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GRAY MATTER

IN THE HANDS OF A DEFT DESIGN TEAM, A STRUCTURE COMPOSED OF HARD-EDGED STONE, STEEL AND GLASS MORPHS INTO A WARM, WELCOMING LAGUNA BEACH HOME COMPLEMENTED BY A COOL COLOR PALETTE.

WRITTEN BY **MINDY PANTIEL** / PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JIM BRADY**





Left: A custom vanity and cabinets by Newport Custom Woodworking in the master bathroom provide a backdrop for the Dornbracht sinks and faucets from Pirch. The countertop is from Marbleworks, and the velvet vanity stool is from Monte Allen.

Below: An opaque glass window in the master bathroom lets in natural light while still allowing for privacy when soaking in the freestanding Victoria + Albert Napoli tub, which is outfitted with a Dornbracht MEM tub filler. The Issey Miyake light is from Artemide.

Texture, too, took the edge off finishes. "It's sleek surfaces that most people associate with cold," says Nugent. Honed finishes on the fireplace and kitchen countertops take the sheen off. The requisite purples, pinks and blues are evident in the artwork and sculptural glass pieces.

Meanwhile, landscape architect Larry Steinle moderated architectural elements such as the massive retaining walls visible from the kitchen with trailing Senecio radicans that spills over the walls to lyrical effect. Elsewhere, he brought in such plantings as drought-tolerant agaves and New Zealand flax in burgundy, green and, of course, gray. "I kept things fairly low, so when you looked out you'd have a foreground but could look right over it," he says.

Steinle's simple, Zen-like approach continues in the entry courtyard, where more succulents line the walkway, and he and the architect collaborated on how best to get visitors down from street level to the front door. The solution: A series of concrete slabs floating over a water feature created the desired effect. "The idea was to have people descend gently from the gate," says Steinle about the entry sequence. McClean also sees it as a place to take a breath. "As you step onto the concrete platforms, there's a sense of movement, but it also slows you down," he says. "Hopefully it encourages you to stop and see where you are." ■

