

# CHOME

CALIFORNIA STYLE

## AT LEISURE

**LAKE TAHOE**

**NEWPORT BEACH**

**BEVERLY HILLS**

**SAN FRANCISCO**

**PORTOLA VALLEY**

**LOS ANGELES**







FALL 2014

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John Saladino's serene splash.

# Easy, Breezy



In Orange County, architect Eric Olsen realizes a creative couple's vision for a modern farmhouse

**BY MELISSA GOLDSTEIN PHOTOGRAPHED BY KARYN MILLET**



Minnie takes a breather in the living room; a World War II-era American flag belonging to Ryan Clasen's grandfather takes pride of place in Ryan's office. OPPOSITE A weathered wood path leads to the fire-engine red door where Railli and Ryan Clasen stand.



THE STORY OF interior designer Raili Clasen's family dream home doesn't begin with a surprise revelation. "It wasn't an 'Oh, it has such great bones' situation," says the co-founder of style-minded housewares brand Alice Supply Co., and former fashion executive. "It was a bad 1960s remodel." Still, Clasen and her husband, Ryan, Converse's sales director for the western region, had their hearts set on Dover Shores, a neighborhood in Newport Beach where a dozen of their 11-year-old son Rees' friends and families live within shouting distance. (Clasen's son from her first marriage, Wyatt, 18, will attend University of Arizona this fall; and her daughter, Calyn, 22, lives in Colorado.) She also relished the opportunity to work with Eric Olsen. "He was my first call," Clasen says of the architect she'd earmarked after seeing his own house on a design tour.

The renovation lasted an ambitious six months. "We stuck with the existing foundation, but took it down to the studs," says Olsen, who replaced the roof with a vaulted, standing seam metal version to raise the ceilings from 8 to 15 feet in places. He also added an interior exposed-wood trellis for rustic warmth. A brick wall runs from the front door to the back patio. "It's like art to me," says Clasen.

The interiors blend crisp elements of California wine country—specifically the William Rawn Associates-designed Carneros Inn—with a sleepaway camp vibe and a dose of Scandinavian aesthetic. "My whole family is from Finland, so I love clean white walls," she adds. The spiritual center is the open-plan kitchen, living and dining rooms, where diagonally laid, white oak floors, antique German maritime light fixtures and pine flatboard siding (painted gray) give way to oversized Moooi lights, a set of Paul McCobb chairs and an army cot repurposed as an inviting bench. "I love that communal living feeling of different rooms working together in one massive space." The flow of friends and family through the backyard to the grand room is nearly constant. "We built the house like this to bring everyone here." •



Architect Eric Olsen drew the plans to accommodate a tower of stacked firewood built into the wall.









ABOVE An Almond x Linus Summer Bike hangs below a trio of vintage landscape oil paintings. ABOVE, RIGHT In the guest room, an antique iron bed was powder-coated red; rattan fixtures are from Crate & Barrel.



In the kitchen, floating oak shelves dovetail dark-gray painted pine flatboard and reclaimed wood over the range.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP The most popular hangout: Adirondack chairs around the fire pit; the tipi is an extra spot for seclusion. A weighty bookend tops an Ed Ruscha coffee table book. A trough sink is mounted on white tile; the designer hunted in a salvage yard for the door. An Almond surfboard alongside an early ad campaign photo by surf brand Roxy, where Raili Clasen worked previously.