

# MODEL BEHAVIOR

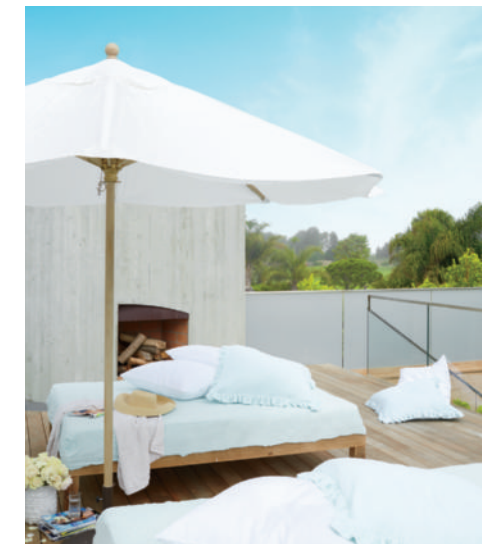
The quintessential California girl, Pamela Anderson opens the door to her contemporary home in Malibu to talk architecture, reinvention, and life on the beach!



THE '60S HAD FRANKIE AND ANNETTE; THE '70S, *FANTASY ISLAND*. But it was *Baywatch*, emerging from the California-crazed haze of the 1990s, that truly redefined the beach genre—thanks to its signature red swimsuits, slow-mos, and, of course, Pamela Anderson. While all eyes were on the small-screen siren, however, her own were trained slightly above the action: on a quiet little community perched above the stretch of shore in Malibu where she and her co-stars regularly filmed. “I always wanted to live there,” she says. “Working on the beach, I was always looking up at those gorgeous houses. It seemed like the perfect way to live.”

Years later, Anderson’s wish came true, and she was finally able to snag a prime spot in that very neighborhood. The only problem? The house that it came with was all wrong. “It was a really dated contemporary home, with spiral staircases everywhere,” she says with a laugh. “I knew I was going to have to start all over.” But when it came time to rebuild, Anderson saw an opportunity not only to reinvent the home, but also to reinvent herself. “There’s a very white, frilly, and romantic part of me,” she admits, “but I also wanted to show off another side of my personality here.”

That side, as it turns out, is as much interested in architecture as it is in environmentally sensitive design. So with the help of architect Philip Vertoch, Anderson dreamed up a plan for a pristine, modern home that



The Lily Juliana chandelier in the living room (top) and the custom platform beds, pillows, and umbrella on the balcony (above) are from Rachel Ashwell Shabby Chic Couture. Opposite: Anderson and her dog JoJo sit pretty in the actress’s vintage beach buggy.



Anderson and her rescue Chihuahua, BB—short for Brigitte Bardot—get cozy on the pool patio. The White Whisper Linen pillows on the bench are from Rachel Ashwell Shabby Chic Couture.



The custom open shelving in the kitchen was made from reclaimed wood beams and stocked with pretty vintage tumblers, bowls, and vases.



captured her love of clean lines and hard edges, but also appealed to her feminine side with plenty of soft texture and natural materials. “I was so happy to have Philip on board,” she says. “He worked under John Lautner, who is my favorite architect of all time, and I was able to draw a lot of inspiration for the house from his designs.”

ONE OF THE HOME’S MOST DISTINGUISHING FEATURES IS AN exterior facade crafted from boards of natural teak. It was a more difficult material to implement—Anderson’s dedication to the environment meant the wood had to be harvested directly from a sustainable teak farm—but the worn, bleached finish is key to the house’s design, lending character and warmth to its sleek, boxy shape. This layering technique was repeated with great success in the home’s interiors, with a little assistance from Anderson’s longtime friend and collaborator, designer Rachel Ashwell.

“Rachel is incredible, and she finds beauty in such small, unexpected things,” Anderson says. “I knew there was a way to strike an ideal balance between the sleek, modern aesthetic and a more rustic, lived-in look, and I knew she would help me find it.” Together, the two toed that magical line: While the living room is crisp and white, for example, its oversize,

The master bath is open to the bedroom (opposite), which allows the free-standing tub and its elaborate chrome filler to become sculptural elements in the space. The bed is decked out in soothing white and fanciful frills from Rachel Ashwell Shabby Chic Couture.



reclaimed wooden doors add a touch of whimsy. In the master bedroom, super minimal pocket doors and Parsons-style nightstands add a more masculine touch to the bed's lacy bedding and romantic canopy. The wooden floors throughout the home, too, have dual facets; although the wide planks are beautiful and elegant, Anderson opted to leave them unfinished so that they would be as accepting of imperfections as she herself is, making the home more accessible for its active (and furry) inhabitants. "I always have people and dogs running through here," she says. "My boys come in from surfing, covered in sand, and they lean their boards everywhere. I can't be too fussy!"

**N**OW, WHILE THE ACTRESS TRAVELS FREQUENTLY, HER HOUSE IS never far from her mind. "It's my baby," Anderson says. "I worked really hard on it and for it, but now I have a beautiful home, and I truly appreciate it." Of course, its idyllic location doesn't hurt. "I could never imagine living away from the water," she continues. "I grew up on Vancouver Island with a view of the ocean, and I've always felt that when things get tough, I can dip my feet in and start all over. Without it nearby, I'd be completely lost." **For more information, see Sources, page 101.**

