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LEWIN WERTHEIMER ARCHITECT
AS FEATURED IN LUXE INTERIORS + DESIGN
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



■ DUTCH TREAT ■

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TUCKED AWAY FROM THE ROAD ON A GRACIOUS CURVED DRIVEWAY, THE SHINGLED STRUCTURE, WITH ITS DORMER WINDOWS, GAMBREL ROOF, NATIVE LANDSCAPING AND OCEAN VIEWS, LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING YOU'D SEE IN ONE OF THE CASUALLY ELEGANT BEACH TOWNS THAT DOT THE NORTHEASTERN COAST. Yet as well as this Malibu home and its six-acre site complement each other, the project almost didn't make it off the ground.

"The foundation had just been poured when my clients halted the work," says architect Lewin Wertheimer, of the eponymously named firm in Venice. So the project sat in limbo, its future uncertain, until the day

ARCHITECTURE	Lewin Wertheimer, Lewin Wertheimer Architect	
HOME BUILDER	Martin A. Leon, Alisal Builders Corp.	
LANDSCAPE DESIGN	Marny Randall, Randall Landscape Design	
BEDROOMS 5	BATHROOMS 8	SQUARE FEET 10,000

STYLE SELECTION

Reminiscent of a Victorian-era piece, the feminine lines and refined details of this sofa gracefully complement transitional settings. *Canapé borne Rivoli*, price available upon request; misendemeure.fr



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Robert and Susie Peddicord came to call. “We’d been looking in Malibu, and had heard about this incredible piece of property that was on the market,” says Susie. “We took a look and knew we had to have it.” What they didn’t know was whether or not they wanted to see the original design plans through to fruition.

“I’ll never forget that first face-to-face with Lewin,” recalls Robert. “He wasn’t sure he wanted to work with us, and we weren’t sure we wanted to work with him.” But the moment the plans were rolled out, “I knew it was our house,” says Susie. “The location had everything we were looking for. The fact that the perfect house had already been designed for it was the icing on the cake.” Wertheimer’s trepidations shrank away as well. “Robert and Susie could not have been more understanding of my concerns,” he says. “I felt honored, respected and valued throughout the entire project. They were great.”

Simpatco natures established, construction on the 10,000-square-foot Dutch Colonial resumed with the original design team intact, including Martin A. Leon, president of Alisal Builders Corp. in Marina del Rey,



EUROPEAN PASSAGE
An Italian console and French writing desk found at Santa Monica’s Rosemary McCaffrey Antiques share the entry with a linen-upholstered Swedish sofa, circa 1860, from Lee Stanton Antiques in Los Angeles. The lightly distressed walnut floors are found throughout the home.



CORNER VIEW
The window to the left of the kitchen sink replaced the original design plan's call for cabinets, a change requested by the homeowner. "It's one of my favorite views in the house," she says. The countertops are Carrera marble; the range and hood are from Viking.



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whose precise grading of the site helped create the optimal spot on which to cradle the residence. "That was a challenge," says Leon. "We did a lot of grading and had to contend with all the codes from the city, which were massive." It was an absolute necessity, says Wertheimer. "Before we did any grading at all I kept coming back to this one point on the site that just felt right, and that's where the house stands today." Another challenge was the intricately designed roof. "There are three different gambrels," says the architect. "But they share the same ridge height and had to break at the same point. Figuring out how to detail and dimension that was not an easy thing to do."

As building progressed and rooms emerged, Susie, a trained designer who has practiced in New York and on the West Coast, sketched out her plans for the interiors. "Knowing the focal point of almost every room

WHITE GLOVE SERVICE
The Swedish dining room table and chairs are circa 1840. The seats are upholstered in white linen from Country House Antiques in Santa Barbara. An Aubusson tapestry, found at the Los Angeles Antiques Show, covers the fireplace bench.



TAKE A GAMBOL

A pasture-like expanse of lawn extends toward the ocean from the rear side of the house, providing a place for the homeowners' three athletically inclined children to blow off steam. The home's many porches offer inviting nooks in which to sit and take in the breathtaking views.



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would be the views, I selected a very neutral, muted palette,” she says. Material selection was also understated, in keeping with the been-here-forever-beach-house feel she wanted to express. “Ninety percent of the textiles I chose, for example, are either antique linen or old, aged fabric.”

Furnishings, too, convey a sense of history, and the pieces selected—the majority of which are antiques—possess a refined, yet comfortable patina that is integral to the home’s architectural personality, and to its role as a family-friendly residence. Lighting was similarly a paramount element of the design. “Finding appropriate fixtures that gave character to each room was critical,” says Susie. “It’s something I started working on immediately.”

BATHE IN BEAUTY

The master bath’s intended schemata were reconfigured to create a more cohesive and user-friendly series of spaces for both function and storage. The footed tub, from Sunrise Specialty in Oakland, drinks in the view.

REALLY ROSIE

The Swedish end table in the master bedroom is accented with a black marble top. A vase of fresh cut roses, one of many found scattered around the house, sits on top. “We planted hundreds of roses on the property,” says landscape designer Marny Randall. “Susie just loves them.”



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A rose garden, fruit tree orchard and herb garden can be found just outside the house; the edges of the property's developed areas bleed seamlessly back into the native vegetation. "The owners were very interested in connecting with the natural landscape and providing habitat," says Santa Monica-based landscape designer Marny Randall, owner of Randall Landscape Design. "Because of that, we were able to successfully tie the property back into the larger environment."

Now that the project is complete and the Peddicord clan has had time to try the house on for size, "There's not a single thing I would change," says Robert. "Lewin absolutely nailed it." Susie concurs: "It's a large house, but you don't need to fill it with scores of people to feel cozy. Two people or 200, every room surrounds you with warmth." **L**

STYLE SELECTION

Made of Murano glass, this handblown vase was created using a centuries-old glass-making technique known as Rostri. *Evviva Vase, \$1,900; otium-nyc.com*



BUNKER DOWN

A built-in daybed adjacent to the shower makes the master bath a prime relaxation destination. "It's probably one of the busiest seats in the house," says Susie. The chair is covered in Belgian linen, purchased at Blend Interiors in Los Angeles.

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