

# TRADITIONAL HOME

FALL 2024

MARBLE  
& STONE  
THAT ROCK  
YOUR  
WORLD

fresh  
twists on  
classic design

OUR 10  
RISING STARS  
OF DESIGN

MOUNTAIN RETREATS  
FOR RELAXING

DINING ALFRESCO  
IN FRANCE

# NATURALLY RESTORED

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RATHER THAN  
RAZE IT, AN  
ARCHITECT  
RAISES THE  
BAR ON A 1910  
CALIFORNIA  
HOME



**P**ebble Beach, California, enthralls with its vast and panoramic views from rugged cliffs fronting the Pacific Ocean. Of course, its golf courses are legendary, and its famed 17-Mile Drive is often called the most scenic sojourn in the world. It's little surprise, then, that properties in the coastal community are coveted—so much so that when one potential buyer discovered a 1910 one-story that had fallen out of contract, he immediately called his wife and urged her to drop whatever she was doing to meet him there to look at it.

Like other homes original to the area, the Arts and Crafts house needed some love. But the couple—empty-nesters looking for a retreat—were enamored with its unfussy Adirondack look that had been popular in the area before Pebble Beach became *Pebble Beach*. By the time their deal to purchase the home went through, they were offered a demolition permit. They declined. Instead, they tapped architect Eric J. Smith to restore—and enhance—its rustic beauty. “It was one of the last

**Living room** New cypress wall paneling defines the center of the living room and blends with the original firebox, updated with a wood-and-steel surround. The coffered ceiling was inspired by one the owners admired in Europe. “It’s a big room and it needed something to give a sense of space within it,” says architect Eric J. Smith, who also added a box bay window to bring in water views. An antique picture rail wraps the room and handily displays artwork. **Previous pages** The new family room, built in a space that was originally a porch, looks onto the Pacific Ocean and opens to a stone terrace on the back of the California home.





remaining homes that hadn't been razed and replaced," Smith says. "The owners fell in love with the property and house but wanted it to be updated and renovated. They wanted it to feel like it could have been of the period but with modern living."

To discreetly add square footage without altering the low-slung, nestled-in-nature look of the front exterior, Smith and his team that included Ken Yost, Igor Idak, and Lily Wang drew up a plan for a full-length dormer that stretches across the back and incorporates the primary suite, an office, and an art room. On the main level, walls were removed and spaces reconfigured. A new dining room was born out of this shift with space captured from a powder room and storage area.

Maximizing water views was key to the renovation, though that required deftly maneuvering around mature cypress and redwood trees that hindered sight lines. "When some of these homes were built, they had smaller windows because the lifestyle at the time wasn't about the water," Smith says.

Working with builder David Stocker and his crew, Smith opened rooms to the outdoors with larger or additional windows; most are restoration glass for an old-school look. Nowhere is the water view more present than in the family

**Dining room** Oak paneling inspired by the Edwardian period imbues the new dining room with warmth. The clubby look eases the transition to a billiards room; the table converts to a pool table. **Exterior** The exterior restoration, which included adding a new shake roof and replacing rotted redwood siding, retained the original character. Landscape architect Joni Janecki created a mediative entrance (and privacy) with meandering paths lined with plants. At the back of the house, a terrace off the living and family rooms offers space for dining and lounging.





The kitchen blends traditional and modern touches in a lightened-up design that keeps the space airy. White-painted paneled walls provide a textural backdrop and help the patinaed zinc-and-steel range hood and backsplash stand out. Sustainably forested teak countertops on perimeter cabinets speak to the coastal setting. "They're a nod to the outdoors but also a way to bring in a wood top that will wear well," Smith says.



room. Originally an open porch that had been enclosed at some point, it was in sagging disrepair. “We conceived of the room as a glassed-in porch with a gabled ceiling for airiness and volume,” Smith says. The space offers the best of all worlds: a wall of picture windows for a clear view of the ocean, French doors for indoor-outdoor living on an adjoining terrace, and a new stone fireplace for cozying up inside.

Improved views weren’t the end-all of the renovation, though. Craftsmanship was equally important. That comes through in the judicious use of woods, including new cypress wall paneling and white oak coffered ceilings that complement existing oak floors. The ceilings themselves are architectural masterstrokes. For unity, Smith extended oak beams and a gapped plank ceiling across the main level. In the living room, trim pieces accentuating the beams add a dressed-up layer of detail. On the dining room ceiling, a more intricate trim pattern seems similar to tracery on a stained-glass window.

“The views are what make the whole house, but the ceilings are what make the rooms,” Smith says.

**Bar area** Newly planked hemlock walls in a bonus room designed for cards and cocktails hold a surprise: Smith designed a section of the wall to open for easy access to the porch. **Porch** Redwood tree trunks serve as supports and a sitting rail on the front porch; standing dead trees were harvested to replace two rotted columns to honor the original look.





While the architecture veers traditional, the interior design dances between classic and eclectic. In the living room, walls painted deep aubergine—a shade custom-matched to one of the owner's favorite casserole dishes—ensures the abundant wood doesn't become heavy-handed and provides a sharp backdrop for a diverse grouping of artwork. Fabrics in rusty oranges, browns, and greens and a pair of low-slung rattan chairs evoke a '70s bohemian vibe. In the kitchen, the style shifts to classic with a hint of California coastal in the teak countertops. Then step inside guest bedrooms, and the look is distinctly traditional with yards of flowing floral fabric draping windows, crowning a bed, and creating a handy wardrobe.

The two-year-long renovation required close collaboration among the designer, homeowners, builder, and landscape architect. For Smith, it's a testament to teamwork and patience. The house that could have been demolished instead recaptured a sense of place without sacrificing character or the need for modern living. "It feels natural and right," Smith says. 🏡

**Architecture:** Eric J. Smith **Builder:** David Stocker, Stocker & Allaire

**Landscape design:** Joni Janecki, Joni L. Janecki & Associates

**Guest bedrooms** Swathed in feminine floral and earthy green fabrics, two main-level guest bedrooms welcome nature inside. **Foyer** *Portrait of a Young Girl* by artist Jo Cantine sparks interest in the all-wood entry and hints at the eclectic touches to come. **Bathroom** Concrete encaustic tile flooring elevates the style in an upstairs bathroom.