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A Place in the Sun

This Emerald Bay holiday home feels like a soulful resort all year round.

by KARINE MONIÉ
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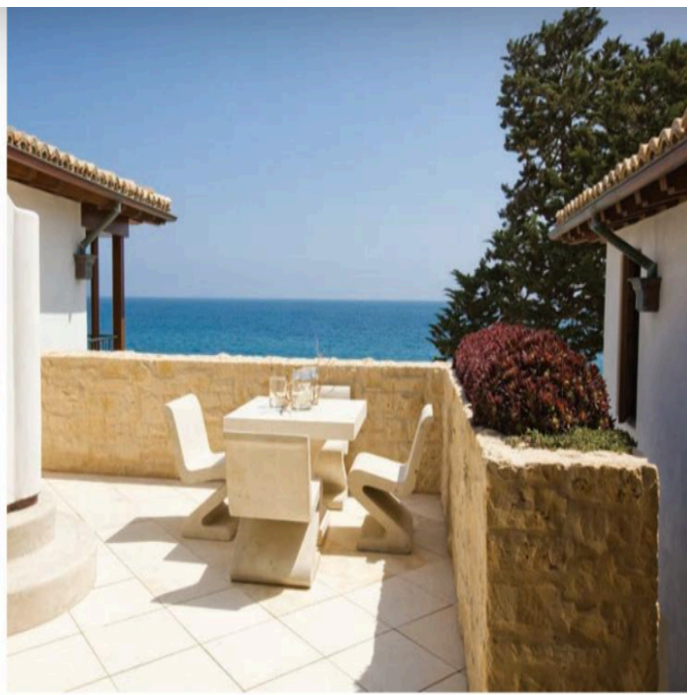
A Place in the Sun



Offering magnificent views over Emerald Bay, this resort-style holiday house by KAA Design is a dream family getaway.

When the owners of this Laguna Beach home—a couple who live in Las Vegas with their three children—wanted to find the best architects to create their coastal retreat, they took an unconventional approach: They launched a design competition. Ultimately, the Los Angeles-based firm KAA Design prevailed.

“The fundamental architectural and spatial concepts were driven by the client’s desire to maximize visual and pedestrian connection from all the habitable rooms, down to the white sand beach of Emerald Bay,” KAA Design Partner Duan Tran says. “As a result, all of the living areas were designed to have



retractable door systems that would provide the ‘big view,’ as well as direct access to the outside, while inviting the cool ocean breezes to come in.”

Inspired by the beauty of the Mediterranean and Mexican coasts, places to which the couple traveled several times, this five-level summer and holiday house is an ode to the California Riviera. With views cascading down the hillside to the stunning beach below, this “oceanfront villa with simplicity and soul,” according to Tran, makes the most of the sunlight and breathtaking views.

“The design of the house minimizes the barriers between the inside and the outside, allowing nature to become part of the interior landscape,” KAA Design’s team says. The rough stone walls provide a sense of permanence; the exterior plaster gives a touch of warmth; and the wood conveys a casual feeling.





“The home exhibits muted color tones in order to not distract from the surrounding context. The house very much attempts to be the background, the canvas to the subsequent layers of the people, furnishings and art,” Tran says. Alexandra and Michael Misczynski, principals of interior design firm Atelier AM, were in charge of selecting the right furnishings. With five suites, a public area on the second level, outdoor spaces and a pool, this timeless, perfectly balanced property embraces Orange County’s laid-back yet chic beach lifestyle.

Opposite Page Left: Cushions of outdoor fabric from Perennials and Kathleen Taylor’s Lotus Collection adorn the banquette of the study’s terrace. **Opposite Page Top Right:** The table and chairs by Xavier Longueras sit on French limestone tiles by Exquisite Surfaces. **Opposite Page Bottom Right:** According to the architects, the objective was to “extend the house from the hillside.” **Above:** Outdoor rooms and linked terraces create a seamless flow between inside and out. **Top Right:** In the master bathroom, the tub is by Waterworks, the limestone counters are from Exquisite Surfaces and the mosaic floor was custom-made by Xavier Longueras. The pendant light by Paul Ferrante and the shagreen chair by Atelier AM were both inspired by the manner of Jean-Michel Frank. **Right:** In the master suite, the bed was custom-made, the cashmere throw is by Ralph Lauren Home and the floor lamp is by Christian Liaigre.

Architects: KAA Design; **Interiors:** Atelier AM; **Construction:** The I-Grace company

