



Mi Casa, Su Caso

Katrina Caso curates an inspiring Malibu dwelling for a talented songbird

by **ABIGAIL STONE** photography by **MICHAEL SCOTT SLOSAR**

LEFT: In the living room components of a vintage Mario Bellini Camaleonda sofa and a vintage black coffee table in the shape of a luftpause lay below a trio of custom handblown glass sconces designed with Jeremy Maxwell Wintrebert. **RIGHT:** Inspired by a French fireplace, Caso designed a stereo record cabinet that integrates all of the audio components. A touch-latch front panel opens to reveal the albums currently on rotation.



When she's not penning pop hits—including "Stronger (What Doesn't Kill You)"—songwriter Ali Tamposi spends her time on the water, perfecting her surf skills. So it wasn't a complete surprise when she moved to a Cape Cod-style cottage in a private enclave on Point Dume in Malibu that offered easy access to the ocean. She tapped interior designer Katrina Caso, who'd overseen the overhaul of her previous home—a Los Feliz Mediterranean—to transform her new abode. "We work well together," says Caso.

The interior designer remembers her first impression of the house. "It was crazy. Red and blue and all sorts of colors," she recalls. She stripped the house down to reveal its original, hand-crafted details: hickory wood flooring and beams, multipaned

windows, baseboard moldings and, in one of the bathrooms, a tongue-and-groove ceiling. "She's putting down roots here so she wanted the house to feel laid-back and uncomplicated," Caso notes. "I was looking for earthiness and airiness."

Caso chalks up the sense of calm that characterizes her work—what Tamposi describes as "Europe meets California"—to her Bahamian upbringing. "I don't like a visual jolt or anything that messes with the senses," she says. Somehow, in her hands, bold juxtapositions—like the kitchen's union of blocky Alexander Calder-inspired hickory stools and delicate basket lights or the unexpected brightness of the apricot ceramic pendant that dangles above the dark wood dining table—seem like natural allies.

While Tamposi wanted the house to feel beachy, she shied away from anything that felt too spot on. "The idea was that it would feel like walking into

THIS PAGE: Custom hickory counter stools, inspired by the work of Alexander Calder and upholstered in Giant fabric, sidle up to the kitchen island. Farrow & Ball's French Gray was used on the cabinets. **OPPOSITE PAGE, ABOVE:** Washed in Farrow & Ball's French Gray, the family room is a welcoming space. A custom built-in sectional is paired with a live-edge coffee table purchased at Dos Gallos and a rug by Rosemary Hallgarten. Vintage Karelia lounge chairs, originally designed by Liisi Beckmann in vinyl, were recovered in fabric found at Dedar. **BELOW:** A Tuareg rug, found at Mehreban, and a light fixture by Jeremy Maxwell Wintrebent in the entry point the way to the dining room, washed in Farrow & Ball's French Gray.



THIS PAGE: Vintage plumbing fixtures are true to the era of the home. The rug is by Mehraban. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** In the bedroom, framed pieces of Jim Thompson Fabrics' Plumeria in Lagoon stand in for a headboard in a guest room. The Guillaume Sasseville Ingredient Table was found at Garde.



misty ocean air," she says. Thus Caso chose colors—verdigris, rust, turquoise, cream and caramel—that, like sea glass, seemed aged by the water. Their grayed tones imbue the home with tranquility. "If you're having one of those days, you just come in here and it all goes away," says Caso of the gentle green that permeates the family room.

Much of the home's furniture was designed by Caso. "I like to play," she laughs. In addition to those kitchen chairs, she created the sculptural head chairs in the dining room, that room's table, the family room's sofa and, holding pride of place in the living room, an arresting integrated stereo console, carved from dramatic burlled mappo wood as well as a large custom sconce designed in collaboration with Jeremy Maxwell Wintrebert. Vintage pieces,

from the Olavi Hanninen side chairs in the dining room to the family room's gnarled wood coffee table and Liisi Beckmann Karelia chairs, settle instant warmth over the space. That list includes the bathroom fixtures. "I thought there was something charming about keeping it what it should be," she explains. The result is a space that looks original to a home built during the second decade of the last century.

Caso's working title for this house was *Harvest Moon* (after the Neil Young song). "For me, the song evokes tenderness," she explains. "There's something pure about it that reminded me of Ali—those are qualities she shares with everyone she meets."

