



# Beside the sea

Every detail in this remodeled 1940s cottage is designed to reference the architectural vernacular of traditional coastal homes

**While a seaside cottage that serves as a vacation home may be charming – if a little rough and ready – there comes a time when more comfort is called for.**

Architect Robert Hidey says this was precisely the case with his own family’s vacation home, which dated back to 1946.

“With its solid redwood construction, the house had served us well over the years, and we still appreciated the small-scale cottage detailing. But many of the rooms were substandard, including the bedrooms, bathrooms and kitchen, which

was in a separate room. And the flow was not ideal – the rear bedroom was reached through a second bedroom-office space.”

Hidey says the position of the front door, at the side of the house, was also awkward – guests were squeezed into an unappealing 3ft-wide alley space.

The architect consequently moved the entry to the front right side of the house, where he created a transitional lobby space. The entry now lines up with the stairs leading up from the street, and creates a much stronger sense of arrival.



Before

**Above left and left:** This beachside bungalow has undergone a major transformation that has greatly improved its curb appeal, as well as its functionality. The original entry (left) was out of sight around the side of the house. This has been moved to the front, with the front door now perfectly aligned with the stairs leading up from the street. The renovation was designed by architect-owner Robert Hidey.

**Above:** The front door now opens to a small transition zone, or lobby, lined with wainscoting and decorated with an antique railway clock and antiqued lighting sconces.



**Above and right:** Before-and-after images highlight the huge change to the kitchen area. Originally a separate room on the other side of the entry, the kitchen is now an integral part of the great room. The painted brick fireplace, on the left of the before image, was removed to open up the space.

**Facing page, top:** The interior furnishings and art were specified by interior designer Cee Atcheson of Objekt Design.

**Facing page, lower:** 1 foyer, 2 great room, 3 kitchen, 4 bedroom, 5 bathroom, 6 laundry, 7 office, 8 master suite, 9 garage, 10 carport.



“Fortunately, the structure of the house had not deteriorated, nor had the exposed beams and tongue-and-groove ceilings on the interior,” says Hidey. “There was a character and a quality to the framework and form that I could work with.”

On the exterior, siding was replaced as required, with new horizontal clapboard at the front, and vertical batt and board at the rear.

“There had been several additions to the house over the years and there was a subsequent mishmash of window styles

with many inconsistencies,” the architect says. “I felt it was better to start over, with new doors and windows, and white-painted shutters that enhance the coastal aesthetic. It’s a very clean, fresh look that complements the cottage style of the houses in the neighborhood.”

On the interior, Hidey removed a central fireplace to open up the great room. The existing bay window – the only original window that remains – was remodeled and is now a key feature of the room.

The kitchen area was also absorbed

into the great room to provide a social center for the family.

“The island may be of a small scale to suit the proportions of the house, but it is very effective at creating a buffer between the living area and kitchen,” Hidey says.

Shaker-style cabinets teamed with gray quartz countertops and traditional hardware complement the authentic cottage feel. And new radius-curved openings to the hallway provide another nod to the traditional vernacular.

“The ceiling in the hall is much lower

than in the great room, and this difference is disguised behind radiused openings,” says the architect. “The curves also add character and introduce a little nautical attitude.”

The architect extended the hallway to link up with the end bedroom, which is now the master suite. The office is open to this passage, with double French doors leading directly out to an outdoor living area. Similar doors open from the master suite, which was enlarged with a new bathroom addition.





**Above, facing page top and lower:** A new passage addition links the original hallway to the master suite at the end of the house. French doors in this passage and in the master bedroom open out to a tranquil outdoor living area. A wide opening in the office effectively borrows space from the passage at the side.

**Right and far right:** The leafy alfresco dining area was formerly a side yard that the owners passed through on their way to the garage at the rear.

**Story by Colleen Hawkes**  
**Photography by xxxxx**



Interior designer Cee Atcheson of Objekt Designs was commissioned to furnish the interior for a tenant.

“Everything had to be of a scale that would work with the proportions of the rooms,” she says. “I chose a lot of soft white and off-white linens, so there would be no distraction from the architecture – it is all very light and airy. I introduced bright color accents through the art and accessories. There are a few oversize items also, such as the butter leather ottoman, which ensure the look is also very cozy.”

**Architect:** Robert Hidey, Robert Hidey Architects (Irvine, CA)

**Interior designer:** Cee Atcheson, Objekt Designs

**Builder:** Robert Hidey Architects

**Cabinet company:** Hartmark Cabinets

**Structural engineering:** Amid Engineering Group

**Siding:** James Hardie

**Doors and windows:** Sierra Pacific

**Window shutters:** xxxx

**Paints and varnishes:** xxxx

**Furniture:** Custom slip-covered sectional sofa and bed in white linen

**Entry light:** Restoration Hardware

**Flooring:** Provenza white oak in Tumbleweed

**Kitchen cabinets:** Painted Shaker style

**Countertops:** Quartz

**Backsplash:** Daltile Brick

**Cooktop, oven and ventilation:** Viking

**Refrigeration:** Sub-Zero

**Dishwasher:** Bosch

**Kitchen sink:** Kohler

**Faucet:** KWC

**Paving:** Flagstone

**Outdoor furniture:** Crate and Barrel

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