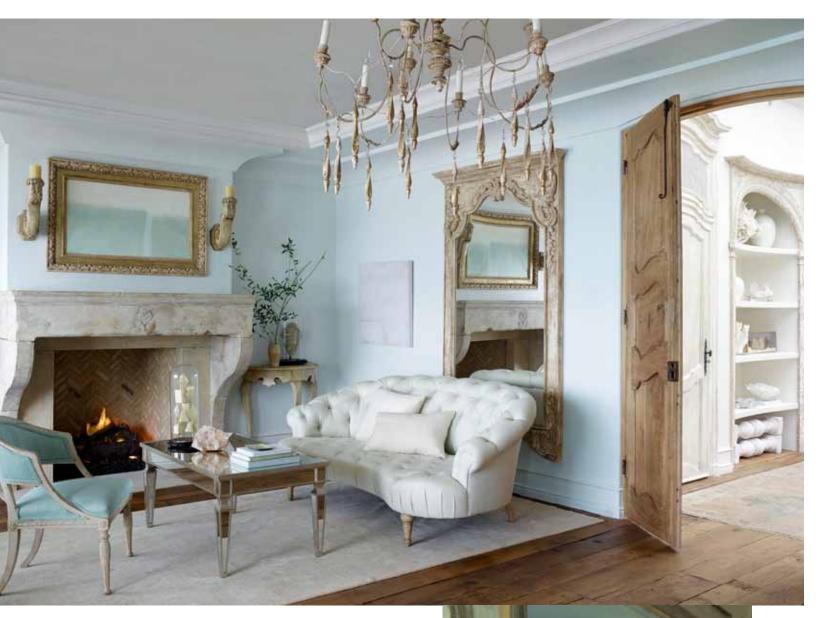




An 18th-century Italian painted ceiling infuses the dining room with subtle color and patina. Custom table. Custom chairs in Browning & Chandler fabric and Samuel & Sons trim. Chandelier, Niermann Weeks. Italian 18th-century cabinet. Rug, Caravan Rug Corp. Curtains of Leitner fabric. opposite: A French limestone door surround sets the stately mood.

THE INTERIORS ARE LIKE A FOGGY MORNING. BUT WHEN THE SUN IS SHINING BRIGHTLY, THE WHOLE HOUSE COMES TO LIFE.?? Retractable steel doors open the great room to Pacific Ocean views. Custom chairs in Colefax and Fowler fabric. Custom daybed in Ralph Lauren Home fabric with Samuel & Sons trim. Antique mantel, Phoenician Stone. Curtains of Cowtan & Tout fabric. Valance in Rogers & Goffigon fabric. Antique rug, JH Minassin & Co.



## BEAUTIFUL OLD ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS CAN BE PRESENTED IN A CLEAN, MODERN WAY. They can speak of the past, but without the ponderousness. They

They can speak of the past, but without the ponderousness. They can even be recast as lighthearted players in a fresh new drama that's all about la dolce vita, American style.

Or so goes the thinking behind this new California beach house planted in the sands of Orange County. Its owners, Laureen and David Demshur, live in Houston, and they wanted a magical place to unwind in style with friends on long weekends. When it came to decorating, they were open to suggestions. But one thing was certain—they didn't want the house to scream its newness. So, in a counterintuitive stroke of genius, they hired the youngest decorator on their short list, Ohara Davies-Gaetano, to give it some depth and a good whiff of the past. "I'm young, but with an old soul," the Newport Beach—based designer says with a smile. "I'm a big believer that a brand-new house shouldn't feel like one."



The gilded four-poster in the master bedroom seems to float above reclaimed French wood planks. Swedish 18thcentury daybed in Colefax and Fowler fabric. Daybed pillow in Schumacher fabric. Antique French commodes. Lamps, the Mermaid's Palace. Headboard, Baker. Bed linens, Sferra. Coverlet, SDH Linens. Throw, Adrienne Landau. opposite, top: Custom settee in Nancy Corzine fabric. Art, Nick Gaetano (above fireplace), and Dusty Griffith (right). opposite, Bottom: Italian 18th-century door and sink, Compas Stone.





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