



Beach Blanket **BARBECUE**

An oceanfront cottage near Santa Barbara celebrates simplicity



Is Carpinteria the new Malibu? So it would seem from the number of homes there being converted from beach shacks to luxury vacation homes. Long considered the poor relation of nearby Montecito, this small coastal community, about 85 miles north of Los Angeles, has caught the attention of affluent homebuyers in search of a not-so-remote beach getaway.

This hidden pearl of a home came to the attention of Kevin and Joan Knee after Kevin's boss, Bill Guthy, bought a house there. Guthy (a founder of the infomercial company Guthy-Renker, where Knee is executive vice president, chief operating officer and chief financial officer) and his wife Victoria Jackson, founder

By Hunter Drohojowska-Philp

Photos by Mary E. Nichols



Previous spread:

Interior designers Monique Lafia and Christopher Arvin renovated the property to resemble a traditional East Coast beach house, adding ocean-facing windows and a teak dining table and chairs on the front porch.



of Lola Cosmetics, had renovated their Carpinteria home with designers Monique Lafia and Christopher Arvin. Impressed with the results, the Knees bought a house nearby and contracted the same design team.

The 1930s house was dark inside and out, so the Knees told the designers to make the home merely livable, as they planned to tear it down and rebuild in a few years. But the Knees loved the remodel so much that the temporary makeover has become a permanent vacation home.

Arvin and Lafia, whose offices are based in nearby Santa Monica, special-

ize in designing interiors for estates and getaway properties. The Carpinteria home is the latter, especially for the Knees, who live eight months of the year in the desert in Indian Wells, Calif., near the Gutthy-Renker office. Lafia says that while the Knees' main house has "a color palette of brown and rust, the beach house was done in colors that reflect the sunlight that is so beautiful in Carpinteria."

The designers gutted the two-story home and made changes that took advantage of the ocean views. "It was my vision to keep it very light, with vanilla and cottage white paint, limestone

This page, above:

A banquette with drawers underneath was built for storage. The antique oak stools and kitchen table are from Hideaway House in Los Angeles. Right: A circular table with a cozy Susan and Nantucket dining chairs are by Richard Mulligan. Tableware is from Indigo Sees.

