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**ARAB
WORLD**

**SHOPPING
TRENDY
OUTDOOR
FURNITURE**

ELLE DECORATION

**DREAM
ESCAPES
WHERE
DESIGN MEETS
THE ART
OF SLOWING
DOWN**

**SUMMER
BRIGHT &
COLORFUL
INTERIORS** **VIBES**



U.A.E. 37 DHs / Lebanon 10 USD.

ROOMS

OCEAN PRECISION

Perched along the La Jolla coastline, this residence by Daniel Joseph Chenin transforms a midcentury structure into a refined retreat shaped by light, craftsmanship, and the rhythm of the Pacific Ocean.

TEXT: MARIA AZIZ NAHAS | PHOTOGRAPHER: TIM HIRSCHMANN
BUILDER: HILL CONSTRUCTION



The house belongs to a seasoned traveler and design connoisseur who envisioned a tranquil yet highly curated coastal retreat. His approach to living privileges clarity, order, and authenticity, favouring tactile, timeless materials over excess or ornamentation. Conceived as both a personal sanctuary and an expression of quiet refinement, the project distills luxury to its most essential form. Every detail is intentional, every surface considered, resulting in an environment where calm is not decorative but structural. Set on a coveted stretch of coastline, the residence engages directly with its surroundings. Rugged cliffs and expansive ocean views define the identity of the site, while the ever-changing light of the Pacific becomes an active component of the interior experience. Strict regulations imposed by the California Coastal Commission required the preservation of the original 1950s structure, preventing a full rebuild.

Rather than limiting the design, this condition established a framework for precision. The project became an exercise in working within constraint, refining rather than replacing, and allowing the existing envelope to inform a more nuanced architectural response. Originally conceived as a simple beach house remodel, the brief evolved into a comprehensive reimagining of the interior. The ambition was to create a space that balances coastal informality with a high level of artisanal detail, where the atmosphere remains relaxed yet deeply curated. The owner sought a home that would feel immersive and composed, rooted in material authenticity and free from stylistic excess. This approach led to a design language defined by restraint, proportion, and the careful layering of textures rather than overt decoration. Working within the fixed footprint presented a significant





challenge. The structure was carefully deconstructed to its essential outer framework and rebuilt within the same shell, allowing the interior to be entirely rethought while respecting regulatory limitations. Spatial generosity was achieved not through expansion but through the manipulation of volume, light, and perspective. Openings were recalibrated to maximise views, ceiling lines were adjusted to enhance verticality, and circulation was refined to create a sense of fluid continuity. The result is a house that feels expansive and open despite its modest dimensions, balancing privacy with unobstructed visual connections to the landscape. Materiality defines the sensory experience of the interiors. Warm oak millwork establishes a continuous architectural language, punctuated by stone and metal accents that introduce depth and contrast. The kitchen is anchored by a sculptural island carved from solid onyx, its organic veining echoing the movement of the ocean and transforming a functional element into a central focal point. Above it, a custom light fixture inspired by maritime forms reinforces the subtle dialogue with the surrounding seascape. Architectural features are approached as sculptural interventions. A circular port window in the living room

frames a precise view of the peninsula, introducing a controlled visual moment that recalls nautical references without resorting to literal expression. In the main living area, a gently pitched oak paneled ceiling evokes the interior of a ship's hull, while in the kitchen, a curved ceiling line mirrors the rhythm of coastal waves. In the powder room, a porthole mirror and a hand-painted wall covering depicting marine life extend this immersive relationship, creating a layered narrative that connects interior space with the world beyond. Furnishings emphasise craftsmanship and material richness. Custom designed pieces integrate wood, leather, and metal, while collaborations with artisans bring a high level of detail and precision. Each element reflects the owner's sensibility, drawing on a life of travel while remaining grounded in the specific context of the site. Storage solutions and functional elements are seamlessly integrated, ensuring that the clarity of the spaces is never disrupted. At once composed and deeply atmospheric, the house offers a refined interpretation of coastal living, shaped by intention, craftsmanship, and a profound connection to its environment.