

Modern Remix



Cape Cods with white picket fences and Mediterranean-style homes dot Newport's Cliff Haven neighborhood, but one client of architect Chris Brandon's was looking for a more modern approach to his home. Chris, the principal architect at Brandon Architects in Costa Mesa, decided to put a contemporary spin on the home's traditional design.

"We had a lot of fun with the layout," he explains. "[The client] loved our idea of highlighting the use of natural materials, not adding a lot of fussy details and keeping the lines clean and contemporary."

Repeating the same materials inside and out unify the interior and exterior spaces. Limestone floors inside connect to the limestone paving outside, and the guillotine-cut limestone on the loggia fireplace is the same color as the finish on the exterior stucco. The fireplace along with a flat-screen TV and rattan furniture creates a cozy gathering space for any type of weather. The courtyard follows suit, incorporating a black granite spa and fire pit, designed by Corona del Mar landscape architect Mike Dilley, with a bluestone, concrete and pebble hardscape. With carefully planned living spaces flowing out into the outdoor entertaining areas, this maximizes the home's indoor and outdoor space.

"It was important for the client to have a mix of outdoor spaces—some more public, some private, some covered, some uncovered," Chris says. "Even without an ocean view, it's important to take advantage of the climate and the space."