

HOME DESIGN

# GETAWAY HOME

A CALIFORNIA HOUSE TAKES A PERMANENT CARIBBEAN VACATION

BY KATHRYN HARRIS PHOTOGRAPHY BY TIM STREET PORTER





Entering Jodie and Scott Siegler's coral-colored hallway, you immediately feel as if you've been kidnapped from California and transported to a Caribbean isle. From the vantage point of the entry way, you can see the entire color palette of the house. Hot coral pink envelops you and becomes more intrepid as it sidles up to the cool chartreuse in the living room and minty green in the dining room. Whirling fans, rich walnut floors and a mix of furniture set the tone for the Brit-Colonial-Estate-in-Jamaica theme.

"We wanted a home that felt like we were on permanent vacation," says Jodie Siegler, who was an integral part of the design team, along with British interior designer Antonia Hutt and Kirkpatrick Associates Architects. "We found ourselves looking at a lot of hotel brochures and coffee-table books on the Caribbean," says Steven Straughan from KAA. Firefly, Noel Coward's Jamaican getaway, was another inspiration.

Full advantage has been taken of the house's generous setback. A garden oasis and two charming pedestrian paths replaced what was once an unsightly asphalt motor court. Guests approach the house

through a landscaped courtyard and meandering pathway, pass a fountain and go up steps to the lattice-style veranda and front door. From the garage, owners move onto a beautiful breezeway into the mud room and then up into the house, where a dramatically pitched roof is made of lightweight standing sea metal, commonly employed to withstand tropical storms.

Although the original 1940s single-story flat pad has been significantly expanded, most of the added square footage is accounted for by a two-story addition on one side, containing a library and gym below, and master suite above, and on the other, a double garage and maid's quarters. Much



Above: In the living room, subtle color creates a feeling of tropical warmth, reaffirmed by plush furnishings. Sofa fabric by Raoul Textiles through Bradbury Collection, ottoman leather by Mark Tursi Leather. A pair of Chinese export dogs on mantel from J.F. Chen. Drapery fabric by Manuel Canovas. Right: KAA created greater flow between rooms. Hallway leads from the gym to the first floor. Chinese urn from J.F. Chen. Opposite page: Hutt used a hot coral color in the entry to balance out the cool mint-green dining room and the chartreuse living room. Sconces from Marcus Olliss Antiques.



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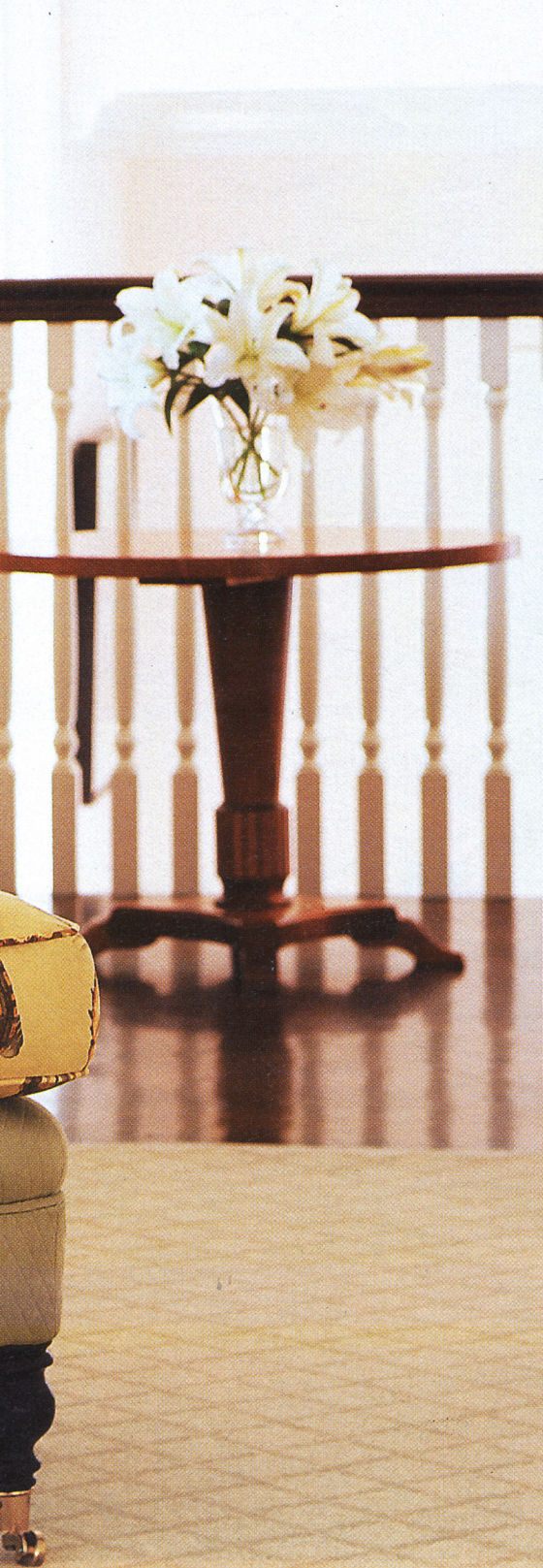


of the original footprint of the house is left intact, giving the architects freedom to create an ideal floor plan. Rooms flow into one another, ceilings have been raised and light predominates. Meanwhile Hutt's ambitious cocktail of colors and playful fabric choices, reminiscent of fellow Brit designer Tricia Guild, dare the eye to find the inspired logic from one room to the next. "It's like a chain reaction," explains Jodie Siegler.

An expanded kitchen, and den that flows organically into it, now form the central core of the house where kids can watch TV, and parents are within nagging distance. A large volume, Caribbean-inspired tongue and groove-like ceiling in the breakfast nook play off the white painted millwork in the kitchen, where blue predominates

on the walls, and linoleum floors and glass tile splash back, evoking the ocean.

Caribbean-inspired railings, suggesting an outside porch, surround the master suite, which is accessed via a short flight of stairs and through a sitting area that overlooks the gardens below. A four-poster bed typical of British Colonial complements Jodie's collection of antique wicker handbags, purchased off eBay, where Jodie also sourced collections of bamboo-theme Max Weil pottery from the '40s, which she uses at all her dinner parties. For lighting and plumbing fixtures Jodie journeyed to far-flung places such as New Orleans and London. "This house was a breeze in every way," says Hutt. "Intuitive, you could say. I have a list, and I always think the furniture kind of finds me." **A**



Left: In the master suite sitting room, Hutt uses a custom-made chaise lounge by Gwen Friss covered in fabric from Diamond Foam. Above: Hutt contrasts cool mint-green walls with rich colors. Bamboo sideboard from J.F. Chen with the clients' yellow urns. Table and chairs from British Khaki Furniture. Coral branches from J.F. Chen.