



In the living room, a Bimma Loft ottoman tucks neatly under the glass-topped Echelin coffee table.



CALM, COOL & COMFORTABLE

A HILLSIDE RESIDENCE OVERLOOKING THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY NOW EXUDES BEAUTY INSIDE AND OUT

TEXT **ANH-MINH LE** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JOHN MERKL**



IT'S NOT OFTEN that an interior designer points to a laundry room as a highlight of a project. Such is the case for Joo Y. Oh, whose clients in Belvedere desired a venue where they could not only wash and fold but that would also serve as the sleeping quarters for the two canines in residence. "I hadn't done such a fun laundry room," she enthuses. "They wanted two beds for the dogs — and for them to have a really nice, comfortable space."

The walls are lined in Holly Hunt's Granada grass cloth in Ocean, its strié raffia weave lending texture. Underfoot, Casa Vita Bella's Palmera motif, in shades of gray and blue, packs a visual punch; the durable porcelain tiles are suitable for indoor or outdoor applications. Indeed, Oh saw to it that the laundry room was both striking and sensible — much like the rest of the 5,500-square-foot house.

By the time the homeowners enlisted the principal and founder of Studio JYO, the French country kitchen had already been demoed (think: turned legs and decorative moldings). Sutro Architects ultimately devised a kitchen with a "clean and crisp" aesthetic, says Oh, who worked in harmony with the firm to "modernize the home while maintaining its soft and warm character. We tried to keep some of the traditional elements but bring it up to date."

Take the exposed wood vaulted ceiling. "We were really fortunate to inherit that beautiful ceiling," she says. "The tone of the wood worked quite well, so we didn't touch it at all." However, the wood flooring, with its golden reddish appearance, was replaced with stained white oak. "We wanted to make sure it had a light and airy feeling—and that the ceiling and floor went together," she explains.

The walls throughout are painted in Benjamin Moore's Simply White, a neutral backdrop for the clients' art collection. With the couple's palette preference in mind—Benjamin Moore's

A photograph by Aaron Leitz hangs above the fireplace, near a BDDW Lake credenza, Proteus armchair from De Sousa Hughes and Bertu Home side table.

OPPOSITE The property includes a 5,500-square-foot main house and a 900-square-foot guest house—with the shingle siding for both painted in Benjamin Moore's Ashland Slate 50%—plus boasts lush grounds.



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ABOVE In the dining room, Tod Von Mertens' Water's Rising Table, from De Sousa Hughes, is flanked by De La Espada Capo chairs from The Future Perfect—with a Matthew McCormick chandelier overhead and an FQ Designs rug underfoot.

OPPOSITE In the kitchen, designer Joo Y. Oh selected Skylar Morgan's Arc counter stools and an Apollo chandelier.



ABOVE A powder room is appointed with Pierre Frey's Yangzi wallcovering, McGee & Co.'s Rye mirror and Urban Electric's Hockney wall sconces.

LEFT In a guest bedroom, Arhaus' Helen nightstand was chosen by Oh to complement the clients' furnishings.

Hale Navy was an early inspiration—blue is a common thread from room to room. “I love incorporating different tones of the same colors for many of my projects,” Oh notes. “It calms the room but provides depth of colors.”

In a powder room, Pierre Frey's Yangzi wallcovering in Océan “was one of the first things I picked for the house,” says Oh, who mated the stylized wave motif with Urban Electric's Hockney wall sconces. Their rectangular backplates impart pops of blue, as the design itself channels artist David Hockney's swimming pool paintings.

Relying on grayish blue as a predominant color, Oh layered in contrasting accents. The neighboring living and dining rooms are each appointed with graphic rugs in different blues, while the decorative pillows on the sofa and the dining chair upholstery

add rust and coral hues to the scheme. (That color combination is found in the laundry room, too.) Calacatta Oro is another repeating element, chosen by Sutro Architects for the kitchen island, countertops, and the living room fireplace's surround and hearth.

Despite retaining significant aspects of the primary bathroom, like its marble surfaces, Oh's vision yielded a remarkable transformation. The wooden double vanity and bathtub skirt were revamped with white paint. Changing out details such as the cabinet hardware, sconces, and mirrors also proved dramatic. Oh installed a pair of Arch Window mirrors from The Future Perfect, whose bronze edge creates the illusion of depth, and took them up a notch, collaborating with a cabinetmaker to turn them into medicine cabinets. (Expanses of mirror that previously sheathed a corner were removed.)



LEFT A powder room is appointed with Pierre Frey's Yangzi wallcovering, McGee & Co.'s Rye mirror and Urban Electric's Hockney wall sconces.

BELOW The primary bathroom features the Arch Window mirrors from The Future Perfect, along with Covet tall box sconces from Visual Comfort and cabinet hardware from Joseph Giles.

When the house was on the market several years ago, the real estate listing focused on the “breathtaking panoramic views” of the San Francisco Bay, Golden Gate Bridge, Sausalito and the Marin Headlands. Although it is still a defining feature of the property—as are its expansive decks—after the ingenious efforts by Studio JYO and Sutro Architects, there are now plenty more virtues inside, too. “My goal as a designer is to deliver a home that is livable and warm, yet modern and clean,” says Oh.

That approach extends to every occupant of the home, including the four-legged family members. **CH**

