

# Present Perfect Progress

Joe Lucas and Parrish Chilcoat design a house where past and future add up to a perfect present.

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Relationships are the real secret to a beautiful home. Take the long-standing partnership between builder Matt Morris and interior designers Joe Lucas and Parrish Chilcoat of Lucas Studio Inc. When their clients learned that the trio had already worked on a half-dozen houses together, they trusted it was a good match. Their instincts—which they'd also relied on when grabbing the house while it was still being built—proved correct. The result is a gracious home that balances modern technology with old-world charm in Manhattan Beach, California.

Though the couple and their two young daughters were drawn to Manhattan Beach's genteel setting—the tangle of car-free walking streets encourages children to play outside while their parents socialize—the family also enjoys its privacy. Morris, Lucas, and

Chilcoat put their heads together to finesse a layout that balances the clients' needs. Flipping convention, they put the den and the playroom at the top of the house, creating a secluded aerie that takes advantage of the location's vibrant light and extensive views of the Palos Verdes coastline.

On the first floor, the open-plan kitchen and living room, fitted with pocket doors that open the area to the outside, encourage neighborly interaction. (The kitchen's two well-stocked wine fridges also help!)

Floor plan in place, the designers—known for their traditional interiors—worked within a more modern aesthetic without sacrificing the classic and timeless elements that

**Entry** The bright handles on the CB2 credenza echo one of the home's accent colors.

**Preceding page** An overscale custom ottoman in faux ostrich from Zimmer + Rohde adds chic texture in the living room.









make up their mantra. “It’s a big thing for us,” Chilcoat explains. “While things will invariably change and you’ll want to switch things out, you don’t want a space that dates quickly.”

Though the exterior of the house, with its shingles and gas lanterns, may resemble a 19th-century Cape Cod beach cottage, modern finishes and materials are used inside to bring the decor gracefully up to date. Durable outdoor fabrics ensure that the home is both beach- and kid-friendly, while bright pops of citron yellow and moody teal give the rooms a contemporary look.

The home has a fully integrated state-of-the-art audio and video control system. Digitally forward-thinking amenities include a biometric entry programmed to turn on lights, music, and

appliances; iPhone and iPad control; and an intercom that, when engaged, pauses live television. This is a comfortable home that marries all of this modern family’s worlds—public and private, adult and child, indoor and outdoor, past and future—into a lovely present.

## tips of the trade

*Color tips from Joe Lucas*

**No white cabinets!** Paint kitchen or bathroom cabinets an “off” color that will give the room more visual interest.

**Paint trim** a darker or contrasting color. This will show off the woodwork and is an inexpensive way to add a statement to the room.

**Use art** to add a burst of color to a room that has a more mellow palette.

**Wallpaper the ceiling.** Use a small, consistent pattern to add interest to the room without having to paper the walls.

**Living room** A black-and-white painting by Jamie Bush presides over the first-floor living room. The yellow-and-teal zigzag pillow is from Pierre Frey.



**Living room.** A Regency-inspired desk chair with sweeping arms and back by Bunny Williams Home sports brilliant yellow upholstery. A West Elm Parsons desk in the corner ensures that work, or homework, doesn't mean time away from family.





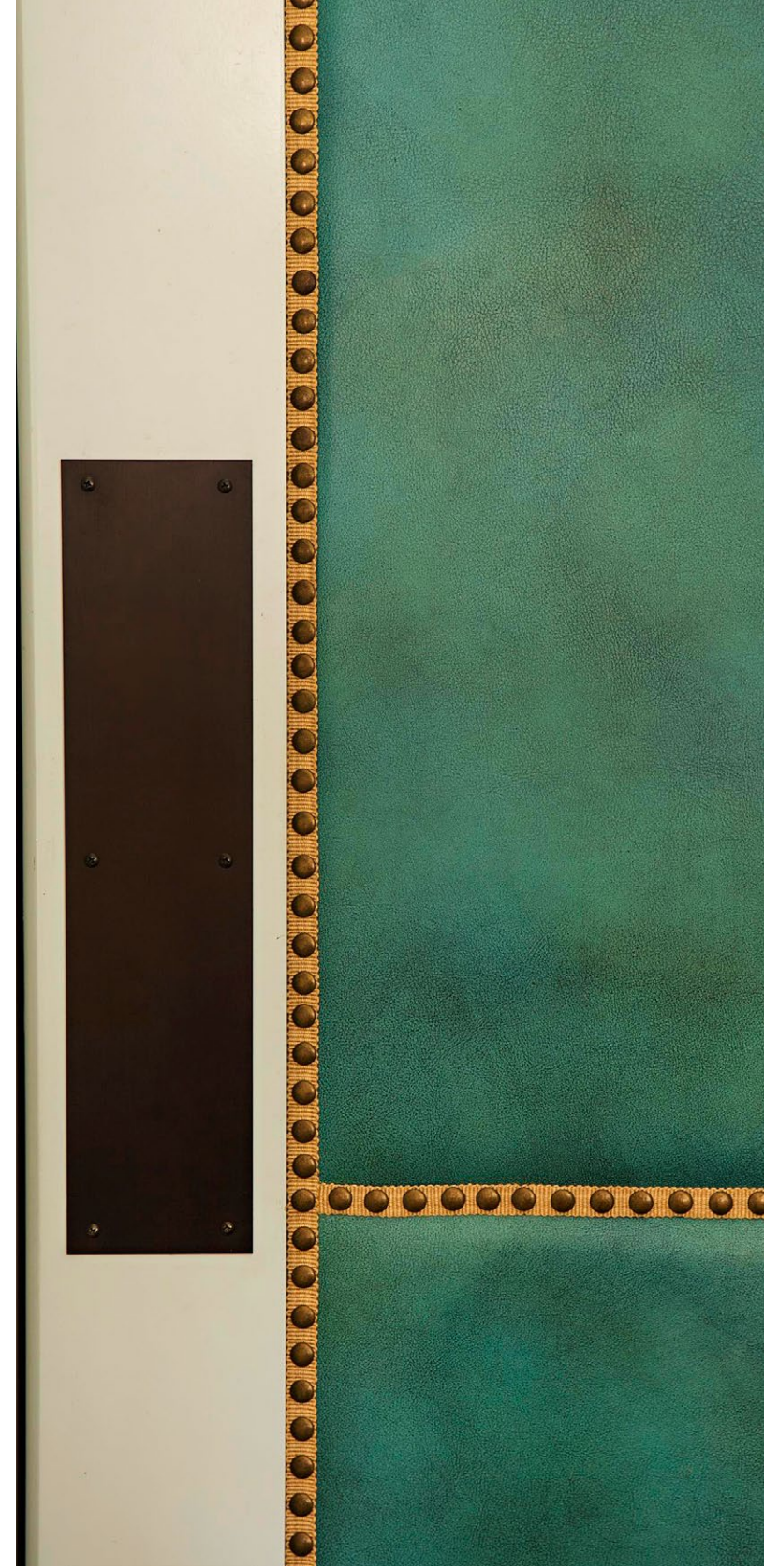
**Dining room** A pale palette prevails in the dining room. Mismatched dining room chairs from Bungalow 5 circling a custom dining table are a playful, modern touch. The light fixture is available from Design Within Reach. The wallpaper on the ceiling is from Osborne & Little. The homeowner's heirloom china sets a gracious table.







**Kitchen** Cabinets painted in Pratt & Lambert's "Armory" set the stage in the inviting, light-filled kitchen. The stools are from RH. Industrial light fixtures, discovered in Paris, hang above the island. Holland & Sherry's teal leather and nailhead detailing dress up a swinging door. The teal subway tiles are from Waterworks.





**Breakfast nook** A custom zinc-topped table from Harbinger is a hardworking choice for this well-used corner of the kitchen. The light fixture is from Visual Comfort. Upholstered in a faux leather from Pindler & Pindler, the banquette is dressed with pillows from CocoCozy and West Elm.





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**Master bedroom** Seafoam hues create a spa-like setting. Kravet's grass cloth covers the walls. The custom-made tufted linen headboard is upholstered in fabric from Pindler & Pindler, which also provided the fabric for a Roman shade and curtains that cover doors leading to the balcony. Adding a bit of drama to the sofa are pillows in a leopard print fabric from Peter Dunham. The light fixture, which complements the ceiling's strong architectural lines, is from Dessin Fournir.







Master bathroom Serenity now! Limestone tiles, a frameless shower, and a freestanding bathtub from Hydro Systems offer a luxe feel to the master bathroom, while a side table from Made Goods provides a modern touch. The light fixture over the tub and the wall sconces are from Visual Comfort.







**Master bathroom A**  
built-in cabinet with antiqued mirroring on the doors offers an elegant storage option. Haisa limestone subway tiles cover the shower walls, while the same stone, in a mosaic pattern, is used on the stall's floor and ceiling. The rainfall showerhead is from Rohl. Mirrors from Made Goods flank a painting by Alex K. Mason. The stool is from Bungalow 5.



**Girl's room** Two paintings from Alex K. Mason hang over a custom-made daybed with a trundle. The colorful bedside lamps are from Jonathan Adler. The tables are from Bungalow 5. **Bathroom** Tiling the walls from floor to ceiling gives this small bathroom a sense of grandeur. The vanity is lacquered in Pratt & Lambert's "Blue of the Night."





**Guest bedroom** A sea horse table from Harbinger adds whimsy, while a patterned knit pillow balances a bright yellow bedcover. **Kids' study** A bulletin board shows off children's artwork. A bookcase from HD Buttercup allows extra storage for art supplies and books. A papier-mâché flower basket from West Elm adds a sculptural touch. Roman shades in a John Robshaw fabric from Duralee contrast beautifully with a built-in desk painted in Benjamin Moore's "Gentleman's Gray." The orange desk chair is from HD Buttercup.

