

LAGUNA BEACH

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Magazine

the HOME & DESIGN ISSUE!

LAGUNA'S HISTORIC COTTAGES
DESIGNING FOR SMALL SPACES
BREATHTAKING DECKS
BRINGING THE OUTDOORS IN

LADY IN RED

Hits the
Streets in
the Season's
Hottest Color

+

THE ART OF
THE GLASS

SUSTAINABLE
SEAFOOD

ARTIST
JORG DUBIN





CONTINUOUS RELAXATION

A good deck can create an outdoor living room, capture a view and add a feeling of spaciousness to the home. For Laguna Beach designer Lisa McDennon, the 375-square-foot deck she conceived for a home near Diamond Street and Ocean Way did just that.

When developing the project, Lisa made sure the deck reflected the same feeling as the interior of the home. “It’s important in design that there’s a continuation, and oftentimes you’ll find the outdoor furniture doesn’t really go with the inside of the home,” she says. “We wanted to translate a little of the Zen, modern feel, so we tied the interior to the exterior while still creating a fusion of the Craftsman style.”

The unique styling of the wraparound deck area was achieved with special touches like carved dragon and traditional Chinese openwork garden stools from Gump’s of San Francisco. There’s also a variety of mixed-use seating and entertaining options like the geometric-influenced Snowdon table that begins as a four-person square table but can transform into a larger 6-foot round extended table. “Every piece was chosen with purpose, and we made

ROBERT HANSEN

sure it could be utilized in more ways than one,” Lisa explains.

For the homeowner, the design was meant to foster both entertaining and relaxation. The area connects several parts of the home, including the dining, living and bedroom, which made it key to provide a mixed-use space. Lisa tucked a lounge into a nook of the balcony where the owner can step outside her bedroom to relax and read a book. The furniture and landscaping afforded more public and private areas where she can do morning yoga, pull out her barbecue for entertaining or just enjoy the stunning views of the Pacific from her own private perch.

CREATE AN OUTDOOR LIVING ROOM

Designer Lisa McDennon offers five tips for creating your own outdoor living space:

1. Use bench seating with lots of comfy pillows. Here in Laguna Beach, bench seating also is a huge space-saver because you can back it up to the side of a house or railing, and it doubles as a storage space below.

2. Have fun with outdoor fabrics. Drape fabrics around columns or posts on a patio cover or arbor, or create retractable shades above to add coziness and warmth to the space. Go wild with color combinations.

3. Add a water or fire element. It seems that everyone gravitates toward the kitchen when you are inside the house—the same effect occurs when you introduce water or fire to your outside space. Consider using one or both as a feature or accent to take your exterior space to the next level. Remember, it does get chilly down here on the coast, so having a source of heat outside will make your guests more comfortable during evening events.

4. Mix it up. Avoid buying “sets” of anything. Mix and match furnishings and fabrics for a collected and eclectic look; use different textures between your seating, tabletops and area rugs.

5. Add layers of lighting. Consider two lighting pendants or a cluster of smaller lighting pendants over your outdoor dining table instead of just one, and don’t forget about adding great lighting in your landscape. Candles of various sizes can also be added as an accent for a wonderful glow in the evening.



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The advertisement features a collection of high-end lighting fixtures. On the left is a large, industrial-style lamp with a chrome finish and a wooden tripod base. In the center is a lamp with a large, white, conical shade on a chrome stand. To the right is a classic desk lamp with a brass finish and a white shade. The background is a light, neutral color.