shelter's entire yearly revenue. Last year's event raised approximately \$400,000.

This year's 25th anniversary gala, she says, figures to bring in even more. Set for Nov. 1 at The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel, the gala will be "Great Gatsby"-themed, and guests are encouraged to dress in appropriate period costume. The event includes silent and live auctions, dinner and dancing.

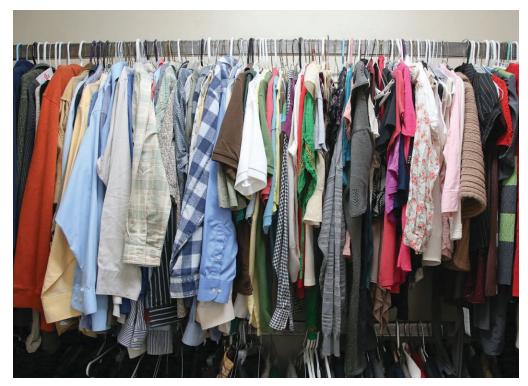
Those interested in attending can visit the Friendship Shelter's website (friendshipshelter.org) for details.

terms of family support and a safety net. ... All of us have a brother, a sister, a parent, a child who may have a mental health issue, an addiction issue. The difference is they don't end up in a homeless shelter because people catch them and help them. People who end up here have either burned through those bridges or support systems, or never had them to begin with. So we become that support for them."

The average stay at Friendship Shelter is four months, "but that tells you nothing," Dawn says. "Some people decide it's not for them and leave quickly. Some people can be here for a year or more. We will usually stick with someone who's trying as hard or harder than we are. We have a



Residents of the shelter enjoy communal meals.



Residents have access to a fully stocked wardrobe of casual and professional clothing.

young man who right now is doing incredibly well. But his first several weeks and even months here, he was coming off some pretty intense drug use. That messed him up psychologically for a while and we needed to wait him out on that. We have good staff here who are very highly trained and they were able to recognize that this was someone who was going to need some time."

THE FUTURE OF FRIENDSHIP

Although Friendship Shelter is a nonprofit and not a faith-based organization, it began with—and continues to have—a broad base of local clerical and church support. Still, says the Rev. Colin Henderson, the Episcopal priest who



The Alternative Sleeping Location in Laguna Canyon

hosted so many homeless at St. Mary's beginning in 1985, the original idea for the shelter "seemed wildly improbable."

But as the idea for the shelter gained traction, volunteers from Colin's congregation, as well as from other churches and the community, and advisors from local and county mental health services, began to appear and organize. State and local grants materialized, and the property on South Coast Highway was purchased and fitted for the purpose.

"In the beginning, the shelter was very grassroots, very mom-and-pop," says former shelter board chair Jill Edwards. She adds that in the last decade, however, the organization has become



Henderson House in San Clemente

ANDREW, CURRENT RESIDENT, 23:

"In high school, I was a good kid. I wanted to be a firefighter. But I fell into the wrong crowd and started drinking and partying, and got addicted to drugs whatever I could get my hands on. I used meth for the first time, and it totally fried my brain. I lost myself and my sense of reality. I couldn't pay the rent, and I lost my job at a restaurant. I didn't know who I could trust. I'd burned so many bridges with my family; I had no place to go. I was in rehab for about 40 days, but the money ran out and they said, 'There's the door.'

"I've been here for a year. It took time, learning the next step. I needed the time, and there was absolutely no other place that would give me the time. There were definitely many challenges and hurdles I had to face. But without Friendship Shelter, that year would have been impossible. It made recovery something that I could see myself doing. I credit this place with saving my life.

"Now I'm working at a local restaurant and I have responsibility. In April, I was employee of the month."

"much more professional" and includes a facility in San Clemente called Henderson House, a kind of graduate program for residents transitioning from Friendship Shelter to life on their own. There is also a facility in Laguna Canyon known as the Alternative Sleeping Location, an ongoing joint operation of Friendship Shelter and the city of Laguna Beach, where the chronically homeless can have a bed for the night and a hot meal.

Future plans call for a permanent housing development for "the most vulnerable homeless who can't live on their own without support," Dawn says. The apartment-style residences would have staff on-site to help and counsel residents. Dawn explains that Friendship Shelter is currently working with a development partner and further plans likely will be announced later this year.

"We've had enough success to know we're on the right track," Colin says. "That's the important thing. You can never sit back on your laurels and say, 'Now we've got it.' You have to work with people, and everybody's different. The overall concept is sound; it's valid and it's working, but you always have to be attuned to the needs of the people of that particular time." LBM

TREASURED SPACES

From secret wine cellars to high-tech dance floors, these one-of-a-kind Laguna Beach rooms uniquely reflect owners' passions and creativity.

By Peter A. Balaskas | Photos by Chad Mellon

THERE ARE CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WHO SIMPLY NEED A SPECIAL ROOM, WHETHER to relax, concentrate on work or admire a cherished collection. Many rooms combine function with decorative flair and classy style. Here, four Laguna Beach homeowners open their homes to share special rooms specifically designed around their creative passions.



Left: Jeff Elghanayan sits in his car room. Right: Jeff's son, Nicolai, rides in the car elevator.





THE CAR LOVER'S QUARTERS

ypical car hobbyists would keep their collections stored in a specially designed one-level garage for display. But for one Laguna Beach homeowner and car aficionado, Jeff Elghanayan, an intricately designed car room was taken a few steps beyond. The room boasts multiple purposes: to house cars and motorcycles, to have a built-in mechanic shop for their maintenance and to be used as a recreational center and space of creative ingenuity for children.

As visitors walk down the home's spiral staircase, they notice that this multipurpose room (68 feet by 50 feet) is a basement garage split into two levels. The upper mezzanine level, which is made of a sturdy metal bridge deck, can hold up to five cars as well as two to three motorcycles in between each car. The primary purpose of this mezzanine level is for parking cars that are ready for travel; the lower level can also hold five cars.

However, thanks to the collaborative design of Laguna Beach architect Leslie LeBon and the homeowner, this basement level serves as a two-sectioned "workshop"; one section functions as a parking lot for cars ready to be serviced, while the other section serves as the actual work room, which has a higher ceiling, a custom car lift and tools and parts needed for any type of maintenance.

Jeff's favorite feature is the room's ability to become a recreational gathering place for their children and their young friends. Once the cars are removed, children can play pingpong, Rollerblade and Freeline skate. But Jeff also utilizes the room as a learning center, where his children's classmates and teachers can discover more about cars and engineering.

The magic of the basement garage space doesn't stop there—it's also a place where film lovers can escape to be entertained. On "movie night," guests can take the 22-foot-long passenger elevator down to the mezzanine level, where a movie theater screen is installed. The theater, which can hold an audience of 50 people, also serves as a private drive-in theater, should a driver and passenger get into one of the cars, maneuver into the room and watch a movie from the comforts of their automobile. This exquisite two-level garage in Laguna Beach is not only a car lover's haven but also an endless source of entertainment.

THE OENOPHILE'S OASIS

any desire the sensual flavors of wine and cigars, however, for Laguna Beach residents Bob and Christine Cuevas, they turned their passion into a livable space. With the help of Christine's uncle, Bill Gaudino, an expert builder, and Laguna Niguel architect Michael Masilotti, the couple built a special room that would not only serve as a casual smoking area but also store their extensive wine collection in a temperature-controlled environment. For the 250-square-foot space, Michael and the owners agreed that splitting the room into two parts was the best way to capture both functions as a smoking lounge and a wine cellar.

"The space was designed with groin-vaulted ceilings to give the impression of an Old World wine cellar," Michael says. He points out that dividing the room with a frameless glass wall and door was the best way for the homeowners and their guests to sit, talk and smoke in the lounge area while enjoying the ambience of the enclosed

wine room without the inconvenience of its cold temperatures disturbing their peace.

In terms of accessibility, the entrance to the smoking lounge/wine room is located at one corner of the house's living room, right next to the bar. "A small passage was created at the bar that stepped and twisted down into the lounge area, giving you the feeling you are going underground into the space," Michael says.

As you walk down the spiral stairs, you first encounter a recessed wooden and glass cabinet containing a diverse collection of cigars. In the main foyer are circular leather lounge chairs. Although this intimate space is naturally illuminated by sunlight (courtesy of strategically placed widows), also present are lamps, light sconces and candles if the smokers would like to indulge in cigars, wine and exotic cheeses.

Beyond the glass wall and door stands the refrigerated wine cellar, where bottles of wines of all sizes and shapes populate the space's three walls. The cellar, which is kept at 59 F, can hold as many as 1,000 bottles of wine. A granite countertop, where an exquisite cork remover sits independently underneath a hanging 31-by-14-inch deep wine glass rack, can hold up to 18 oversized (30-ounce) wine glasses.

Michael loves the intimate setting of the overall lounge, combining traditional architecture with the modern touches of the glass wall. "Personally, I love the blending of Old World charm in a 21st-century space," he says. "The frameless glass wall and door make this small room work. Without visually sharing the space, either function on its own would be too small."

He stresses that it was his collaboration with the homeowners that made the experience special. Bill, who constructed the room according to Michael's design, credits Christine's decorative flair. "[Her] impeccably good taste is the reason for all of the beautiful finishes and furnishings," he adds.





DARLENE HALABY PHOTOGRAPHY





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THE NIGHT OWL'S ASYLUM

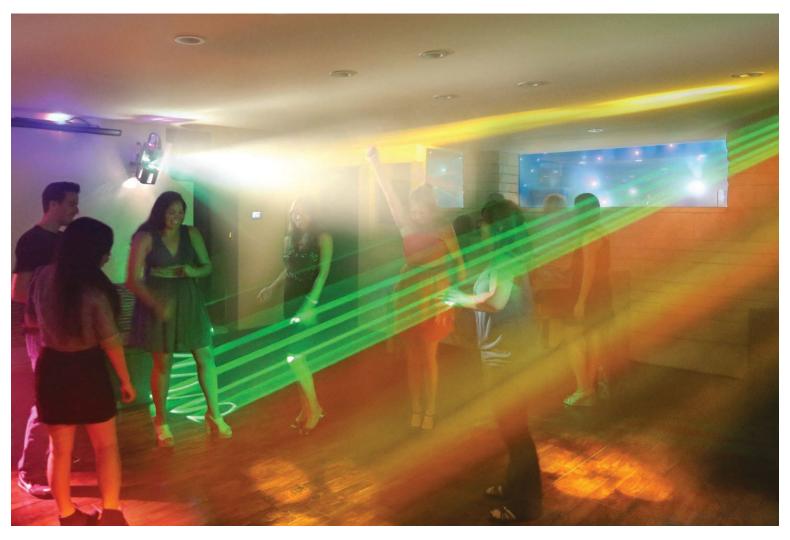
hile some homeowners fancy a sprawling dance floor, others prefer a more versa tile space, which could be used for varying purposes, from a nightclub to a business meeting room—and that's exactly what homeowner Stacie Parker did in her home. Dubbed Club S, Stacie and her husband use this unique space for special parties, listening to music or even conducting business meetings. Stacie also designed the space herself, stemming from her experiences working in home decor and being the former owner of 267 Infusions, a nationally distributed alcohol brand.

In terms of design, the homeowners wanted their special room to reflect the diverse kinds of parties they like to host, such as slumber parties for kids, 1980s theme parties and neighborhood/family dance and karaoke parties. And the perfect atmosphere to enhance those occasions is a hip nightclub lounge, whose style is often called "modern eclectic" by their guests. As visitors enter through the metal vault door (which prevents any noise from bleeding into the rest of the house), they will discover a plethora of color mixtures: the leopard-patterned carpeting, the striped-cushioned sofa hugging the back wall of the room, the mirrored square night tables, the steel-beamed ceiling, that dual-purpose billiards/pingpong table and the 1960s-style polka dot curtains draped around a circular booth.

But this modern color palette blends with the natural design touches of the stone walls that make up the foundation of the lounge as well as the finely polished and decorated cement bar, of which Stacie takes special pride in its creation. "My contractor and I created it side by side with obsession from a picture I took of a bar in Nikki Beach Marrakech [in Morocco]," she explains.

The room's design was, without a doubt, a success for Stacie. She recalls one particular party she and her husband hosted that filled the room to its maximum capacity. "One impromptu Labor Day neighborhood party ended up with over 100 people," she says.

Whatever the occasion may be, Club S is the ideal venue either for the couple's dynamic parties or simply quiet, contemplative moments enjoyed while having a drink and listening to soft, mellow music playing in the background.



THE DANCER'S DWELLING

hen the stresses of work, or life in general, become too much to handle, there are many ways to release the tensions. For the homeowners of this remarkable "Blue Room" that method of release is hitting the dance floor.

Courtesy of the collaborative design by the owners and Laguna architect Horst Noppenberger, inside this 406-square-foot area is a spacious dance floor, bar and an expansive lounge bench stretching across the back of the room, which also faces a 65-inch LED Samsung television that hangs on the opposing wall. When no dancing is taking place, the television is often used for karaoke sessions, watching TV and playing video games.

For the superior sound quality that is needed for a dance room, four QSC speakers were mounted on the walls. Hidden in the long lounge bench are Clark Synthesis motion transducers and a Triad subwoofer, resulting in the occupants feeling the sound of the music pulsating through the bench.

But the most dominant feature of this dynamic dance club is a 4-inch Plexiglas wall, located behind the bar. On the other side of this transparent wall is the hot tub, where colorchanging, fiber-optic lights reflect off the spa walls and pour through the glass, cascading and bathing the dance room in a variety of color schemes. Cantara, a Costa Mesa-based electronic design and installation company, and Red Fish Illuminations, a lighting design company from Columbus, Ohio, collaborated on the lighting installation, using elaborate systems from Chauvet Lighting and Alcorn McBride, which create a full range of spectacular lighting effects for the Blue Room.

Also installed was a five-inch AMX touch panel, for which the homeowner can control the spa's lights in order to create the perfect dance club setting. Cantara President Jason Voorhees indicates the panel is connected to many functions in the Blue Room, changing the mood from "a crazy dance club effect where the lights pulse and a hidden haze machine emits a light mist—or [the owner] can engage a more laid-back effect where the lights are more subdued," he says.

Besides being responsible for the sound system and the full integration of the room's diverse technical features, Cantara also programmed several smart features within the complex lighting system, such as one that controls the room's strobes, LEDs and other lighting additions at various levels and speeds, depending on the music.

Thanks to the elaborate lighting system from the outside hot tub, which provides a stunning party atmosphere for the Blue Room located inside of the house, the homeowners and their guests will experience hours of dancing and other forms of entertainment. LBM

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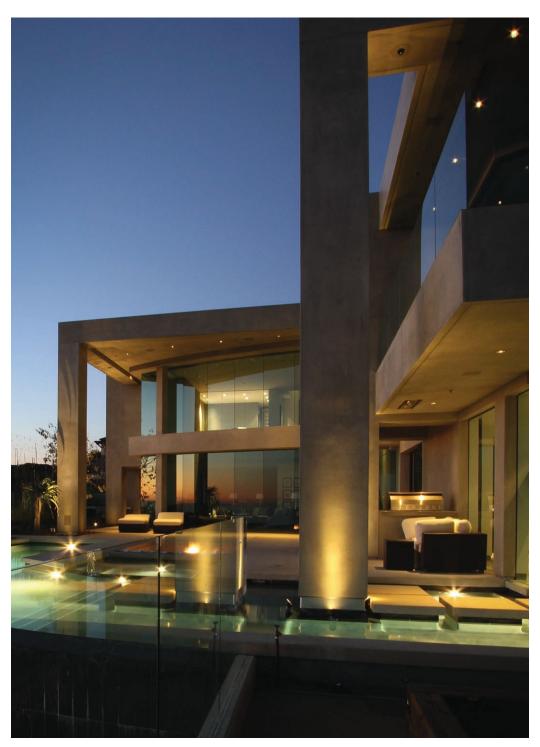


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HIGH-TECH HOMES

Advanced technology plays an important role in many of Laguna Beach's cutting-edge homes.

By Peter A. Balaskas



HYDRONIC, RADIANT HEAT SYSTEMS. Smart locks. Indoor auto lifts. Car turntables. LED floor lights. Greywater systems. Round, glass elevators. Motorized sun shades synchronized to an astronomical time clock timed to sun exposure. No longer the stuff of science fiction, these high-tech features and more are powering the homes of Laguna. Step inside a few of the town's most remarkable technological standouts.

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

At first glance, it appears to be an unassuming, one-level, block-shaped house made of polished rock. The grass and concrete-striped driveway, decorated with palm trees and other plant life, leads to a spacious two-door garage. The doorway is flanked by a wall waterfall on each side.

But once inside the foyer, visitors enter a two-story living/greeting room with concrete pillars, a 25-foot-tall fireplace and a 22-foot-high curving glass wall. Beyond the wall is a picturesque backyard that includes an infinity pool. And considering how high the 5,300-square-foot house sits on the hills, the pool appears to cascade straight down into the Pacific Ocean.

It is this sense of unexpected awe that owner/builder Robert Lopez and his collaborator, Laguna architect James Conrad, strived for. "It's hard to change someone's first impression," Robert says. "You come up to a ... huge, magnificent house and then once you go inside, it's hard to blow them away at that point. But if you can be subtle at first, then I think it works well."

The two-level house—which contains three bedrooms, five bathrooms, an office, theater and a gym with sauna—possesses advanced technology that is also energy-efficient and economically friendly. Located on the roof is a photovoltaic, solar electricity generation system, which uses solar panels and a DC/AC power inverter that converts solar radiation into electricity, thereby



Top and bottom left: Before and after images of heated flooring; top right: Robert Lopez and James Conrad collaborated on this Laguna home. Bottom right: The control room







providing the house with power.

"Once both phases are complete, our system should generate 100 percent of the power used to operate the home and charge our electric car," Robert says of their solar plans.

Another prominent feature is a hydronic—heated water—radiant heating system that is underneath all the concrete floors of the house, heating the floors at a comfortable 76 F. The home also has a greywater system that is used to filter the wastewater from showers, baths and sinks in the residence, and recycle it for toilet flushing and landscape irrigation.

How is all of this solar power controlled throughout the house? Thanks to some ingenuity and economical penny-saving, Apple products and software were installed and programmed as the control system for many of the home's technological features. Whether it is through the main-control iPad in the kitchen or an individual iPhone, the homeowners can adjust any electronic device in every room of the house, including the fans, televisions, pool and the fountains. The Apple software also works in conjunction with the Lutron Homeworks lighting and shade automation system, controlling all the lights, curtains and shades. The iPad/iPhone even can control the music emanating from acoustic speakers that are hidden within the walls, ceilings and outdoor pillars of the house.

Other high-tech features include hidden security-domed cameras that are recessed at certain

key points outside the home. Motion detectors are installed in every room, making the flick of a light switch practically obsolete; this also goes for toe-kick lighting in the bathrooms, where a soft, LED floor light is emitted whenever someone enters during the middle of the night. The backdoors have magnetic locks that automatically close and lock. But not to worry: If you lock yourself out, just press a button on your iPhone and you're back inside.

Best of all, there is a master control room deep inside the house that operates the 60,000 feet of cable that is distributed throughout the home, providing video feeds, audio and 10GB Ethernet speed.

Overall, the completion of the house was a



Kimberly Norton designed a master bathroom with a temperature-controlled floor.



A Custom-Bilt Metals roof maximizes energy efficiency.

memorable experience for both Robert and James. "It was a collaboration, and quite frankly, an educational experience for the both of us," James says. "That experience has allowed me to guide my clients in considering the different technical systems in their homes."

A QUIET, WELL-LIGHTED PLACE

The 2,000-square-foot Laguna Beach home that architect Kimberly Norton designed for homeowner Greg Wolfson combines the dynamic, owner-operated features of active technology with passive high-tech features that are often

static until the forces of nature trigger them to respond, resulting in energy savings.

As visitors enter the home's beautiful U-shaped courtyard, they will fail to notice the key environmental feature on the roof. And for Kimberly, that was intentional. "The roof utilizes Custom-Bilt Metals, specifically designed for maximum energy efficiency, and the cleanest and most fluid installation of the low-profile solar panels," she says. "The roof is set up so all solar will not be visible from the front entry/street, and all conduits and venting is properly hidden on the back side of the home."

Kimberly's ability to install energy-saving technology and cleverly conceal the electronics and mechanisms at very discrete locations in the house shows incredible ingenuity and three-dimensional creativity. Another task was the installation of the battery equipment that draws and stores the solar power. Kimberly placed the battery in an upper storage space in the garage, beyond the normal eye line from a casual visitor.

Also hidden in the garage is the eternal water heating system, which provides instant hot water at any location in the house.

Other high-tech features include a radiant heating system in the master bathroom floor, which is controlled by a panel that regulates the temperature of the floor at all times. The house has a custom-designed stainless entry gate with clear glass and special hardware that can be controlled by the owner's smartphone. The home also is installed with August Smart Locks, an auto-lock/unlock system that "senses" the homeowners' smartphones, making keys and codes unnecessary.

But it is the more quiet, passive features that set the house apart from the typical Laguna Beach cottage. The interior roof, exterior and interior walls of the house walls contain Eco-Bat high-quality insulation. This material not only maximizes energy efficiency, but it especially offers superior sound insulation. Kimberly also added a layer of QuietRock sheet rock to the house, which increases the sound insulation even more.

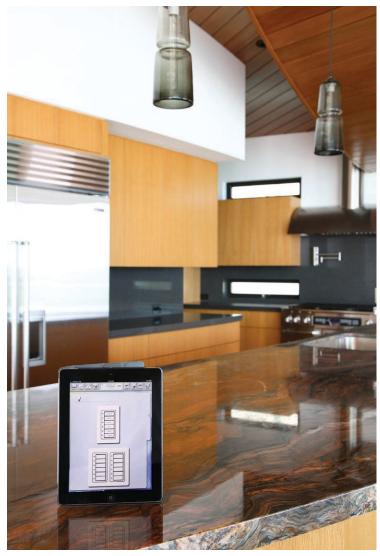
It is, indeed, a quiet, well-lighted place.

FROM A GRAIN OF SAND TO A PEARL

Oftentimes, people searching for a new home in Laguna Beach see the completed product. But there are those who prefer to create their own special house from scratch, patiently transforming an architectural grain of sand into a pearl. That is what Brion Jeannette and his Newport Beach architectural firm did this summer as they placed their final technological touches on an exquisite house in Laguna Beach.

"The house sits on a fabulous site in a quaint coastal community with expansive views of the Pacific, the coast and Catalina Island," Brion, who oversaw the home's architecture, floor plans and exterior design features, says. "Our client commissioned us to create a home with a young attitude and low maintenance. To meet these objectives, I designed an open floor plan to allow for plenty of natural light and ventilation; typical of all my work."

The 3,600-square-foot structure (along with







 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{A}}$ round glass elevator is a high-tech centerpiece to this Laguna home.

2,600 square feet of garage space) follows an architectural style that is called soft contemporary, utilizing a wood and steel framed structure, along with a colored stucco skin accented with Fry Reglet stainless steel bands and large sections of copper shingles, giving the viewer the impression of a quaint, one-level beach cottage.

However, it is the advanced technical features that help elevate the home from mere normalcy. One of those is a three-level auto lift that leads from street level to the subterranean garage, which can hold as many as three vehicles. Also included in the garage is a turntable to maneuver the cars into the proper parking spaces or to exit the garage.

A complex audio/video system has been incorporated throughout the inside and outside areas of the house. All of the stereo and television feeds can be adjusted by several iPads that are mounted in key places. The system can also be controlled by a portable iPad that you can take

with you anywhere you go inside of the house.

Also included is a Lutron lighting system that controls the entire house and helps decrease energy consumption. Lutron's motorized sun shades have been added on all walls that feature large windows, and are synchronized to roll up or down through an astronomical time clock that is connected to sun exposure.

Another high-tech addition is located at the central core of the house: a round glass elevator, which is reminiscent of the famous "Wonkavator" from the 1971 cult classic "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." For Brion's colleague Amy Creager, who was in charge of the interior finish selections, making the elevator shaft was difficult. "The biggest challenge in construction of this home was finding a company to manufacture the round glass elevator shaft," she says. Fortunately, Tony Valentine Construction helped construct the shaft, as well as the structural aspects of the cantilevered deck of the outdoor

pool, which has a clear, acrylic bottom that allows natural light from above to go through to the level below the pool.

In terms of the environmental benefits, the house has low-energy florescent and LED lights, a tankless water heater, high-performance dual-glazed tinted glass windows to reduce heat gain and UV fading, and high-velocity heating and air conditioning that uses less electricity. "These materials meet LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) standards and result in a health-conscious home, promoting healthy indoor air quality," Amy says.

Combining the contemporary aesthetic of a beach cottage with the advanced, energy-saving features of a modern 21st century home, Brion and his firm once again have accomplished the often-difficult task of transforming concept into architectural reality, assuring the homeowner a special house that is meant to be loved and lived in. LBM



Chris Prelitz discovered an upcycled dining set, made from old farm equipment, in Bali, Indonesia.

UPCYCLED STYLE

Laguna Beach designers, artists, builders and homeowners reimagine the old to create something new.

By Vicki Hogue-Davies | Photos by Scott Sporleder

What was once unused Indonesian farm equipment is transformed into a dining room set. Outdated longboards are given new function as outdoor showers. An antique church altar re-emerges as an artistic focal point in a room. These are just a few of the ways that old items decorating Laguna Beach homes have been made new again.

It takes a healthy dose of creativity to look at something old, outdated or discarded and imagine what it could become with a little reinvention. Here is how several local artists, designers, builders and homeowners have incorporated upcycled materials and pieces into their clients' homes and within their own living spaces.

TIMELESS QUALITY

Upcycling is a good thing to do for three main reasons, believes Laguna resident Chris Prelitz, owner of Prelitz Design + Build Inc. and cofounder and president of the grassroots organization Transition Laguna Beach.

"Aesthetically, antiques and period pieces come with a quality and patina, and other unique and timeless traits that can't be found in something new," he says. "From an economic viewpoint, you can sometimes get a great piece for much less than if you had a craftsman create a new product. Finally, it is important for the environment. With the challenges today with resource depletion, it just makes sense to reduce, reuse and recycle."

Chris has incorporated multiple upcycled



Chris Prelitz, owner of Prelitz

Design + Build Inc., upcycles materials

for clients as well as his own home.

pieces into his Bluebird Canyon home, including old doors and windows, slate roofing shingles from a Laguna Beach home teardown and even a dining set made from old farm equipment from Bali, Indonesia.

He found the dining set at a store in New Mexico. "In Bali, they reuse old farm implements such as plows and things to make furniture," he says. "I don't worry about the 100-year-old teak getting scratched or anything. If it does, it just



Clockwise from top left: Ruben Flores, owner of Laguna Nursery; a unique upcycled lamp; longboard mosaic shower created by Ruben



adds to the character."

For clients, he has customized aged armoires and vanities into entertainment centers, melding vintage style with modern function. He even has architecturally reworked homes to fit a particular piece, such as changing fireplace dimensions to make an old fireplace surround look original to the home.

"There are a lot of 1920s and '30s cottages in town," he says. "When we can find an old [fireplace from that period it really adds to the home."

His expert advice to others who wish to add upcycled pieces to their home decor? "Go with things you love that make you smile," he says.



"We get bound into trends and they come and go. Go with what warms your heart, makes you smile and makes you feel good to have around."

OUTDOOR ARTISTRY

For those living seaside, it makes perfect sense to have an outdoor place to rinse off sand and saltwater before entering the house. Ruben Flores, owner of Laguna Nursery, brings his own unique style to his clients. He repurposes what he calls the "old longboards of yesteryear" into artistic and useful showers.

"They are longer than today's boards and so they make a bigger backdrop for mosaics of tile, glass, shells and stone," he says. "The board is strong and will last forever, and the shape is so identifiable. That it is functional is awesome."

The plumbing is all internal, he explains. And it can't be seen once a surfboard shower is finished. The boards are cut, plumbing and fixtures are added, and the exposed areas are covered with mosaic pieces.

Ruben doesn't stop at upcycling surfboards. For an Italian villa he worked on in Laguna, he bought a 300-year-old wooden French church altar and used it as an art piece. "It made the whole room—giving it mood, age, texture and importance," he says.

Through his business he has created a vast array of reinvented artistic pieces. He has turned old sinks into planters, converted a discarded door frame into an outdoor mirror frame, repurposed a grandfather clock into a cologne cabinet and even turned an old faucet into a toilet paper

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UPCYCLED ODYSSEY

Upcycled beauty and social responsibility come together in the line by 2b Design carried at the Odyssey Collection, which opened in Laguna Beach in May. For her line, French designer Benedicte de Blavous Moubarak transforms wrought iron and other architectural salvage from 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century homes in Lebanon and Syria into home accent pieces, such as lamps, candle holders and candelabras, small tables and more. The products are handmade in a small workshop in Beirut, Lebanon, by handicapped, disadvantaged and other marginalized people.

"The line is so amazing," Odyssey's Valerie Standen says. Valerie, who is from Lebanon, owns the store with her husband, David. "The homes were beautiful, built in the Venetian architectural style. The area was subject to many wars, the houses demolished and the architecture not being perpetuated when rebuilding. [Moubarak] is upcycling this otherwise discarded material and helping people."

All of Odyssey's pieces have special histories, Valerie adds. "We find really unique handmade products from the eastern Mediterranean," she says. "All pieces are made by artisans or families of artisans who have done this for many generations, or through not-for-profit or other social enterprises that create jobs and transmit the heritages of the countries."



A handcrafted lamp at the Odyssey Collection



David Clemens' home features Douglas fir pine flooring that has been made into a free-standing wall.

holder. He currently is building an aviary out of old French iron stair rail pieces and an iron gate panel from Egypt. His ideas go from his head to a sketch on paper before becoming reality.

"When creating something it's not really a 'how' for me; it's more 'is it fitting,'" Ruben says. "I really don't force art. It is about the vibe of the client and of the home and setting, and what needs or concerns have presented themselves. It feels special and personal, and hopefully I always create things that my clients can identify with."

CREATIVE HOMEOWNERS

A client of Derek Wolf of Wolf Design Studio in Laguna Beach strongly identified with a pair of rustic doors that she found. She liked them so much she was determined to find a place to use them in her Flora Street home.

"[My client] bought this house as kind of a vacation home, and we did a complete remodel to it," Derek says. "The home is a Spanish casita, or cottage, which was originally built in the 1930s, then it burnt down in the 1990s and was rebuilt to look old.

"They are these beautiful wooden doors with a wrought iron grate on top," he says. "They are old, but the grate looks modern and contemporary with its square bends, even though it is the original grate design. It is really an interesting piece."

The home's mudroom was the ideal location for the doors, which are being reworked into a barn style with the use of barn door hardware. They fit perfectly with the home.

The owners of another cottage home, in south Laguna, repurposed the home's original Douglas fir pine flooring into a dramatic free-standing wall. David Clemens and his partner remodeled their 1930s-era cottage and during the remodel found that the original flooring was too thin, probably from multiple sandings, to reuse on the floor.

"We had all this wood left and it really bummed me out not to be able to reuse the flooring on the floor," David says. "It has this great pumpkin orange color [from age]. We decided to use it as a wall."

The freestanding wall separates the kitchen from the dining room, with the reused wood visible on both sides. David also took a cue from the wood type and made a portion of the kitchen cabinets out of Douglas fir to pick up the same color.

The couple's renovations included tearing down some of the original cottage and expanding the home with room additions. The pair didn't stop at saving only the flooring. Plumbing fixtures and old doors were salvaged for future use and the cottage's old windows were sold for upcycling.

"Everything else that we thought could be upcycled, we gave to people who wanted to do something with it themselves," David says.



Clockwise from top left: Artist David Sullenger working in his studio; wood and tools used by Sullenger to transform branches into art; Sullenger at his Sawdust Art Festival booth, where he displays his finished goblets





A SECOND LIFE FOR LIMBS

Also working with wood is Laguna Beach artist and resident David Sullenger, who sculpts goblets, chalices and other drinking vessels from downed tree limbs. He uses hundreds of branches each year from trees that have been trimmed or completely cut down, helping reduce green waste while creating functional and artistic pieces.

"I try to get most of the wood locally," he says. "There are several places that do trimming, so I ask them for limbs. When I hear a buzz saw and see a tree being pruned or removed, I will ask if I can take some pieces."

He originally learned his woodworking craft through the Orange County Woodworking Association. He built a solar-powered kiln at his Laguna Canyon studio to dry the wood. David notes that he has used most of the hardwoods that grow locally. He often works with the eucalyptus species of silver dollar, ironbark and red gum. One of his favorite woods to use is mesquite, which he says is hard to get.

"I have a friend who is a wood trimmer in Palm Springs who brings me mesquite," David says.

After selecting the wood, David says that he considers the shape he will make and the layers that will bring out the most beauty. To keep each piece unique, he doesn't measure or use templates when creating his pieces, as many wood-turners do, he adds.

"Part of the process I like is that each drinking vessel is one of a kind," David says. "I can make a set of two, four or even 10 and each will be similar to the others but not exact."

FINDING TREASURES

Shop these local spots to find upcycled pieces for your home:

Blast Consignment, 1936 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-9608; blastconsignment.com
Diane and Michael, 731 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-4064; shopdianeandmichael.com
Flea Market, 450 Ocean Ave.; 949-715-1337; fleamarketlagunabeach.com
Laguna Nursery, 1370 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-5200; lagunanursery.net
Macalistaire at 1850, 1850 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-497-9080; macalistaire1850.com
Monique's Boutique, 1290 N. Coast Hwy.; 714-336-6681; shopmonique.com
Odyssey Collection, 490 S. Coast Hwy. #8;

949-272-0129; odyssey-collection.com Tuvalu, 295 Forest Ave.; 949-497-3202; tuvaluhome.com

Second Chance Thrift Shoppe, 355 Broadway St.; 949-464-0070

SIMPLY VISIONARY

Sometimes upcycling isn't necessarily about heavily reworking pieces, but more about seeing how something old and unwanted can be used in an inventive way. It's about using it in a way for which it wasn't originally intended and filling a practical need while also keeping the piece from rotting in a landfill.

Laguna resident and artist Jeannine Kenworthy, who enjoys scouring items left near the dumpster at her apartment building for use as potential upcycling treasures, came across a set of old bar stools. Where the previous owners may have seen only outdated furniture, Jeannine saw unique shelves to hold her numerous paintings. She brought the stools into her art studio, lined them up and placed her paintings on them, creating a different and attractive shelving display for her art. Jeannine also enjoys visiting garage sales and will pick up things from the side of the road that have "free" signs on them.

Her interest in upcycling started when she was young and had less money, she says. "It was a way of getting things I couldn't get otherwise. I would pick things up at a garage sale and transform them. I am creative by nature and it is more interesting than having what everybody else has and easier than building something from scratch."

Transformation of pieces into something more functional and often more beautiful than you began with is what upcycling is all about. How to do it yourself?

"Always be open to what something is telling you," Ruben suggests. "Just go for it and don't shy away from it." ${\tt LBM}$



AWAKENING THE COVE

CRYSTAL COVE ALLIANCE KEEPS HISTORY ALIVE WITH ITS THRIVING HISTORIC DISTRICT AND PLANS TO RENOVATE THE REMAINING 17 NORTH BEACH COTTAGES FOR PUBLIC USE.

By Ashley Breeding



Seventeen cottages await restoration on the North Beach.

Bud Carter, 88, stands before Crystal Cove's Cottage #7. His mouth forms a quivering smile and tears well in his eyes as a wave of nostalgia as powerful as the ocean behind us washes over him.

The cottage, nestled in the hillside of Crystal Cove's Historic District, is the ramshackle remains of Bud's family vacation home since childhood. The once palmthatched roof is nothing but bare gravel. The wood-framed windows are weathered, chips of turquoise paint peeling from years of wind and salty air. A small, matching picnic table waits on the porch for a family to gather around for another barbecue.

"This is the first time I've been back in 12 years," Bud says. "I just haven't been able to

bring myself here until now."

Bud's old bungalow is one of 46 at Crystal Cove, where an eclectic community of early settlers, self-proclaimed "Covites," lived and holidayed from the 1920s until 2001, when California State Parks required everyone to move out, as their leases expired, for muchneeded repairs and renovations.

Inside, the creaky hardwood floors are littered with shards of glass and blanketed with dirt. The only signs of life are native plants that have trespassed through crevices. Strangely, two white islet window curtains appear newly hung.

As Bud reminisces about summers of decades past—a seemingly simpler and sweeter time when teenagers spent their

days fishing and surfing beneath the sun, and evenings listening to Benny Goodman and "cutting a rug" on the deck of The Store nearby—it's easy to imagine the cove in its heyday. He paints a picture of a place ripe with color, both in landscape and the eccentric community that graced it.

"I couldn't have picked a better time to live here," he says. "I was so fortunate to have been part of such a special place that so few people got to experience."

EARLY 20TH CENTURY CHARM

A once-overlooked area of the Irvine Ranch (white sand beaches weren't of much use for cattle), the cove became a popular haven for Irvine Co. workers seeking respite, plein-air painters from Laguna Beach (William Wendt is the first-known to paint here) and silent movie-era Hollywood filmmakers scouting "island" locations.

Since James Irvine didn't mind people using his land to camp, Crystal Cove, over time, evolved into a community all its own. Settlers from various walks of life assembled vernacular beach-side bungalows from whatever materials were available to them—lumber from a shuttered warehouse in Los Angeles, discarded sinks from the Hotel del Coronado, window panels from abandoned railway cars. A wooden schooner that washed ashore in a violent storm in 1927 became an abundant resource for building materials.

One brick-colored cottage at the district's northern tip once stood in San Marino, recalls Laura Davick, founder and director of public affairs for Crystal Cove Alliance (CCA), a non-profit partner of California State Parks dedicated







THE THIRD OF SIX ARTICLES IN A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN:







Cottage #11 on the North Beach is in dire need of restoration.

to conservation, restoration and education.

"The family [dismantled] and moved the home to Crystal Cove, where they put it back together by hand," she explains. "One of the residents told me she remembers having to bang all of the square nails out of the boards, one by one, when she was just a little girl."

Crystal Cove Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places through the efforts of former Covites. When the land was purchased by California State Parks from The Irvine Co. in 1979, it was deemed to be the last intact example of early vernacular architecture along the Southern California coast, Laura says.

Having grown up here, it is personally important to Laura—imperative, even—that this "unique microcosm of California history" be protected and restored; in 1999 she founded CCA to halt a planned luxury resort and rescue the historic site. Plans to restore the cove soon followed, and together, CCA and California State Parks acquired more than \$22 million—via grants, generous donations and tireless fundraising—to begin renovations on the cove's cottages. The plan called for three phases: The first two, completed in 2006 and 2011, respectively, included restoration of 29 of the historic cottages—which now serve as overnight rentals, educational



TAKE A TOUR

On the second Saturday of every month, Crystal Cove Alliance offers a free walking tour of the Historic District from 10 a.m. to noon with Founder and Director of External Affairs Laura Davick. The event provides the public with an opportunity to peer inside this hidden gem—soaking up its wonderful history and sunshine, while learning about its many ongoing projects, programs and offerings. (crystalcovebeachcottages.com)

venues and dining establishments—as well as new infrastructure and additional facilities for guests and visitors.

What makes the Crystal Cove renovations particularly special is that these structures were all restored to look exactly as they did in the early 20th century. In many instances, original materials were salvaged. From the landscape to window treatments to paint colors, the modern-day structures you'll visit today reflect the very images you've seen in old landscape paintings by artists such as Wendt, Edgar Payne and Roger Kuntz. To stay in a cottage here is truly like stepping back in time—nowhere else in Southern California does such an experience exist. These restorations earned Crystal Cove State Park a prestigious Governor's Award for Historic Preservation in 2007.

"The restoration is all about providing a unique opportunity for the public," says Dan Gee, a CCA board member who serves as its representative on the Phase III restoration project. "Everyone should have this kind of beach experience at an affordable cost.

"It's incredible how many people, residents, in particular ... regularly drive the stretch of Coast Highway right above the cove and don't even know what's down here. We hope that by restoring it, more people will discover and get to enjoy it."

WISH YOU WERE HERE!

Crystal Cove Alliance hosts its 11th annual gala Sept. 28 in effort to raise money for the Phase III restoration project, in which the remaining 17 north beach cottages will be renovated. This year's theme—Wish You Were Here!—captures the free spirit of a Crystal Cove beach vacation in the days of yore. (crystalcovebeachcottages.com)

THE FINAL PHASE

The south end of the Historic District is alive and blossoming once again, now welcoming more than 800,000 visitors annually who come to rent out the renovated cottages, dine at the Shake Shack, The Beachcomber Cafe and Bootlegger Bar, and explore Crystal Cove's three-plus miles of pristine coastline and underwater park.

The northern landscape, however—still vibrant with overgrown bougainvillea and desert flowers among the eucalyptus trees and ice plant—juxtaposes a cluster of tired old houses dotting the bluff, all barely hanging together by a few nails. An earth slide at one side has forced a cottage in its path to lean outward. If it isn't soon restored, its precious parts may be lost forever.

A devastated boardwalk, which at one time stretched the entire 700-foot length of the homes, is now split and scattered.

It is now CCA's hope that the organization can raise the funds necessary to repair this last region of the historic park and offer 17 more overnight rental cottages to guests.

The project (Phase III), currently under evaluation, is estimated to cost \$20 million. Seven million dollars will cover the infrastructure—reconstruction of the historic boardwalk, retaining walls, electricity and plumbing—the initial step of the project. Engineers are also studying how predicted sea level rise will affect the area and assessing how to move forward with the restoration.

During a time when California State Park budgets are threatened, CCA is compensating for the deficit at Crystal Cove with its own concession revenue—12 percent is reserved for maintenance that would normally be paid for by the state, as well as future restorations. For this reason, CCA does not have the funds to complete the





Top: Bud Carter as a young boy in 1940, at Cottage #7 on the North Beach; bottom: Bud, age 88, back at Cottage #7 for a visit

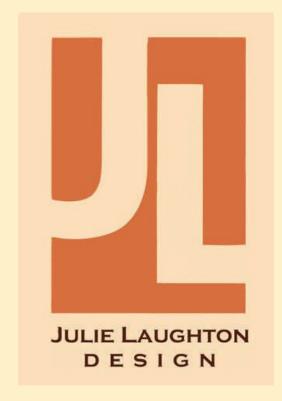
restoration and is relying heavily on the community to see the project to fruition.

"If we were to have all of the funding today, this would be a five-year project," Laura estimates. "But without the community's support, we won't be able to make it happen."

The project recently has secured \$5 million in mitigation funds from the California Coastal Commission, a commitment supported by former Executive Director Peter

Douglas, who frequented the cove and was profoundly inspired by the restoration efforts. "This initial funding enables CCA and California State Parks to begin work on early planning, engineering and permitting," Laura says. "This is an incredible milestone for CCA and culminates a six-year long effort."

"Crystal Cove is one of those rare examples where people can enjoy a million-dollar beach experience on a working-class budget,"



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Interior of Cottage #8, a future overnight rental

says Mary Shallenberger, California Coastal Commission chairwoman. "This project is good for public access and preserves an important piece of California history for families and future generations. There is no place like the cove—it's a unique gem."

Director of California State Parks, Major General Anthony Jackson, echoes Mary's sentiments: "Crystal Cove is an example of that period in our history most associated with California's beach culture," he says. "These significant cultural landscapes tell the stories of the generations of Californians who preceded us—the people who help mold a unique California lifestyle. The restoration of the Crystal Cove Historic District brings one chapter in our history to life, and that is something to be honored and preserved."

He also believes the Historic District serves as a model that should be replicated by other state parks. "It is not just a historic site; it pays its own way," he explains. "By applying 'adaptive reuse' to this site, we not only preserve history, we make it self-sustaining through the rents paid for overnight stays in the historic cottages. With the help of our good partners, the Crystal Cove Alliance, we have transformed this historic site into a place where visitors can experience and enjoy it as it was when it was a

vibrant community decades ago."

Peter Ueberroth, a prominent Orange County resident who has skin-dived along the cove's shores since 1944 ("more times than almost any other citizen"), conveys the importance of the project as well as the community's involvement.

"[This] project is important to all of Orange County," Peter says. "It links Corona del Mar and Laguna Beach, and is among the most beautiful beaches in the state of California. The cottages and amenities are a must for both local residents and visitors alike. Once completed, it will be the best example of a public-private partnership in the state park system."

Those who have had the privilege of living at Crystal Cove, explored its natural wonders or simply taken a barefoot stroll along its shore know what a truly special place it is. Original residents like Bud and kids exploring the beach for the first time are able to share the treasured space today, thanks to the partnership between CCA and California State Parks along with generous support from the community. With their continued work and collaboration, generations to come will have the opportunity to experience the history and culture preserved in the cove. LBM

FIREBRAND MEDIA LLC, IN CONJUNCTION WITH CRYSTAL COVE ALLIANCE, PRESENTS A SERIES OF SIX ARTICLES IN 2013-14 EXPLORING THE MANY ASPECTS OF CRYSTAL COVE. VIEW THE FIRST THREE ARTICLES AT CRYSTAL COVE STATE PARK THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER IN HISTORIC COTTAGE #46.



WHAT YOU MISS WHEN YOU DRIVE BY

Sweeping ocean views to one side and an idyllic canyon on the other are what most people see when cruising past Crystal Cove State Park on Pacific Coast Highway at 50 miles per hour. It's a sight that inspires extra glances and deep breaths to take in the cool sea breeze. But what you see in a blur is a mere snapshot of the state park's beauty. With more than three miles of pristine beach, 2,400 acres of protected chaparral habitat and 1,100 acres of underwater park, it's impossible to fully comprehend the historic charm, physical beauty and ecological importance that characterize Crystal Cove from inside a passing car.

Barely visible from the highway, 46 cottages originally built from the 1920s to 1930s dot the shore, and 29 are now available for rental and public use, thanks to preservation efforts spearheaded by the Crystal Cove Alliance and California State Parks. The park's diverse terrain and offshore expanse welcome campers, hikers. divers and other outdoor enthusiasts, and protected populations of flora and fauna intrigue everyone from leading scientists to Girl Scout troops. In this series of articles, we uncover the many layers of Crystal Cove that are easily overlooked when just driving by on your daily commute, but aren't soon dismissed when you take the time to discover the stories that make up this fascinating area.



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CONTEMPORARY DANCE-OFF

Two dance companies join together for one of the most anticipated dance festivals in Orange County.

By Jackie Adams

ON A PITCH-BLACK STAGE, A SINGLE SPOTLIGHT illuminates a still dancer beneath it. Slowly, the bare-chested dancer begins to move, stepping, then twisting his body. After a moment the lights start to quickly strobe on and off, and the dancer begins leaping, caught midair in the light, giving the illusion of flight.

This is the signature solo, "Caught," from Parsons Dance, one of the two dance companies that will perform at this year's annual Laguna Dance Festival, Sept. 4-8. The event is far from large classical ballet productions like "Swan

Lake" or "The Nutcracker," carrying a more intimate and artistic vibe. "It's very casual; it's not a black tie event," founder and artistic director Jodie Gates says of the event. "It's about rhythmic changes, gorgeous costumes and lighting. You don't have to try to understand it; it's OK to just view it as a performing, moving piece of art."

For the past eight years Jodie has hand-selected some of the best American dance companies to put on performances in Laguna. This year, the two companies that will perform at the Laguna Playhouse—Parsons Dance and Aspen Santa Fe Ballet—are cutting-edge contemporary dance groups that spin and slice through the air to Dave Matthews just as well as Bach.

THE PERFORMERS RETURN

Both Aspen Santa Fe and Parsons Dance were part of the very first dance festival Jodie put on. Eight years later, the festival has gained name recognition in Orange County, and the directors are excited to bring new dances to the reunion show.

Aspen Santa Fe (named after its two home cities) has a European flair and finds both emerging



Clockwise: "Over Glow," Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, choregraphed by Jorma Elo; Laguna Dance Festival founder and artistic director Jodie Gates: master class taught by **Complexions Contemporary** Ballet co-founder Desmond Richardson

and internationally renowned choreographers to craft its innovative dances. The company's 11 classically trained dancers will perform three pieces, one of which was choreographed by Jorma Elo, the popular Finnish choreographer whom the company was lucky enough to discover at the beginning of his career. It will also feature a dance choreographed by Alejandro Cerrudo, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's resident choreographer, and a summer piece titled "Like a Samba" by the award-winning Trey McIntyre.

Both companies perform internationally, and Aspen Santa Fe recently returned from a tour through Russia, the birthplace of classical ballet. "We had the opportunity to do two performances in Moscow, right on Theatre Square next to the Bolshoi Theatre," Tom Mossbrucker, the director of Aspen Santa Fe says. "It was just really amazing."

Parsons Dance's style is very athletic, and Dance Magazine has called dance director David Parsons "one of an elite group of crowd-pleasing moderns." Jodie adds, "David's done some iconic works that the audience absolutely adores—like this piece he's bringing: 'Caught.' It's one of the favorites, really a unique solo."

The company will perform several additional pieces and preview a new piece tentatively titled "For EK." David says, "The piece explores the effect of gender on movement, focusing on identical





movements and how they are performed by men or women in a playful manner."

PRELUDE TO A DANCE

Before each performance, Jodie and the directors will host a free, one-hour talk, where they will explain the dances and describe what went into creating the performances. "I'm a dance educator and I feel pretty strongly about making this as accessible as possible," Jodie says. "I think it's a lot more enjoyable to go to a performance when you have a little bit of knowledge about what you're going to see."

This year's festival will be held over four

nights in September, with each company performing twice. Preceding the performances there will also be a master class, where dance lovers from the community will have the opportunity to learn classical ballet from the companies' directors.

Jodie, who was recently named vice dean and director of the USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance, plans to continue organizing these festivals, no matter how busy her schedule gets. "I think Laguna Beach has this vortex of creative energy that is undeniable," she says. "And I think that dance absolutely fits into the cultural fabric of our community."

Visit lagunadancefestival.org for details. LBM







LAGUNA'S HABITAT

BETWEEN THE HILLS AND THE SEA

Park Avenue and Hillview Drive join between downtown Laguna Beach and Top of The World, creating the ideal spot to access the city below and the canyons and wilderness above.

By Sally Eastwood | Photos by Jody Tiongco











The sweeping curves of Park Avenue carry you up and away from the heart of bustling downtown, towards Alta Laguna and Top of The World. Just past Thurston Middle School, Hillview Drive spokes off Park, running parallel and just below the main road. This is where the scenic area became victim to the fires of 1993. Many houses are new and some original residences survived due to the efforts of some hard-working fire-fighters. The result is a variety of home designs side-by-side: modern, Mediterranean, cottage and cabin—each unique and each with great views of the surrounding canyons and the ocean beyond. Three families share their experiences of living around Laguna Beach's Park Avenue.











FAMILY COMPOUND

Annee and Eric Alcouloumre and their family live in a home that includes a guesthouse, pool area, playground and a small orchard, perched on the edge of the canyon overlooking the curves of lower Park Avenue. "We fell in love with the house and made an offer the day we first looked at it," Annee says. "This was the first house built on Hillview. The original parcel was an acre in total."

From its beginnings in 1979 as a large but rustic mountain cabin, Annee and Eric transformed the house in 1993, doubling the square footage to create a private compound for an active family and their philanthropic activities.

"We completed the renovations, moved in, then two weeks later the fires came through," she says. They arrived back after being evacuated, to find

their home still standing due to quick-thinking firefighters. "They filled a trash can with water from the pool, grabbed a dog bowl and scooped up water to throw on the fire." That dog bowl now hangs on a wall in the kitchen along with a plaque to memorialize its impressive credentials.

The heart of the home is the 1,000-square-foot great room, created by local architect Mark Singer. Annee wanted the design aesthetic to match the style of the existing home, and that's exactly what Singer achieved. It's a soaring, majestic space, with skylights in the roof allowing light to pour in. The Alcouloumres have hosted dance parties, Hanukkah celebrations and fundraisers, featuring iazz bands and musicians from the Pacific Symphony Orchestra.

The house contains a wing for their three children, which includes bedrooms, bathrooms, a hangout and a library-cum-homework space. Annee's favorite spot to relax is the formal living room, decorated in muted colors with a French flair, and a replica of a coffee table that Coco Chanel had in her Paris apartment in the 1920s.

Outside, multiple deck areas provide views of the canyon and ocean, and usher in welcome breezes that travel up the canyon. The property's orchard has lemon, peach, nectarine and pomegranate trees.

Annee muses: "It's a great neighborhood. We're all friends here and we get together regularly for dinner together. It's quiet, close to all the schools and close to downtown: a perfect family home."





Arthur and Deborah Braeger, DAY JOB: Art owns a construction company; Deborah used to run a travel business and is now retired. SPACE: 2,500 square feet, two bedrooms, 2.5 baths, HOUSE TIMELINE: Built in 1979, purchased and renovated in 2001. FABULOUS FEATURE: The entry courtyard and atrium with waterfall.

FAMILY FACTS:





CONTEMPORARY CANVAS

STEPPING INTO THE COURTYARD OF DEBORAH and Arthur "Art" Braeger's concrete-clad home with its angular facade, you are enveloped in the warm embrace of a bright three-story atrium containing a towering Japanese maple and a genial Asian figurine welcoming visitors. "I toured Fallingwater a few years ago and was struck by Frank Lloyd Wright's use of space: narrow entryways opening up to spacious living areas," Deborah says. That's the feel you get when you enter here."

The home has two floors of living space overlooking the canyon and ocean, plus a third floor art gallery, topped with a frosted glass ceiling that floods the area with light, while filtering direct sun to protect the paintings.

The home didn't always look this way when the Braegers bought it. They inherited a property that needed a lot of work. "Art owns a construction business and that's the only reason we were willing to take it on," Deborah says.

Art's design flair is evident throughout, from the courtyard entryway to the kitchen cabinets, countertops and backsplashes and the limestone-clad bathrooms of the dual master suites. Deborah laughs at people's reactions when she tells them her husband did everything. She says, "I just left him to it. My girlfriends couldn't believe I didn't get involved."

Furnishings include antique chairs, Japanese-

style screens, and modern metal and glass in the dining room. Since the Braegers are passionate art collectors, this eclectic, cultural mix is pulled together with paintings, sketches, French posters and sculptures. One iconic sculptural piece was created by Mary Louise Snowden, whose father worked for Auguste Rodin. When Rodin passed away, he bequeathed his tools to Mary Louise's father, who in turn, passed them on to her.

Contemporary yet cozy, Art and Deborah's house is their haven. "The first time I walked in, I could see myself living here, despite what it looked like back then," Deborah says. "We looked at a lot of houses, but this is the right place for us. I always feel a sense of calm every time I come home."





Stevan, Rona, Alex (21) and Danielle (17) Gromet, and Kobe (golden retriever), Lizzie (cockapoo) and Luna (kitten), DAY JOB: Stevan is a real estate attorney; Rona is a homemaker. SPACE: 5,000 square feet, four bedrooms. 4.5 baths. HOUSE TIMELINE: Built in 2004, purchased in 2006. FABULOUS FEATURE: The covered loggia just off the family room.

FAMILY FACTS:





PARK AVENUE VILLA

LAGUNA BEACH IS KNOWN FOR MANY THINGS, but large, flat parcels of land are generally not one of them. Stevan and Rona Gromet's home on Park Avenue is among the rare few that can boast a 15,000-square-foot lot. "We were looking for a larger house with a family floor plan and a flat lot," Rona says. "We didn't want a windy road, and we didn't want traffic."

The Tuscan villa they eventually purchased checked another box on their list of must-haves: it was completely finished. "After going through renovations in our prior home, I just wanted to move in with my toothbrush and not do any more," she comments.

Designed by Capistrano Beach architect W.

Wayne Collins, the home is the epitome of Tuscan grandeur. The imposing wood and glass front door's massive scale complements the cut stone of the walls and the iron gates. From the front, the house retains its privacy. The back opens up to the pool area and the canyon beyond. Neutrals and earth tones play up the Mediterranean theme, with comfortable, oversized furniture to fit the large rooms. The formal living room holds a grand piano and has hosted concerts during fundraising events for institutions such as the Laguna College of Art & Design.

Adjacent to the family room is a covered loggia, complete with outdoor fireplace and cozy sofas to curl up with a glass of wine on cool evenings. A large patio area features a rectangular pool and hot tub, as well as a grassy area where dogs Lizzie and Kobe can play. The Gromets use the outside area a lot. "We've had holiday parties, fundraising events and Laguna Beach Live concerts. It's a great indoor/outdoor space," Rona says.

The icing on the cake is a rooftop deck, complete with fire pit, perfect for watching the sunset. Rona says, "We came back from a vacation in Tuscany one year and when I got home, I felt I was still there."

Stevan concurs. "We're close to town, yet there's no road noise, no lights, and it's very quiet. It's just a great place to live." LBM



Honua Kai Resort & Spa's expansive patios offer dramatic ocean and mountain views.

MAUI HOLIDAY

Hawaii's second-biggest island is hardly second-best with plenty to see, do and eat on its varied terrain.

By Linda Domingo

THERE'S NARY A CLOUD IN THE IMPOSSIBLY blue sky, and the even bluer ocean lies calmly beyond the soft, sandy beach and lush palm trees as we wake ourselves up with sandwiches, fresh fruit and coffee. "Cue the dolphins," one of us jokes. We laugh, but glare at the view as if we actually expect marine life to come springing out of the ocean.

This is just the start to a typical morning while on holiday in Maui. The second-largest Hawaiian island, Maui boasts green terrain, temperate weather and luxury real estate development. All of these have made Maui a top destination choice for travelers, even those from the sun-soaked California coast.



Teralani offers guided snorkeling expeditions.

STAY

Set on prime Kaanapali North Beach property in the resort town of Lahaina, Honua Kai Resort & Spa is made up of an all-suite hotel and collection of residences for those who wish to own their own beach getaway (honuakai.com). Contemporary while maintaining an island feel, the resort's rooms effortlessly blend the luxurious and casual, with expansive patios and awe-inspiring mountain, resort or ocean views. Taking the aloha lifestyle to another level, the friendly and personal customer service throughout the property makes every guest's stay hassle-free. For those new to Maui, the staff is happy to suggest and/or arrange activities that would enhance any vacation.

Dining is casual at Honua Kai, with Duke's Beach House serving locally sourced ingredients in Hawaiian dishes for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Also centered around local flavors and ingredients, 'Aina Gourmet Market sells a range of groceries, pastries, salads, sandwiches and to-go meals.

But the main focus of the resort may be outside—there's a pool for every member of the family, including the Wailele "Waterfall" pool for children and their parents and the Maile "Calm/ Quiet" pool for adults seeking rest and relaxation. The pool staff also rents and sells gear like boogie boards and snorkel equipment. Just past the aquatic playground lies a boardwalk and Kaanapali North Beach, a three-mile expanse ideal for sunbathing, paddleboarding and people-watching.

Another of Maui's world-class properties, The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua (ritzcarlton.com), is set on 54 acres in Kapalua and features luxurious beach-inspired accommodations, six restaurants and the Ritz-Carlton Spa, which features uniquely Hawaiian treatments such as the organic papaya pineapple manicure and pedicure.

For those in need of a private retreat, Wailea Beach Villas are flanked by five gorgeous beaches and located a short walk from a plethora of spas, restaurants and shopping (drhmaui.com). For the ultimate in unwinding, massages and spa treatments are offered in rooms or oceanfront cabanas.

PLAY

Relaxation can be overwhelming. Fortunately, adventures on Maui's landscapes offer respite from a schedule chock-full of lounging. Mountains, volcanoes, beaches and rainforests all populate the island, offering something for every traveler.

For the adventurous, Kapalua is a tropical paradise of lush greenery. Kapalua Resort offers miles of hiking trails for all levels, a year-round tennis facility, and two world-class golf courses in addition to the Kapalua Golf Academy (kapalua.com).



Honua Kai Resort & Spa features an all-suite hotel and a collection of residences.



Seared ahi at The Plantation House



Intertidal exploration in Kapalua



The Ritz-Carton, Kapalua occupies 54 acres of lush property in Kapalua.

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- UNDERGROUND



































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Teralani's catamarans offer sunset cruises complete with appetizers and cocktails.

The island's beaches play host to surfers, divers, snorkelers and more. For a leisurely yet exciting way to take in Maui's aquatic beauty, Teralani's fleet of catamarans takes passengers out to sea from Kaanapali Beach for a refreshing sunset cruise, complete with appetizers and adult beverages (teralani.net). For those who prefer to stay on dry land, the nearby Whalers Village features top beach clothing brands, jewelry and specialty boutiques, and eateries (whalersvillage.com).

DINE

A coveted local favorite conveniently set in Lahaina's shopping district, Mala Ocean Tavern is located on the water, and diners can choose to eat inside the quaint cottage of a restaurant, or out on the covered patio, feet from waves lapping against rocks and sea turtles looking for algae (malaoceantavern.com). Diners rarely choose unwisely on a menu of fresh seafood, but the Kama'aina mai tai should be in everyone's hand—the cocktail won first place in Bacardi's Best Mai Tai on Maui contest. Just outside, Lahaina's multitude of colorful boutiques surrounding the enormous, century-old banyan tree present the perfect place to peruse and burn off calories.

The Star Noodle staff serves up some of the best of the East on the island (starnoodle.



Garlic noodles at Star Noodle

com). Instead of following the overplayed Asian "fusion" trend, the restaurant's dishes offer classic Asian flavors presented in innovative ways. The chef's garlic noodles have earned him local fame, so order abundantly and without regard.

PERSONAL PARADISE

Although just a short plane ride away, Maui can feel worlds apart from the Southern California coast with its mountainous terrain, warm waters and laid-back, tropical lifestyle. For those looking to escape without sacrificing all the comforts of home, Honua Kai Resort & Spa also offers luxury condominium residences set on the shores of Kaanapali Beach.

The one-level suites and residences all feature full kitchens and expansive lanais. Large, custom NanaWall door systems facilitate indoor/outdoor living, invite sunshine and offer gorgeous views. Options range from one- to three-bedroom suites that come fully furnished with kitchen appliances.

In addition to the beach at their doorstep, residents will enjoy gardens, ponds, pools, a high-tech fitness center and outdoor barbecues on property. The Honua Kai Family Fun Club provides the quintessential Hawaiian experience, including hula dancing, lei making and nature scavenger hunts for children ages 3 to 12. (ownhonuakai.com)

Pair with a beer from Maui Brewing Co. or a signature cocktail and leave room for malasadas—a Hawaiian dessert made of deep-fried dough covered in sugar, served with chocolate, butterscotch and caramel sauces. With a menu that spans close to 30 entrees and a bar stocked with sake and specialty cocktails, everyone is sure to find something pleasing to the palate.

Elegant dining experiences are plentiful, one such being Humuhumunukunukuapuaa restaurant, named for the state fish (grandwailea.com). Set on a saltwater lagoon filled with tropical fish, the restaurant is a romantic choice for sunset dinners.

Another upscale option is The Plantation House on Kapalua Resort, which showcases Hawaiian fare through signature items such as kampachi tartare, seared ahi and Maui pineapple cake (theplantationhouse.com). For a seafoodcentric meal any time of day with amazing views, head south for Gannon's restaurant, created by Bev Gannon, The Maui News' and Maui No Ka 'Oi Magazine's "Best Chef on Maui" winner (gannonsrestaurant.com).

Travelers to Maui may be surprised by the diversity of the island's landscape and the abundant activities it offers visitors and residents alike. Even OC natives, who are accustomed to living and working in a vacation spot, will be impressed by Maui's paradisiacal display. LBM





South Shore Sustenance

In Kauai's Poipu Beach community, the palate delights in flavors of the Garden Isle.

BY ALLISON HATA



Creme brulee from Tidepools



The patio at Tortilla Republic



The Red Salt poke dish

A paradise for those seeking an off-thebeaten-path island experience and a resort setting, the Garden Isle offers the best of both worlds. Travelers visiting picturesque Poipu Beach may come for the sights of lush tropical scenery, but end up indulging another sense as they tour Kauai's South Shore with their taste buds.

BREAKFAST BITES

A place where it's perfectly acceptable—and encouraged—to indulge in a cocktail before noon, Tortilla Republic offers a selection of morning drinks that go far beyond the basic bloody mary, plus an extensive menu of modern Mexican breakfast specialties. Flavors of the island mingle with mainland influences in traditional dishes like the seared ahi and sweet potato hash. For an authentic Latininspired feast, however, a must-order entree is the relleno poblano—a stuffed chili pepper filled with a mouthwatering mixture of scrambled eggs, spinach, Monterey Jack cheese and pico de gallo.

Wash it all down with a crisp swallow from one of the restaurant's six refreshing morning cocktails, such as the michelada, a Mexican beer cocktail served with tequila, lime juice, habanero hot sauce and clamato for a complex, rich taste. If you miss breakfast, Tortilla Republic also offers expanded cocktail and food options for lunch, dinner and happy hour. (808-742-8884; tortillarepublic.com)

FINE FARE

Skip lunch and head straight to dinner, where two premier island establishments offer meals to remember.

Savor contemporary Hawaiian cuisine at Tidepools at the Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa, which features a tranquil waterfall and views of the ocean. Prime your palate with a platter of melt-in-your mouth hamachi served with thinly sliced watermelon and white soy vinaigrette, then move on to a fresh catch, like the macadamia nut-encrusted mahi mahi complemented by a subtly sweet papaya-avocado relish. If there's room for dessert—and there always is—opt for the heavenly Hawaiian vanilla and coconut creme brulee, served in a coconut shell for a true taste of the island. (808-240-6456; grandhyattkauai.com/restaurants)

Just up the road, the understated yet elegant Red Salt at the boutique Koa Kea Hotel & Resort allows its sweeping views of the garden, pool and ocean to do the talking. At the restaurant, whimsical presentation is everything: The Red Salt poke dish is artfully plated as a checkerboard of red and white fish (ahi and waloo), served atop paper-thin slices of Japanese cucumber with a garnish of orange or wasabi tobiko. After dinner, a visit to the lounge bar is a must, where the signature Red Coral martini featuring vanilla, raspberry and cranberry vodka with pomegranate juice provides a sweet finish to the evening. (808-828-8888; koakea.com)

From breakfast to dinner and every happy hour and brunch in between, Kauai's South Shore has countless fresh options to tempt your taste buds. LBM

ON THE ISLE

Here we offer a guide to some of the best places to stay and play for a true South Shore vacation.

STAY

GRAND HYATT KAUAI RESORT & SPA 808-742-1234; kauai hyatt com

KOA KEA HOTEL & RESORT 808-828-8888; koakea.com

MARRIOTT KAUA'I BEACH CLUB 808-245-5050;

PLAY

OUTFITTERS
KAUAI ZIPLINE
TREK
808-742-9667;
outfitterskauai con

SHOPS AT KUKUIULA 808-742-9545; theshopsat

ANARA SPA 808-240-6440; anaraspa.com













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REAL ESTATE Showcase





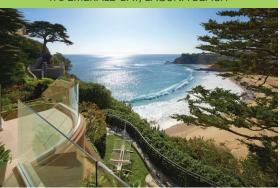
TOUR LAGUNA'S TOP HOMES

FROM QUAINT BEACH COTTAGES TO LUXURY HILLTOP ESTATES, Laguna Beach offers some of the best homes, and views, in Orange County. On the following pages, we bring you a special section dedicated to highlighting top properties on the market today. These outstanding homes and properties are represented by Laguna Beach's expert real estate companies—individuals with superior knowledge of the local area and the OC market, all dedicated to providing the best customer service.

Pictured on this page:
Address: 2825 Chateau Way
Offering price: \$2,099,000
Agent: Marcus Skenderian, Surterre Properties
Contact info: 949-295-5758; marcus@surterreproperties.com



173 EMERALD BAY, LAGUNA BEACH



PRICE: \$29,500,000

At over 9000 square feet, this premier estate sits on the Peninsula of Emerald Bay above the bluffs of the elite North Laguna Beach communities. From the superior perspective, no other property can match the unparalleled views of the serene beaches. Only 3 properties in Emerald Bay have deeded access to Irvine Cove's mean high tideline, a private twisting path just beyond the backyard leads to the discreet shores.





PRICE: \$11,995,000

This property epitomizes neoteric design while inviting a spirit of invention and excitement. With the sleek sophistication of a penthouse in Seoul and the fashionable lines of a retreat in Dubai, the allure of this ultramodern escape is undeniable. Whether enjoying the tranquility of the koi pond, gathering the elite at a sunset soiree, or hosting an intimate tasting in the world-class wine cellar, this estate heightens every experience.

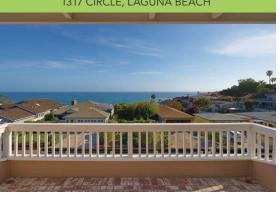
1007 GAVIOTA DRIVE, LAGUNA BEACH



PRICE: \$7,995,000

Stunning oceanfront Laguna Beach home with panoramic unobstructed north-facing views ideally located on the bluffs overlooking Anita Beach. The spacious lot provides the optimal rare setting to take in the Pacific breezes and enjoy the picturesque coastline views and world-class surfing with Catalina Island as its backdrop.

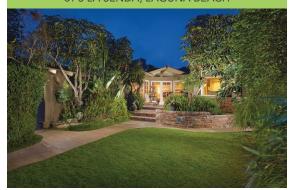
1317 CIRCLE, LAGUNA BEACH



PRICE: \$2,995,000

Gorgeous home by the sea in Crescent Bay in north Laguna just steps from the beach. This charming residence features three levels of ocean-view living including 4 bedrooms with a top-floor master bedroom retreat, 2 bedrooms on the main living level and a separate bedroom on the ground level perfect for guests.

61 S LA SENDA, LAGUNA BEACH



PRICE: \$2,650,000

Nestled amid mature sub-tropical landscaping, this private, west-facing 3-bedroom/2-bath single-story lower Three Arch Bay home sits across from the Bay Drive footpath providing nearly instant access to the south stairs and renowned, private beach.

875 VAN DYKE, LAGUNA BEACH



PRICE: \$2,249,000

Ideally situated atop a Laguna hillside to capture dramatic north coast views as well as west towards San Clemente Island, this 4 bed/4 bath unique estate is brilliantly designed with exotic woods to create a warm, contemporary style.

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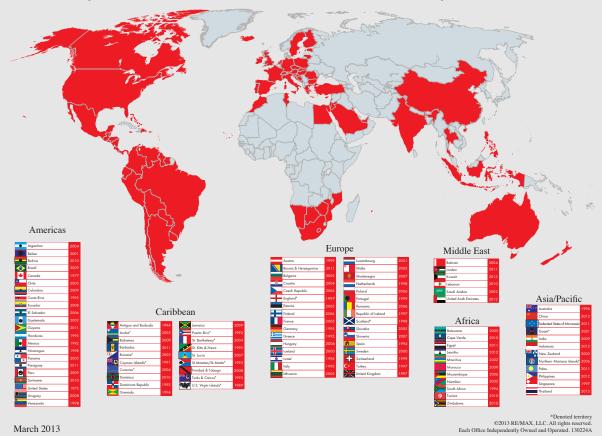


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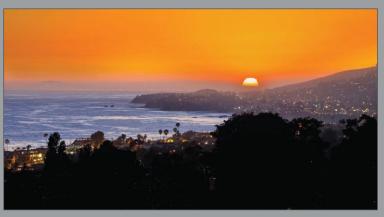
BRE #01248234

BRE #01487719

Available Properties by Shauna Covington



2014 Donna Drive Laguna Beach • LAGUNA BEACH \$8,000,000 | 2014donna.com



2176 Ruby Place • LAGUNA BEACH \$3,195,000 | 2176ruby.com



31612 Paseo Rita • SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
Single Story | \$2,495,000 | 31612paseorita.com



26509 Via Sacramento • CAPISTRANO BEACH
4 Bedroom 4.5 Bath 5,000 sq. ft. | \$1,799,000 | 26509viasacramento.net



30682 Belle Maison • LAGUNA NIGUEL
Ocean, Coastline & Valley Views | \$1,299,000 | 30682bellemaison.com



31861 Peppertree Bend • SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
4 bedrooms 4 baths. One acre lot. | \$2,290,000 | 31861peppertree.net

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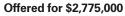
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LAGUNA ROYALE #31

Rarely available, 3rd floor, North Corner, 3BR, beautifully remodeled ocean front condo in the Laguna Royale with exceptional beach views. The Laguna Royale has 24/7 Security guard at entry, an Elevator to beach & pool. 2 parking spaces.

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LAGUNA LIDO #307

Rarely Available, Laguna Lido unit with gorgeous panoramic ocean views. Ready to move into! The Lido is like a small resort right on the Totuava, fabulous amenities, including an Elevator to Lovely Totuava Beach, Beach Lockers, Saline Pool, Fabulous Fitness Center, Steam Shower and Game Room. Come and Enjoy!

Offered for \$1,749,000



LAGUNA ROYALE #84

Top Floor Unit has Incredible Views of the Laguna Coastline... and and Elevator to the Beach! Gorgeous Coastline, Catalina and Sunset Views from this Top Floor unit! Versatile unit has two sets of Sliding doors, one on either side of the Large Private Deck. New Appliances include Stove, Refrigerator and Washer and Dryer...Skylight in the second bathroom.

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IN ESCROW > LAGUNA BEACH Offered for \$2,199,000

An architectural and engineering masterpiece, this home was designed and built by renowned architect, Dariouche Showghi, as his family's private residence. Perched above Victoria Beach, the surrounding hillsides and canyon perfectly frame the home's spectacular ocean view.





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A restaurant resource for dining out in Laguna Beach

AMERICAN

THE BEACHCOMBER AT CRYSTAL COVE

15 Crystal Cove; 949-376-6900; thebeachcombercafe.com

BJ'S PIZZA AND GRILL

280 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-3802; bjsrestaurants.com

THE CLIFF RESTAURANT

577 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-1956; the cliffrest aurant com

THE DECK ON LAGUNA BEACH

627 Sleepy Hollow Ln.; 949-494-670; deckonlaguna.com

THE GREETER'S CORNER RESTAURANT

329 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-0361;

thegreeterscorner.com

HUSKY BOY BURGERS

802 N. Coast Hwy.; 949-497-9605; huskyboyburgers.com

JOHNNY ROCKETS

188 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-497-7252;

johnnyrockets.com

LUMBERYARD

384 Forest Ave.; 949-715-3900;

Iblumberyard.com

NICK'S LAGUNA BEACH

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orangeinncafe.com PENGUIN CAFE

981 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-1353;

thepenguincafe.com

REMARK'S

853 Laguna Canyon Rd.; 949-715-8700; remarkslagunabeach.com

RUBY'S DINER

30622 Coast Hwy.; 949-497-7829; rubys.com

SHIRLEY'S BAGELS

303 S. Broadway; 949-494-6296;

shirleysbagels.com

SPLASHES RESTAURANT AND BAR AT SURF & SAND RESORT

1555 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-497-4477;

surfandsandresort.com

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MONARCH BEACH

One Monarch Beach Resort; 949-234-3405; stregismb.com

TIVOLI TERRACE

650 Laguna Canyon Rd.; 949-494-9650;

tivoliterrace.com

TIVOLI TOO!

777 Laguna Canyon Rd.; 949-494-6044;

tivoli-too.com

Hold the Wine

Guests who order the amuse-bouche of duck pate with toasted bread at The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel's restaurant, enoSTEAK, will be pleasantly surprised when their dishes arrive not on plates, but on deflated wine bottles. Artist Elizabeth Gurklys, who specializes in glasswork and created the singular serving dishes, explains that she was attracted to the idea of flattening the cylinders to give them purpose after the wine inside is gone. Describing diners' reactions to the unique presentation, Deanne French, director of public relations at The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel, says, "Guests love the bottles and think they are so unique. We have sold quite a few to date, as guests like to take them home and serve cheese and crackers on them." A portion of the proceeds from each flattened bottle sold benefits SEEDS Art and Education Inc., a Laguna Beach nonprofit organization that advances education for children through grants and scholarships, and funds programs that specialize in the arts, environmental stewardship, health and community building, (949-240-2000; enowinerooms.com/enosteak) — L.M.



Amuse-bouche of duck pate is served on artist Elizabeth Gurklys' flattened wine bottle.

DINE | MARO WOOD GRILL









Maro Wood Grill serves Argentinian-inspired dishes made with fresh, local ingredients.

TASTE OF ARGENTINA

Maro Wood Grill offers a fresh, local spin on Argentinian fare.

By Micaela Myers | Photos by Jody Tiongco

Every day, locals fill the handful of tables at Maro Wood Grill, seeking fresh, Argentinian-inspired cuisine. "We try to keep everything local (with the exception of some Argentinian items)," owner Mariano "Maro" Molteni says. "The idea is to have everything fresh and organic."

Some of the meats come from Paso Robles, while some of the craft beer offered is from San Diego, for example. Of course, Argentine malbec is also featured on the menu.

Opened in 2011, the restaurant only seats 30 outside and eight around the kitchen bar. Its popularity with locals makes almost every day a full house (reservations accepted). "That's the key," says Maro, explaining that about 70 percent of business is local.

Maro grew up in Argentina. Together with his chef, Debra Sims, he's made the restaurant quite a hit, known especially for its mesquite wood grill. "We don't like to cook with the flame," he explains. "We prefer to have the coals ready."

"Whatever I can grill, I grill," Debra adds. "I haven't sauteed anything since I started here."

On our recent visit, our culinary journey began with the Maro edamame and grilled shishitos, both served with grilled coarse Sonoma sea salt and house-pickled ginger. After these tasty treats, we sampled the best empanadas I've ever had. Mine were the mushroom (organic mushrooms, Spanish onions, mozzarella cheese) and spinach (organic spinach, sweet onions, provolone cheese) varieties, but Maro also offers spicy chicken and beef empanadas. All are served with a delicious house-made garlic aioli dip.

From there, we sampled the organic green salad and grass fed baseball steak. The steak is a center-cut top sirloin served with organic arugula, red onions, Maytag blue cheese dressing and house-made chimichurri. For dessert, don't miss the organic banana bread pudding made with artisan brioche, eggs, muscovado sugar, royal vanilla beans and vanilla-bourbon cream sauce.

The affordable prices and family-friendly atmosphere, along with cuisine you won't find anywhere else, are sure to keep customers coming back for more. LBM

MARO WOOD GRILL

1915 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach; 949-793-4044; marowoodgrill.com

HOURS:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, noon - 9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, noon - 10 p.m.

PRICE: \$3.50 - \$35 (appetizers and entrees)

TIP: Look for more Maro Wood Grills in the future, as owner Mariano Molteni is looking for a second coastal Orange County location with more space.

DINE | 242 CAFE FUSION SUSHI



Chef Miki prepares a Laguna Canyon roll with a blowtorch.







The restaurant's famous Sexy Handroll includes spicy tuna and scallops.

THE ART OF SUSHI

Chef Miki Izumisawa creates vibrant works using the dinner plate as her canvas.

By Linda Domingo | Photos by Jody Tiongco

MIKI IZUMISAWA LITERALLY BUILT, BY HAND, THE SUSHI BAR she works behind. She starts work at 242 Cafe Fusion Sushi each day by tying a cloth band around her head and taking inventory of the fresh fish at the restaurant. "[Miki] is the plumber; she's the electrician; she's everything," says sous chef Susan Yoon. "She's better than any male chef."

Ask Miki about her background and she's quietly understated. She'd rather tell you the story behind each impeccably crafted dish than discuss her time working under sushi master Nobu Matsuhisa, or boast of being a part of an exclusive community of female sushi chefs.

"Every dish has a story," Miki says. As an artist (she created all of the artworks that adorn the restaurant), her sushi dishes each carry meaning. The restaurant doesn't adhere to all the rules of traditional sushi etiquette, but there is a sign at the end of the bar illustrating a stipulation—do not ask for soy sauce. In the menu, you'll also see that there is to be no customization.

Although Miki grew up in Japan, she creates fusion dishes, incorporating inspiration from everything from Disney princesses to the environment. "Anyone can make traditional sushi," she says. "I want to do what I want to do. For traditional, you

can go to another chef."

The menu is filled with bright photos of food, many times adjacent to a picture of what inspired it. The Orange Sand Beach, a roll of spicy marinated pepper salmon with soy vinegar sauce, sits next to an idyllic picture of a beach. The Snow White roll, made with a selection of fish and mango paste, serrano chili, scallions, plum paste and Parmesan, draws colors from the eponymous fairytale. One favorite is the Laguna Canyon roll, Miki's take on a rainbow roll, inspired by history: She sears the fish with a blowtorch, symbolizing the 1993 canyon fire, then sprinkles salad atop the roll, because "after the rain, the plants grow again."

Other highlights include the Integrated P With G, Moss Pink, Give You Energy and famous Sexy Handroll, a beautifully concoted hand roll of spicy tuna, scallops, "secret crunchies" and Miki's secret sauce.

There is one Japanese tradition 242 brings to Laguna: the restaurant's Omakase—or chef's selection—menu, which starts with soup before moving into four chef's choice plates.

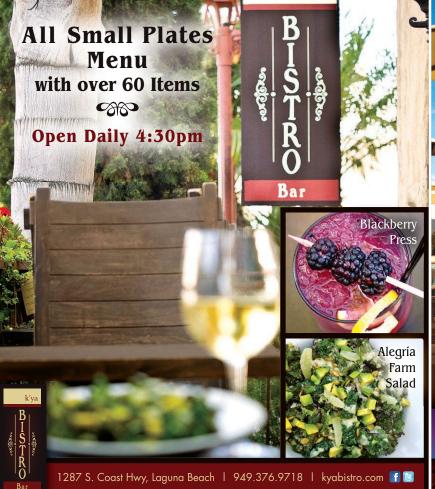
So what's next for the chef? "I'm thinking of a cake," Miki says. She looks into the distance, and adds with a smile, "A sushi cake—it would have rice, decorated with fish." LBM

242 CAFE FUSION SUSHI

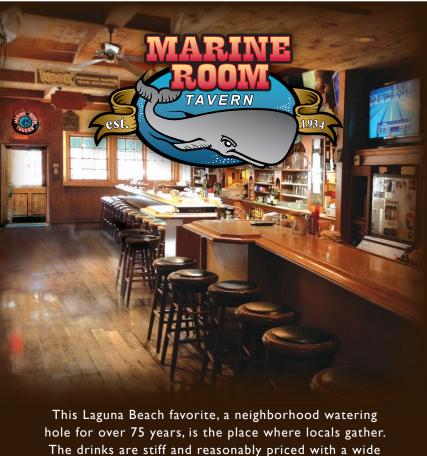
242 N. Coast Hwy.; 949-494-2444; fusionart.us

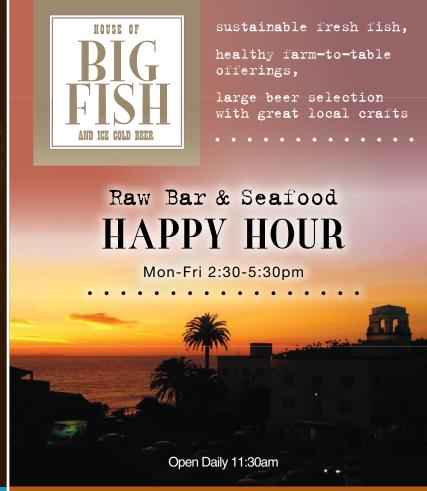
Hours: Sunday -Thursday, 4:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.; Friday - Saturday, 4:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

TIP: The restaurant is small, seating no more than 20 people, so arrive early to avoid a long wait. Also, take advantage of 242's extensive sake menu.









selection of whiskeys, bourbons, and craft beers. Shoot some pool or enjoy nightly live entertainment.

GOURMET GOODS

Nestled near the heart of downtown Laguna Beach at the corner of Forest Avenue and Second Street, Laguna Wine, Coffee, & Specialty Foods celebrated its grand opening July 2. The gourmet shop offers an array of specialty foods, including infused olive oils, vinegars, cheeses, biscuits, private label chocolates, artisanal beans and grounds by Verve Coffee Roasters, and a wide selection of delicately harvested and aged wines and domestic and imported beers. Managed by the Huang family, owners of Laguna's Sundried Tomato Cafe and several other local storefronts, Laguna Wine's staff strives to forge a unique sense of community within the shop. "We have always been interested in opening a coffee shop in the heart of Laguna Beach," store manager and Laguna native Clifton Huang says. "As our dreams unfolded, we began to explore the idea of expanding the storefront to a specialty food shop to better serve the needs of the community. It has been an exciting endeavor and we can't wait to welcome you all in." (949-494-4697; lagunawinecafe.com) -K.L.



The shop offers drinks by Verve Coffee Roasters.



ZPizza founder Sid Fanarof celebrated the reopening of the company's Laguna Beach store in August.

ZPizza Reopens

ZPizza is back in business in Laguna at a new modern location at 30822 S. Coast Hwy. Stop by for all your favorite flavors at this Laguna staple. (949-499-4949; zpizza.com)

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400 S. Coast Hwy.; 949-376-6886;

tommybahama.com

UMAMI BURGER

610 N. Coast Hwy.; 949-342-1210; umami.com

BELGIAN

BRUSSELS BISTRO

222 Forest Ave.; 949-376-7955; brusselsbistro.com

CALIFORNIA CONTEMPORARY

ANASTASIA CAFE

460 Ocean Ave.; 949-497-8903; anastasiaboutique.com

BROADWAY BY AMAR SANTANA

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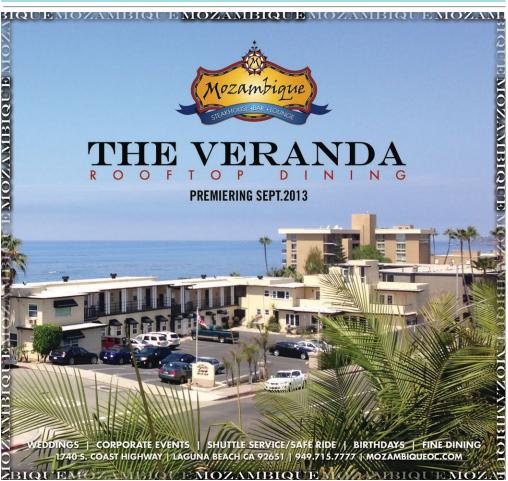
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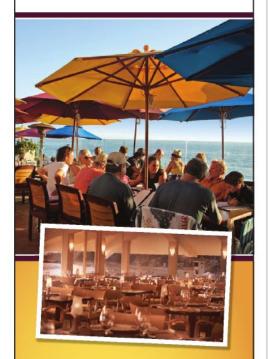
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The Shebeen Lounge patio deck at Mozambique reflects the restaurant's global style.

New Heights

Mozambique patrons will soon be able to enjoy the restaurant's signature global fare while taking in ocean views from a new rooftop dining area dubbed The Veranda. Construction on the restaurant, which should be completed in early September, will add upward of 60 seats for guests. In addition to the structural changes, the restaurant will add a breakfast menu, which will be available Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to noon. Mozambique's expansive menu offers diners a fusion of flavors from Portugal, the Netherlands, England, Southeast Africa and India. George Poulos, the restaurant's general manager, assures guests, "[Mozambique is] currently open for business every evening ... and construction is well on schedule to be completed near Labor Day weekend." (949-715-7777; mozambiqueoc.com) — L.M.

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PERFECT PAIRING

In an effort to combine authentic Mexican cuisine with unparalleled ocean views, the Inn at Laguna Beach has partnered with local institution Las Brisas to provide guestswith the opportunity to sample the restaurant's signature dishes at the hotel. Visitors may choose to enjoy Las Brisas' menu from the Inn's Pacific Terrace Bar, which offers panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and downtown Laguna, or order meals directly from the privacy of their rooms. The Laguna hotspot's most popular dishes include succulent carne asada and fresh sea bass ceviche, which arrives marinated in citrus juices and topped with mangos, tomatoes, chiles, onions and cilantro. A robust cocktail selection features a bounty of eight flavored margaritas. To celebrate this perfect pairing, the Inn at Laguna Beach is offering a "Best of Laguna Package," which includes a two-night stay at the hotel, admission for two to Sawdust Art Festival, a stand-up paddleboarding vovage for two and a \$50 credit to taste the new Las Brisas menu at the Pacific Terrace Bar. (949-497-9722: innatlagunabeach.com) —A.T.

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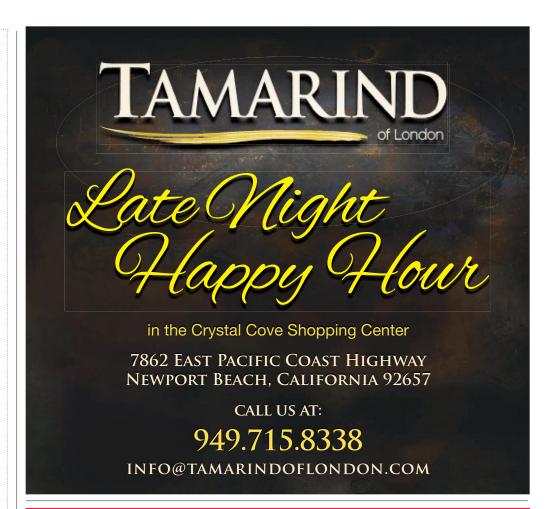
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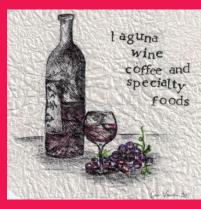
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QUITE A CATCH

Señor Fish is making the leap from feeding Angelenos to serving the residents of Laguna Beach at its upcoming location in the Boat Canyon Shopping Center on Pacific Coast Highway. Siblings Alicia and Enrique Ramirez founded Señor Fish in 1988 with the intention of sharing their mother's family recipes—gathered during a youth spent on a ranchero near Guadalajara, Mexico—with Southern California diners. Since the restaurant's humble beginnings in the Los Angeles enclave of Highland Park, Señor Fish's authentic Mexican dishes, paired with fresh seafood, have earned ample praise from noted culinary critics. An early instigator of the fish taco craze that continues to sweep the California coast. Señor Fish has elevated the street snack to an affordable delicacy while simultaneously finding fame with its gourmet scallop tacos and burritos. The restaurant proudly serves searange catches and features a variety of daily specials, such as fresh swordfish, trout and red snapper. (senorfish.net) —L.M.

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mozambiqueoc.com

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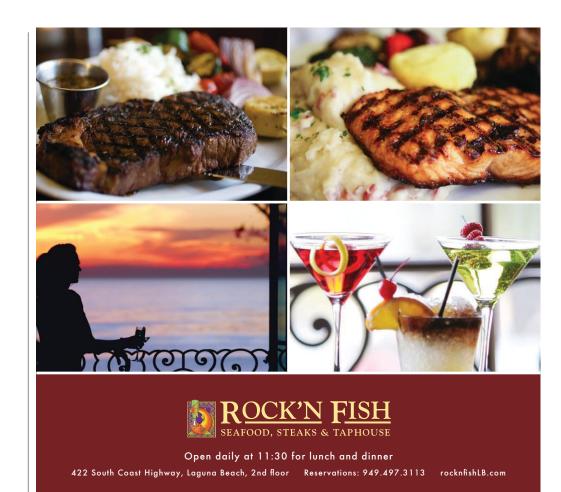
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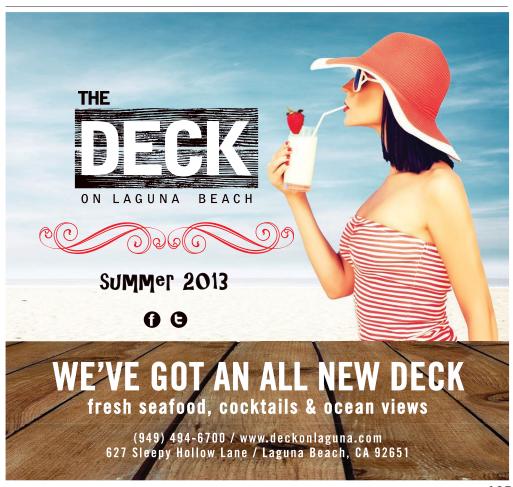
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GALLERIES, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS IN ADVANCE BY EMAILING editor@lagunabeachmag.com.

CAPTURE AND CREATE

Virginia-based painter Susan Jamison and Parisian-turned-Angeleno photographer Olivier Pojzman commonly depict certain archetypes and themes, subtly exploring larger questions of cultural identity.

Section by Hannah Ostrow



"The Rebellious Flowers Turned Away From the Sun" by Mary Jones

SUSAN JAMISON (THE GEORGE GALLERY)

HOME BASE: Roanoke, Va.

BACKGROUND: MFA in painting from Rhode Island

School of Design

MEDIA OF CHOICE: Primarily paintings in egg tempera (the principal medium in painting up until the 16th century, when it was overshadowed by the popularization of oil painting), as well as graphite drawings with occasional touches of watercolor and gouache

PREVIOUSLY SHOWN IN: Virginia, Washington, D.C., Miami, New York, Winston-Salem, N.C., San Marcos, Texas

WORK: We see a thematic trend in Susan's paintings: the head and torso of a nude woman, usually in profile—the veins and muscles and nerves of her head intricately drawn as if her skull were see-through. A delicate, hot pink, floral pattern decorates her skin. She is alternatively threatened by or helped by the animals with which she's depicted.

Because what she paints is so consistent, we come to see Susan's task as creating a richly layered archetypal woman. She takes inspiration from a remarkably wide spectrum—according to the artist herself, the anatomically detailed heads pull from 19th century medical illustrations. But Susan's works recall, too, diagrams from the phrenology craze of the same era, as well as elements of Leonardo da Vinci's iconic anatomy studies.

The animals these women encounter look straight out of the European fairy tale canon: malicious wolves, docile lambs and chipper, servile birds. The snakes look conniving and the apples tempting, but the allusions are not limited to Western tradition: The floral patterns that invariably adorn the women's torsos crawl across their skin like henna.

Susan's archetypal woman is bound simultaneously by society and biology, tied up with all of humanity and all of nature, a sweeping look into what makes up the modern woman.

Susan's work appears this month as part of "Nature Doesn't Knock" at The George Gallery, Sept. 1 - Oct. 31. (949-715-4377; thegeorgegallery.com)



"Roy's Motel Triptych" by Olivier Pojzman

OLIVIER POJZMAN (TOWNLEY GALLERY)

HOME BASE: Currently lives in Los Angeles, but originally from Paris

BACKGROUND: Studied art and design in his native Paris before coming to the U.S.

MEDIA OF CHOICE: Panoramic photographs digitally stitched together for large-format printing on wood panels or canvas, often presented as diptychs or triptychs

PREVIOUSLY SHOWN IN: Los Angeles, Miami, Paris, Palm Desert, Calif.

WORK: Dramatic, large-scale photographs of deserted roads, vintage cars, neon motel signs and roadside diners make up the cultural, imaginary landscape surrounding the modern American West. It's unsurprising, then, to learn that the artist isn't from the West at all, or even from the U.S., but from France. The starry-eyed vision of the grandeur of the open road could only belong to someone for whom it was all once new, someone who sought out this landscape so wildly different from his own. Someone like Olivier Pojzman.

Think of British expat David Hockney's 1986 "Pearblossom Highway," a photo collage of California's Route 138 that traces the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. Despite the barren landscape and the pervasive roadside litter, what's most memorable in "Pearblossom Highway," and in Olivier's updated open-road imagery, are the vast, cloudless sky and the way the road tapers towards a far-off vanishing point. Olivier, too, taps into the grandiose vision of the American West, making his figurative work more abstract and the region's abstract identity tangible.

Experience Olivier's photographs in Townley Gallery's group show through the end of the year. (949-715-1860; townleygallery.com)



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Laguna Beach Magazine will feature these leading citizens in our December issue, and we want your nominations!

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Who do you think has been an influence in our community this year? Send us your thoughts by Sept. 9. Please email alli@firebrandmediainc.com



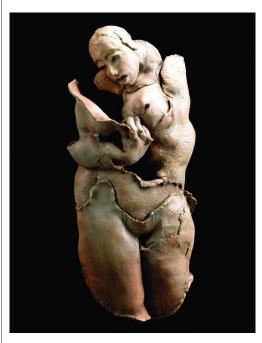
LAGUNA BEACH MAGAZINE'S **MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE 2011**

COASTAL EDDY GALLERY SHEDS LIGHT ON CERAMIC ART

Since its opening in early May, coastal eddy, a gallery has settled in as Laguna's only gallery dedicated exclusively to ceramic art.

Robin Lee Goldenberg-Riddell, a San Clementebased ceramicist herself, first decided to open coastal eddy because she was dissatisfied with the gallery that represented her work at the time. "When I thought about the choices of where I might show my work, they were limited," she explains. "I couldn't believe Laguna Beach, an art colony rich in the history of ceramics, had not one gallery dedicated to it."

Coastal eddy currently exhibits sculptural and functional ceramic art from 20 artists, including featured artist for the month of September, Lesley Buzan. (949-715-4113)



SAWDUST ARTIST CREATES 72-FOOT SCULPTURE FOR **BROADWAY STATION**

Sawdust mainstay Marsh Scott recently finished a site-specific sculpture for the Broadway bus depot as part of the city's ongoing improvement project for the major downtown street.

The design for Scott's "Colors of the Canyon" was selected from a regional competition. The stainless steel and fused glass sculpture was finally dedicated on May 16 after nearly a year of work on the piece. For the 72-foot-long sculpture, Marsh took inspiration from Laguna Canyon's transitional landscape as it shifts from brush to shore.

GALLERY EVENTS

EXCLUSIVE COLLECTIONS GALLERY

Gloria Lee is at Exclusive Collections Gallery in Hotel Laguna the weekend of Sept. 14 - 15, bringing along her vibrant, expressive and textured oil paintings. Stop by between 6 and 9 p.m. on Saturday or noon and 5 p.m. on Sunday. (949-715-8747; ecgallery.com)

JOANNE ARTMAN GALLERY

This month, the gallery turns its focus to depictions of feminine ideals and icons through the work of Boston-based mixed media artist Jane Maxwell and LA photographer Jana Cruder. The latter's highly styled narrative series "Great Expectations" shows Barbie and Ken in the modern age, with Ken out of work and Barbie back at the office. "The Jane & Jana Show" runs Sept. 1 - Oct. 31. (949-510-5481; joanneartmangallery.com)

SANDSTONE GALLERY

September at Sandstone brings "Fantasy Landscapes," abstract paintings from Howard Hitchcock, as well as "Organics," featuring vibrant oil landscapes from KL Heagen. The two shows run from Sept. 4 - 30. (949-497-6775; sandstonegallery.com)



"Amalfi Convento" by Bryan Mark Taylor at Pacific Edge Gallery

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"Poolside" by Jana Cruder at JoAnne Artman Gallery

PACIFIC EDGE GALLERY

Beginning Sept. 28, Pacific Edge highlights new works from Orange County plein air mainstay Bryan Mark Taylor. Featuring works the artist painted this past spring off Italy's Amalfi Coast, the show will continue through Oct. 11. Stop by for an opening night reception and to meet the artist. (949-494-0491; pacificedgegallery.com)

COASTAL EDDY, A GALLERY

Catch the tail end of abstract figurative sculptor Michele Collier's solo show, which runs through the end of August. In September, art lovers also won't want to miss Lesley Buzan's subtly weathered, marine-inspired sculptures. aptly titled "Sailors and Sirens" runs Sept. 7 - 29. (949-715-4113)

CES CONTEMPORARY

CES' September show, "Surface/Process" highlights paintings that emphasize their own precise technicality and detail-oriented creation. The exhibition, featuring an international group of artists, runs from Sept. 7 - Oct. 9. (949-547-1716; cescontemporary.com)

TOWNLEY GALLERY

Townley's 2013 group show, "Journey of Existence," continues throughout the fall, exhibiting works from leading contemporary artists across a variety of media. Stop by during First Thursday Art Walk for wine tastings and live music. (949-715-1860; townleygallery.com)

THE GEORGE GALLERY

"Nature Doesn't Knock" explores the theme of nature and how we relate to it—to our own human nature as well as to that of the outer world. The works of the five featured female artists range from the hyperreal to the surreal and encompass a variety of perspectives and media. The exhibition runs throughout September and October. (949-715-4377; thegeorgegallery.com) LBM



Save These Dates

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THURSDAY | OCTOBER 3RD | 2013

THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 7TH | 2013

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 5TH | 2013

Join our member galleries throughout Laguna Beach on the first Thursday of every month from 6 - 9 pm for an artfilled evening.

First Thursdays Art Walk is funded by Member Galleries, local art institutions and lodging establishments, and the City of Laguna Beach.

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WHY NOT IN LAGUNA?

A Laguna Beach Magazine editor believes we should be doing more to promote STEM education.

By Linda Domingo







Clockwise from top left: A student at The Makery learns to solder; participants build robots; children learn to screen their designs to T-shirts.

If the zombie apocalypse begins tomorrow, I'm confident I'd survive the first few months. But once the initial chaos was over, and the survivors began to settle down and rebuild society, I'd probably be one of the first to be deemed unnecessary and cast out of the colony to be eaten alive.

My reasoning? I'm good at writing and reading. But are these skills going to help me and my fellow man survive in the case that civilized society as we know it is completely destroyed? The people deemed necessary will be scientists, engineers, doctors—those involved in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM.

I attended TEDxOrangeCoast last year and heard Hsing Wei's talk about The Makery, a pop-up workshop she co-founded in New York City that takes over spaces like art galleries, storefronts and street spaces, and populates them with equipment like 3-D printers and soldering equipment. Then, they invite kids to create. The fruits of the young participants' labor run the gamut of robots to silk-screened

T-shirts to wind turbines. All the while, the kids are putting into practice the math and science concepts that are restricted to textbooks and lectures in a traditional classroom. "Of course we have to educate kids," Hsing said in her talk. "But our goal can also be to inspire them to teach themselves."

Laguna Beach is world-renowned as an artist colony and the community works hard to preserve and promote art culture. But in addition to fostering young artists, the city and local organizations could easily implement more initiatives to produce more engineers, biologists and computer scientists as well.

The town is home to more than 100 art galleries, many of which have modular space, perfect to host pop-up workshops. With rich educational resources such as Laguna College of Art & Design and UC Irvine nearby, we could bring in professionals to run workshops on everything from building rockets to creating your own videogame. These workshops would be incredibly educational, too, but the kids don't have to know that.

The pop-up shops could take place during the summer or even monthly during a high traffic time like First Thursdays Art Walk. A small fee would be required (The Makery charges anywhere between \$15 to \$50 per workshop, depending on materials involved), a small price to pay for potentially inspiring tomorrow's great minds.

Even though we live on a pre-apocalyptic planet (for now), STEM education is severely lacking in California and the United States as a whole, which spells trouble for our future. China, Japan and other countries are far surpassing us in their percentages of university degrees being earned in STEM fields. According to a 2010 White House study, "less than one-third of U.S. eighth graders show proficiency in math and science." And as the study stresses, "There is also a lack of interest in STEM fields among many students." Inspiring kids to enter STEM fields now will ensure they (and the country as a whole) will be able to compete in the global market in the future, zombie apocalypse or not.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'VE SEEN IN ANOTHER CITY THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IN LAGUNA BEACH? WRITE TO US AT EDITOR@LAGUNABEACHMAG.COM. YOU COULD BE OUR NEXT GUEST COLUMNIST.



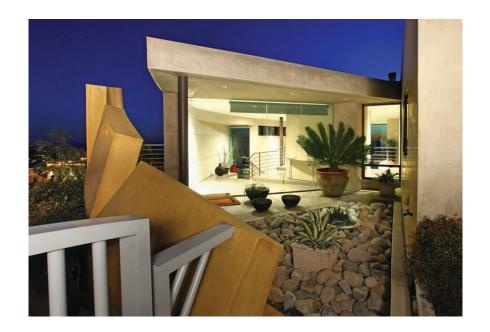
MASTERPIECE

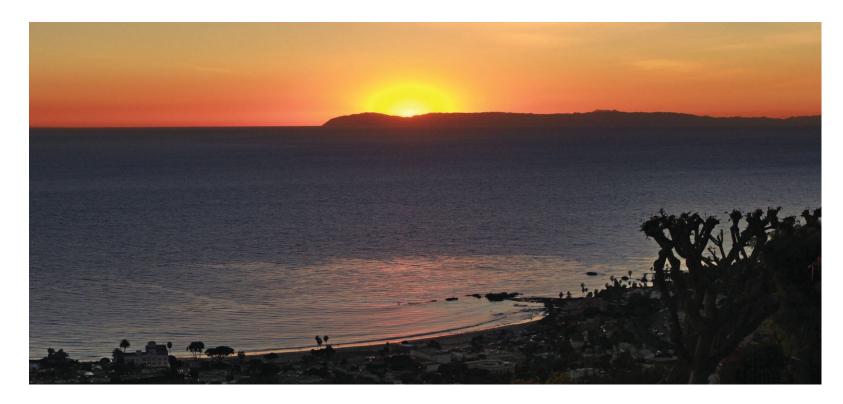
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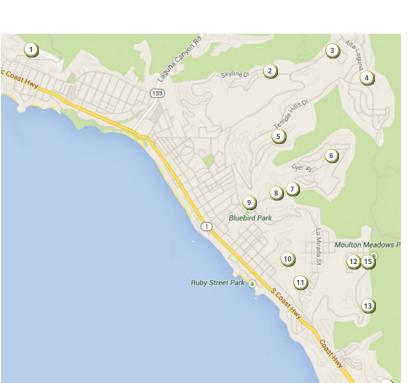


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