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## Huntington Beach Project 2004

Charisse Dunn, Designer

My client's core values are Freedom, Success and Family. This translated into a home that was low maintenance, had a "wow" factor when you entered the front door, and provided intimate areas.

This 2,100 sq. ft. single family dwelling is home to a single father, two teenage boys, two dogs and two cats. It has to stand up to a lot of abuse in the form of proximity to the ocean (1½ blocks), wear and tear of pets, a family that loves to skateboard, ride bikes, surf and walk back from the beach in their wetsuits and sandy feet.

We chose natural slate pavers set in concrete for the floor downstairs. Upstairs we chose cork. All windows were replaced with double pane low-e fiberglass clad wood frames. Glass blocks were used to increase natural light without sacrificing privacy. My client wanted a lived in look, it couldn't say "don't touch". We found most of the furniture and rugs at thrift stores, consignment stores and estate sales.

The custom kitchen included energy efficient Energy Star Fisher Payel double drawer dish washer, Theremadore range, double gas ovens, trash compactor and energy star refrigerator. The powder room sink was salvaged from another client. All the lighting uses LongLite adhesives that extend the life of halogens and incandescent by 3 times and reduces energy by 10%.

The wow factor was achieved with color and scale. We installed an eight foot salvaged front door that worked much better with the tall/narrow proportions of the home (total width is 18'). We also raised the height of the opening to the kitchen and the windows in the main living space to be the same height as the front door, bringing in more natural light, and creating a cohesive calming canvas. (The original doors and windows in the main living were all different heights and styles, with wood mullein windows and aluminum sliders in the same space!) The décor had to include an existing collection of antique quarter sawn oak amours and side tables as well as inherited antique furniture and clocks from Switzerland.

Intimacy was achieved by creating gathering places within the open plan layout. We used rugs, lighting and furniture arrangements to anchor and create conversation areas, as well as spaces where one can retreat to be alone.

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