

this photo: A custom stair rail sets the tone for the dining area, brightened by windows strategically placed to capture light but avoid views into the neighboring house. “The I-beam-and-rope chandelier with its Edison-style bulbs adds an industrial edge,” interior designer Jen Pinto says.



Barefoot ATTITUDE

A 1970s beach shack catches a new wave thanks to a creative collaboration that melds modern style and cozy comforts.

WRITER Cathy Still McGowin **PHOTOGRAPHER** Edmund Barr **STYLIST** Karen Reinecke



this photo: Homeowners Jessica and Brandon Price with son Kieran and dog Abby. The patio of concrete and synthetic turf is well-suited for barbecues and playtime with their son.



WHEN BRANDON PRICE BOUGHT HIS 1970S MODERN BEACH HOUSE IN LA JOLLA

Shores, California, nearly 10 years ago, the first question his new neighbor asked was, “Are you going to paint it?” Then, it was known locally as the Custard Castle because of its bright yellow exterior. To the delight of the neighborhood, Brandon did paint it and lived in the house for a few years before he met his wife, Jessica. When she moved in, they decided it was time to do more than just paint.

“We loved the location, but we also wanted a home that we could grow with a family,” Jessica says. The Custard Castle was a one-story house with two

bedrooms. It had already received a few small updates, but the newlyweds knew it was time to call in the experts for an overhaul.

Seeking to create a modern farmhouse look and feel, Jessica and Brandon called on Jackson Design and Remodeling. Residential designer David Hall and senior interior designer Jen Pinto worked with the Prices on several iterations before presenting them with the perfect family-home plan. “We started out with more rustic ideas,” Jessica says. “But the more we got into it, the more modern it became.”

above: Residential designer David Hall transformed the 1970s beach shack into a two-story modern farmhouse complete with gabled rooflines, a standing-seam metal roof over the front porch and garage, and barn-style garage doors. The board-and-batten panels are James Hardie, a weather-resistant choice for the coastal climate.

• LESSON 4 •

farm made
MODERN

The overlap in the Venn diagram of beach cottage and modern farmhouse styles—a simple color palette, woven furnishings, and natural wood accents such as the 100-year-old reclaimed beams—feels just right.



“Modern farmhouses and coastal living have inherent attributes that go hand in hand,” Pinto says. Bringing together farmhouse notions such as a gabled roofline, industrial finishes, and durable materials, the renovation resulted in a two-story, four-bedroom and three-bath family home designed for a simple, breezy, indoor/outdoor lifestyle. The design team removed walls to connect living spaces and added stacking and sliding door systems that open to a concrete-and-turf patio—something the couple enjoys for entertaining and as a play space for their son.

Materials and furnishings are natural and authentic, with a modern twist. The apron-front kitchen sink is practically a requirement for modern farmhouse style, but this one is concrete. On the floors, the designers used 9-inch-wide engineered white oak with a wire-brush finish. “It has some texture to it, so it looks natural,” Pinto says. “It also feels great on bare feet.”

“Our modern farmhouse is well-suited for beach living,” Jessica says. “Brandon and I both appreciate its free, artsy, eclectic feel.”

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Working within the home’s existing narrow footprint, the design team opened walls and reassigned rooms for flow and function. Now, the living area, kitchen, and dining area flow together and open to the patio via sliding and stacking doors. “We wanted it to be open to the outdoors as much as possible—even when the doors are closed,” Pinto says. “The lot is small, and the houses are close together. We made what space they had as user-friendly as possible,” Hall says.



above left: Concrete gives a modern look to the kitchen's apron-front sink. *left:* Pinto painted laundry cabinets Acacia Haze by Sherwin-Williams, a hue that leans blue or green depending on changing light. Black porcelain floor tiles are budget-friendly but mimic slate. *above:* The squared hood is covered in shiplap painted black and edged in reclaimed wood. Floating shelves front a subway tile backsplash. Custom cabinets have just enough detail without being overly complicated.

“TO GIVE THE INTERIORS A MODERN SPIN, WE KEPT EVERYTHING VERY STRAIGHTFORWARD.”

—interior designer Jen Pinto



top left: In the primary bath, a concrete sink underscores the use of organic and natural-looking materials. **top right:** The shower brings dramatic contrasts with its dark tile floor and light tile walls. **above:** A black stone bathtub is the centerpiece of the room. Each tile on the wall was hand-selected for its varying gray tones and shape. **opposite:** The addition of an upper level allowed for a primary bedroom with a vaulted ceiling that follows the lines of the gabled roof. The designers repeated the look of the board-and-batten exterior siding. "Repeating materials indoors and out gives the idea of a farmhouse that has been added to over time," Hall says. A sliding door with chevron wood detail accesses the bath.



“REPEATING MATERIALS INDOORS AND OUT GIVES THE IDEA OF A FARMHOUSE THAT HAS BEEN ADDED TO OVER TIME.”

-residential designer David Hall