

COAST

REFLECTING ORANGE COUNTY'S FINER LIFESTYLE | DECEMBER 2008



A Global Outlook

Courtney Lawrence-Ziething brings the world into a Newport Beach home.

BY LISA LEDDANE • PHOTOS BY GREGG SILTZER



Wahine shutters evoke a West Indies look, accented by a sculpture of a monk greets visitors at the Alexander house.

There are houses that speak to you at a specific place, the moment you pull up to the curb and walk through the doors.

Guy and Sherry Alexander's house takes you on a gentle journey around the world—from the Caribbean to Asia—without ever leaving Newport Beach.

Usually, the architecture borrows visual language from tropical locales, particularly the West Indies. Think Bahama shutters and French doors.

The Alexander, however, made a total global mix.

"The Alexanders, who are house builders, definitely wanted their house to be different from other houses in the community," says interior designer Courtney Lawrence-Ziething. "The house has an island feel, but there are other influences such as African and Brazilian. And all of those influences work in Newport Beach because the house still has a beachy look to it."

Lawrence-Ziething's challenge was to integrate these diverse forms naturally and seamlessly in a modern setting.

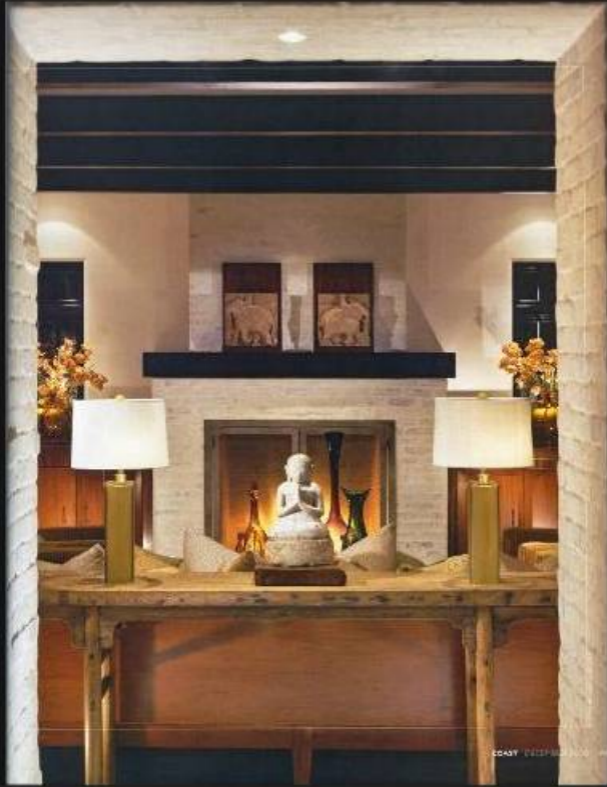
She started with a warm white on the walls. "It's an easy backdrop" for mix. "If they got tired of the colors of the fabric, such as chaircases and drapery, they could change the color. The house could take on any color."


To ensure that the rooms—especially the living spaces—spoke naturally from one to the other, Lawrence-Ziething chose a deep espresso color for the hardwood floors, moldings, bookcases and mantle.

"I kept the materials and color consistent, but I kept how the materials are used," she says. "In the living room, the doors of the cabinet are made of ebonywood, and I also used the ebonywood for the dining table."

She also placed white-painted brick walls in the dining room, living room and courtyard to make those spaces better relate to each other.

Throughout the house, she purposely left the espresso-stained structural beams exposed and added matching decorative beams, where needed, for con-



A photograph of a dining room. In the foreground, a dark wood dining table is partially visible, with a light-colored upholstered chair and a dark wood chair with a white seat cushion. To the left of the table, two large ceramic vases are on a wooden stand. In the background, a bar area is visible with a Buddha statue on a wall. The room has a warm, rustic feel with stone walls and dark wood accents.

The dining area features
Finnish alloy wrought-iron
twist dining chairs. A glass
panel and brass accent the
backrest to the bar.



