



To minimize the visual impact from surrounding homes, architect Bill Hayer created a design that breaks up the front façade of Ed and Akemi's residence. The garage includes two bays on ground-level for daily drivers, plus a separate bay for motorcycles and bikes. Two car-lifts allow for easy access to toys, such as surfboards, stored on the lower level.

Facing page: Ed and Akemi at the outdoor kitchen. Whenever their daughters have friends over for a pool party, they ask dad to make homemade pizzas using the built-in pizza oven.

Settled *by the* Seaside

A contemporary home highlights family comfort and an ocean view

BY PAT LAUNER

CHIPPER HÄTTER



The great room is the family gathering place. Lifts elevate an 85-inch TV from the hearth. The same French limestone floors are used inside and out to link these spaces.

Facing page: The dining room boasts floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors.

BRADY ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE); CHIPPER HATTER (FACING PAGE)

“It’s a nice family home,” Ed says of his custom 8,000-square-foot domicile. “Understatement, I know,” he adds with a smile. Until recently, he and his wife, Akemi, led a nomadic life. In the 15 years they’ve been married, they’ve lived in five different places. But once their daughters, Claire, 9, and Juliet, 11, reached school age, the couple decided it was time to settle down.

Akemi is a “sophisticated city-girl,” Ed says, “coming from Tokyo, a city of 13 million. I’m a small-town boy from Franklin, Ohio, population 10,000. It was a big debate about where we’d settle. She suggested Tokyo; I suggested Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Her compromise was a ‘mid-size town’—New York!,” he says with a laugh.

They tried it all, moving from Miami to Tribeca (a hip neighborhood of industrial buildings-turned-residential lofts in New York), then back to Miami, though

they weren’t happy with the schools there. They bought a winter-home in Jackson Hole. But the ultimate long-term choice was San Diego, where they’d visited and loved previously.

They couldn’t find the home they were looking for, so they bought a 1950s ranch in 2012, and razed it to start over. The .9-acre plot is on a bluff with 100 feet of ocean frontage.

“The best thing we ever did,” Ed says, “was use Bill Hayer of Hayer Architecture. He was recommended by our Realtor, and as soon as I saw his website, I knew he was right for us. He did a marvelous job. I know a bit about architecture, and in the past, when an architect would come up with a design, I’d mark it all over with red pen. I didn’t make one mark on his design.”

“When we met,” Bill says, “we hit it off immediately. We’re both from the Cincinnati area. We were on the same wave-

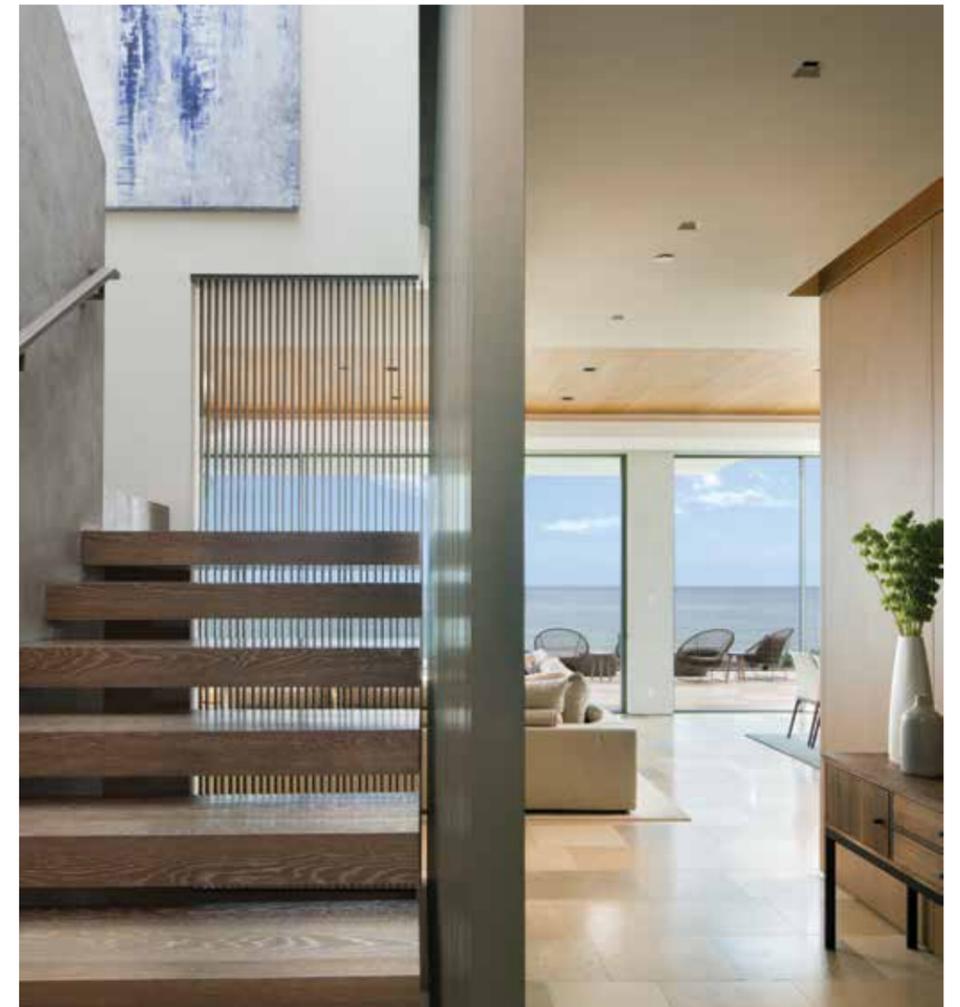
length. What Ed said he wanted was a beach house, a comfortable family home to raise his daughters. And a place to keep track of all his tools and toys.”

Ed and Akemi wanted a contemporary design that was livable for their family, Juliet and Claire’s friends and other guests. Views were very important so they wanted any walls that were non-structural to be glass. That translated to glass for the entire 40-foot ocean-facing wall of the main level’s living area and bedrooms on the upper level of the house having glass on three sides. Several outdoor seating areas on the upper level’s wraparound deck also provide spots to enjoy the panorama.

The master bedroom was initially on the main floor, but once Ed and Akemi saw the view from the upper level, they decided to use the main-level suite as a guest room (convenient for Akemi’s family, who visit from Tokyo).



Top: The master bedroom is located less than 50 feet from the ocean. The teak ceilings continue outside, linking the bedroom to the adjoining deck. Above and right: Each girl chose the decor for their own rooms (Juliet's above; Claire's right) including colors, furniture and wall coverings.



BRADY ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE, TOP AND FACING PAGE); CHIPPER HATTER (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT AND RIGHT)

Upstairs, Juliet and Claire each have their own room, with a playroom between. All the bathrooms are of traditional Japanese design, with a deep soaking tub on one side and, on the other, a shower area with a wooden stool for washing before bathing. Each has an attractively elliptical, multi-functional toilet. Ed fell in love with these self-cleaning toilets when he was in Japan. They have a heated seat, front and rear cleansing, and warm-air drying.

The entire house has the clean lines and spare design that is characteristically Japanese.

"The Japanese influence in their lifestyle affected the design," Bill says. "It was an educational process for me—learning about the customs so I could incorporate them into the design. I wanted a modern design that would take advantage of the 180-degree view upstairs and down. For the exterior, I designed a soft curve that wraps around the entire structure, leading the eye toward the ocean. Inside, there's contemporary interior detailing, including reveals around the baseboards, cantilevered stair treads and a huge skylight over the stairwell."

The kitchen features built-in, custom-made white oak cabinetry. Everything is smooth and flush, including Akemi's back-painted glass "appliance garage" that keeps her imported Japanese rice cooker out of sight. A huge refrigerator, six ad-

Clockwise from left: Like all the bathrooms, the guest bath is Japanese style, with a single wet room that includes both a large soaking tub and adjacent shower. • Each upper bedroom has a dedicated balcony connected by a walkway to the others. • The stairs are free-floating with decorative steel slats.



ditional refrigeration drawers and two freezer drawers make it easy for Akemi to cook (on a high-performance stove and in a steam oven) without scuttling around. A lower table extends from the central quartzite island for the girls to do their homework, and just beyond is the piano, which both girls play.

Their parents wanted no TVs in sight. The sleek family-room fireplace has a television screen that ascends from the basement on a lift system, pushing up through the hearth. But the family movie-watching happens in the 10-seat, reclining-chair basement theater, with its 120-inch screen. The basement also has a game room, a home gym and another guest room.

For the sports-oriented family, Bill added an elevator to move all the equipment—skis, wetsuits, surfboards and bikes—to ground level from the subterranean garage. Swimming in the pool is fun too, as is cooking in the summer kitchen (where Ed bakes his from-scratch creations using the pizza oven). There's also a small plot of grass, a fire pit and lounging areas. "We don't throw a lot of cocktail parties, but we like casual family parties," Ed says.

Excepting the guest suite's engineered oak floors, all flooring, inside and out, is French limestone, quarried near the Loire Valley. And neutral tones prevail throughout the house. Even the wall stickers in the girls' bedrooms aren't flashy. They arranged the "art" themselves—with Akemi's assistance. "Our interior design is mostly DIY," Ed says. "Our furnishings are semi-modern and comfortable."

The DIY styling means the nomadic family of four brings some aspects of their lives elsewhere to their new residence. For instance, the whimsical dog-sculpture stools they had in Miami now reside on the girls' balconies. Akemi's Japanese traditions, such as removing shoes when you enter, also travel with them. After all, it's these beloved practices and objects of the heart that transform a house into a home—including here in their new seaside abode. ❖

CHIPPER HATTER (THIS PAGE, TOP AND FACING PAGE); BRADY ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM)



Above: The sunken fire pit provides warmth on chilly evenings and an ocean panorama.

Top: The girls (Juliet, foreground) take time for a duet.

Facing page: The custom desk off the island provides the perfect spot for the girls to do homework.