

# LIGHT & SPACE

DESIGNERS AUDREY DUNN  
AND LADD LAMBERT  
REVAMP A TRANSITIONAL  
MEDITERRANEAN-STYLE HOME

TEXT **KAVITA DASWANI**  
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Soothing neutrals dominate the living room; Romo fabric covers the Trocsan couch through Thomas Lavin, with chairs and side tables by Palacek and swivel chair from Lee Industries through Witford. The coffee table is custom made by McRae Lambert Dunn, set atop an area rug by J. D. Staron. Window coverings are from Superior Roman Shades through Gina B.

**I**N REVAMPING THE INTERIORS of a 4,000 square foot Newport Coast home, the only remnants from the previous space were three commissioned artworks that the clients wanted incorporated into their new design.

Other than that, Audrey Dunn and Ladd Lambert, the co-founders and principals of Laguna Niguel firm McRae Lambert Dunn, were entrusted with a head-to-toe interior revamp of the transitional Mediterranean-style house, which has expansive views across Orange County all the way to downtown Los Angeles.

“Our design approach was to provide a more cosmopolitan environment by updating all interior finishes, completely remodeling all bathrooms and to provide new furnishings throughout,” said Dunn. The landscaping was overseen by Patrick May Landscape Design.

Audrey and Ladd kept the original floor plans, but gutted everything else. They said the previous home interiors “had bold colors and the furnishings and accessories had dated themselves.” The original stair railings were in a heavy, intricate design. These were replaced with cleaner, simpler railings that serve to open up the space, accented with a sculpture by Ron Dier.



**ABOVE** The table and console in the dining room are from the Robert James Collection with seating from Adrianna Hoyos through D.R.C. A Hammerton Studios chandelier is suspended from the ceiling above a J.D. Staron area rug, OMexco wallcovering and a mirror from Ron Dier through Thomas Lavin.

**OPPOSITE** In the music room is a bench from Corragio Furniture, seating by A. Rudin with fabric by Corragio Textiles, an area rug by J.D. Staron and wall covering from Hartmann Forbes through Thomas Lavin.



**LEFT** The bathroom vanity is made using tile and stone from Ann Sacks with a lighted mirror from The Electric Mirror Co and stool by A. Rudin.

**BELOW** Plumbing fixtures from Pirch and stone and tile by Ann Sacks make up the rest of the bathroom. A. Rudin stool and window coverings by Superior Roman Shades through Gina B.

**OPPOSITE** The bed in the master bedroom is Nathan Anthony with nightstands by Bernhardt, both through D.R.C. Swivel chairs from Mitchell Gold Bob Williams, fabrics by JAB, accent table by Made Goods through Witford, wallcovering by Philip Jeffries and pendant lights by Restoration Hardware.



Certainly, a sense of lightness and calm pervades the interiors, which are dominated by a sea of modern neutrals—beiges, taupes, creams. Walls are textured. Rugs have modern, muted patterns throughout the public living spaces, and these are themes that extend to the private bedrooms.

The designers zeroed in on the clients' very specific lifestyle requirements and interests; they travel frequently, have homes on both coasts, and enjoy music. To that end, Dunn and Lambert created a highly-customized luggage-packing, dressing and wardrobe space.

"This custom cabinet features her collection of designer handbags," said Lambert. "And her custom circular dressing area accommodates her collection of Chanel couture" Certainly, the wardrobe doubles as an impeccable showcase for outstanding fashion, yet is still in keeping with the understated aesthetic of the house.

The designers also built out a music performance room, as well as a home office that does double-duty as a vocal training room, with a custom-made piano key artwork piece. Lambert said that other highlights include the Great Room with an adjacent remodeled Wine Room.

Like so many design projects around the country, the timeline on the Newport Coast endeavour had to be extended accordingly.

"We initially started the project the year before COVID hit," said Dunn. "We began with the master bedroom and master bathroom suite, and worked through the entire home in phases. Like many projects underway, COVID put a damper on the schedule, as well as with supply chain product delays and tradesmen." **CH**

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