

MODERN LUXURY

RIVERA

ORANGE COUNTY

FALL FASHION ISSUE

LADIES WHO LUXE
O.C.'S WOMEN OF STYLE

JENNIFER HUDSON'S
NEXT BIG MOVE

PLUS

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BEAUTY QUEEN

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FROM A FASHIONISTA

DUPLEX REDUX:
BEACH CHIC IN CDM

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SPLASHES DOWN

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SEPTEMBER 2013 \$5.95



BEACHY BLEND
From top left: Antique farmhouse touches and modern shore-inspired stylings meet in the relaxed bedroom, living room and kitchen, which boasts elements like reclaimed barn wood-clad beams and sleek industrial light fixtures.

FARM TO TABLE

THIS CDM DUPLEX PROVIDED THE GRADE A FRAME FOR ITS REDUX INTO A MODERN COASTAL RANCH HOUSE.

By Carrie Storke Williams
Photography by Karyn Millet

Snapping up a home in O.C.'s vibrant Corona del Mar community was a dream come true for young up-and-comers Dan and Jordan Floriani. Introduced by a mutual friend—interior designer Brooke Shepherdson, who, as you'll see, figures prominently into this story—the couple were drawn to the village's laid-back sensibility, and they instantly felt at home when they bought the lower unit of an unassuming A-frame duplex on one of its popular “flower streets” in 2003. “We were... within walking distance to parks, schools, restaurants, bars, shops, grocery stores and beaches,” says Dan. “What else could you need?”

As it turns out, the Florianis soon needed more space, with the arrival of son Gianni in 2008. Fortunately, in 2010, the owner of the upper unit was ready to sell. The couple inked the deal and enlisted the help of their ersatz matchmaker Shepherdson, who had just graduated from design school and was ready for a big project.

“Brooke has an incredible work ethic, she knows our style and—most importantly—she has great taste,” says Jordan, who also had been referred to CdM-based architect Eric Olsen through friends. Olsen and Shepherdson both happen to be natives of the area, which enlightened their unique approach to the project.

While the Florianis were tempted to do away with the property's original gabled structure, their remodeling budget wouldn't allow it. So, instead of abandoning the A-frame, the couple and the design team worked within it to “reframe” the style of the abode, with the goal of creating a refined yet comfortable place to welcome family and friends.

“Much like Corona del Mar Village... the Florianis are cool, fun and sophisticated, but not snooty or stuffy,” says Olsen. “We wanted the home to have those same qualities, so we designed a coastal chic farmhouse with a relaxed

CONTINUED...



HOME ON THE RANGE
From left: Interior designer Brooke Shepherdson created a cozy yet hip abode with a stone shower wall in the master bath; vintage and modern decor, like this spotlight; ikat fabrics; and pops of color.



...CONTINUED vibe, and a certain sophistication and modern feel.”

The project reveals Olsen’s tutelage under famed architect Leason Pomeroy III, demonstrating his ability to envision creative solutions, and showcasing his talent for designing eminently livable spaces that marry comfort and style. In this case, Olsen began by removing a nonbearing wall and eliminating a central hallway that had made the previous space dark and unwelcoming. The result: a wide-open spot that enhances the connection between the kitchen and the living areas, creating a kitchen-anchored great room that is now one of the family’s favorite places. “You just want to hang out in the kitchen, eat good food and drink wine with friends,” says Jordan. “It’s beautiful yet completely comfortable.”

The kitchen also captures Shepherdson’s artful eye, which comes to life in an effortless melding of styles—paying homage to the farmhouse with a wood table, a coffered ceiling inset with reclaimed barn wood-clad beams and a classic sink. Sophistication is imparted with custom glass-fronted cabinets in dark gray and a backsplash of white subway tiles set on the vertical. And industrial light fixtures deliver a hint of edginess.

Shepherdson carried this design mashup to the master bath, where the rough-hewn stone shower evokes a sense of the outdoors; bespoke cabinets are fronted in vintage barn wood (made contemporary with simple stainless pulls); and the sleek slab counters and built-in bench appear to float.

In addition to transforming the interiors, the design team turned their

attention to the exterior, where another redux breakthrough came via the collaboration of Olsen and builder Ross Savage of KRS Development Services. Olsen wanted to rework the front of the abode, bringing in authentic barn wood and other touches, while also creating an additional outdoor living area. Working together, Olsen and Savage removed a beam and dug out the existing patio and entry, and built stepped retaining walls. This allows for a much bigger courtyard that extends the living room space. And, since the new alfresco area is below grade, it offers privacy while suffusing the home’s interior with light.

Shepherdson brought the residence’s design aesthetic to this space, with ranch-inspired references (a vintage barn wood-clad fountain), cool coastal touches (azure-cushioned banquettes that borrow hues from ikat fabrics used in the interiors) and polish (gray herringbone stone flooring). With distinct yet flexible furnished areas for dining and relaxing, this sunken garden is at once romantic and family-friendly, which is a good thing, as the Florianis’ second son, Luca, was born in 2011.

“The [Florianis] don’t have to worry that their boys are going to... mess something up,” says Shepherdson. “Crayon on the industrial farmhouse table will only add character.”

The Florianis agree. “We love friends, family and beaches,” says Dan. “Every room in the house reinforces that. There is a clear appreciation of design and beauty coexisting with family life and comfort.” **R**

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