



PHOTOGRAPHED BY SHANE O'DONNELL



DIANE BARBER DESIGNERY

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DESCRIBE THE FEATURED PROJECT.

This rustic-modern bachelor home in Palos Verdes was completely remodeled. The architectural transformation of the original 1960s mid-century modern house included raising ceilings, removing walls, adding skylights and installing floor-to-ceiling glass windows and doors to create open spaces with a feeling of bringing the breathtaking seascape indoors.

Besides a shared appreciation for nature and the arts, the client (a Ferrari aficionado) and I have an affinity for Europe, which inspired the selections of fine materials and finishes: custom milled walnut floors, hand-dyed leathers, an intricate marble mosaic bathroom floor, European fixtures, custom cabinetry and more. Crisp white walls juxtaposed with rich dark woods were chosen to frame a soothing, neutral, earthy color palette.

While aesthetics were paramount, the lifestyle of the client also required balancing beauty with practical functionality. Radiant heat floors, an elevator and the latest electrical technology were also incorporated into the project. And in lieu of a typical one-room "man cave," the entire lower floor is dedicated to a gym, TV room and workshop steps away from a sampling of his car collection in the garage.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRM AND THE SERVICES YOU OFFER.

I specialize in redesign, remodels and new construction with an environmental eye on repurposing. From initial planning through installation, my clients are always an integral part of the process to ensure that the completed project mirrors their personality and unique lifestyle.

With great attention to detail and a reputation for excellence at interfacing with architects, builders, subcontractors and suppliers, I oversee the design details from start to finish. I tip my hat to the many talented industry professionals who work alongside me to transform my creative visions into beautiful timeless designs.

HOW DO YOU DISTINGUISH YOURSELF FROM THE COMPETITION?

My design expertise is complemented by a strong business acumen. In addition to a design degree from FIDM, Los Angeles that included architectural drafting, I have an international business background. I also grew up working in my family's construction business, so I understand building at a core level and feel at home creatively collaborating with the various trades on job sites.

DESCRIBE YOUR CLIENTS.

I have worked with extraordinary clients over the years with diverse lifestyles, backgrounds, budgets and project styles, including traditional, transitional, contemporary, earth-friendly and equestrian properties. From young families, aging-in-place adults and clients with multiple residences to single professionals, each one has provided me with a unique design adventure. My greatest compliment is when a client becomes a friend, as many have.

WHAT IS THE PHILOSOPHY OF YOUR COMPANY?

"Challenge the ordinary and lead with your heart." With this approach to my projects, I enjoy a spirited heart connection with my designs and the people I work with.