

**GPS** Living

**NAUTICAL  
STYLE**  
BRINGING  
THE WATER  
HOME



GENERAL PLUMBING SUPPLY KITCHEN • BATH • LIGHTING • CABINETRY

**FLYING COLORS**  
MAKING ROOMS BLOOM  
**SHAPE EXPECTATIONS**  
FROM ANGLES TO CURVES



The vanity in this bath showcases **Rohl** fixtures and a sink by **Kohler**.

# DESIGN, RINSE, REPEAT

HOW ONE DESIGNER  
KEEPS HIS CLIENTS  
COMING BACK



Among this bath's perks are a soaking tub and shining **Kohler** faucets at the sink.

TEXT **PAUL HAGEN** PHOTOGRAPHY **NATHAN SCHROEDER**

**D**esigner Barclay Butera may be known nationwide, but this beautiful waterfront project is very much on his home turf in Newport Beach, California. He and his prestigious design firm were familiar with the homeowner as well. “We’ve done so many homes for this client that the trust level is there,” says Butera. “They let us direct the project and for that we are extremely grateful.” The goals were to keep the space light and bright, while also capturing the essence of the ocean as much as possible.

The problem-solving posed by the property often related to formatting its abundance. For example, how does one

approach designing a home with four full baths? Does one aim to create a sense of unity and equilibrium among them? Or is it more important to give each its own flavor? Butera seems to split the difference—presenting baths united by a sophisticated palette of black and white with silver accents and complementary pieces from Rohl and Kohler. Yet each also has a sense of personality—here an audacious presentation of patterned tile, there a statement shower door. “Special touches for the primary bath [include] luxurious spa-like shower and oversize soaking tub, unique lighting fixtures and custom cabinetry,” adds Butera. “The goal was to make the primary bath a retreat tailored to our clients’





preferences and to enhance their daily rituals.”

Another area that required shaping was the largely open main floor. “As a rule, these beach houses typically have a ‘great room’ floor plan,” Butera explains. This poses the challenge of making kitchen, living room and dining areas work in tandem. “We wanted to keep the flow as open and inviting as possible,” he adds. His strategies included Infusing warm wood, pops of blue, and sophis-

ticated lighting to make the kitchen feel a part of the entire room, not a separate space.

Butera brought this level of care even to less prominent areas of the home like the laundry. “People really care about their laundry rooms,” notes Butera. “While it may be a utilitarian space, laundry rooms play a significant role in the overall functionality and aesthetic cohesiveness of a home.” The team installed a Dutch door for more

Butera’s goal was for the kitchen—with its **Rohl** fixtures—to flow in tandem with adjacent living and dining areas.

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**THE BATH A RETREAT TO**  
ENHANCE DAILY RITUALS



This bath boasts both sink and toilet by **Kohler** and a greenhouse-like shower enclosure.



This bath—with its impactful floor-to-ceiling homage to herringbone—features fixtures by **Rohl** and a commode from **Kohler**.



"I love this live-edge table," says Butera. "You never have to worry about nicks."



Laundry with sink by **Franke** and faucet from **Kallista**.

light and chose a significant sink from Franke. "A farm sink is a must because it saves the wood on your cabinets from warping and cuts down on splashes," Butera says enthusiastically. "It is part of the living area; it must look as grand as the rest of the house."

Much of Butera's work on this home involved looking to the water. In some cases that meant literally making the most of the location. "Because this magnificent home is on the Balboa Peninsula in Newport Beach, of course we

wanted to take full advantage of the magnificent waterfront views," says Butera. "We incorporated space heaters for chilly nights and shades to keep from overheating in the blazing sun."

In other ways, Butera was tying the home to the water more metaphorically. "When you do a beach house, it's all about the blues—the colors of the sky and ocean," he says. "Balancing nautical accents in the home requires a thoughtful approach to avoid overwhelming the space. We used



Butera notes that using nautical accents requires a thoughtful approach to avoid going overboard.

elegant maritime artwork of water and sailboats as focal points.”

Today, Butera refers to the owner of this home as a “client for life,” a title he would like to apply to many of his clients. “I am going to be celebrating my thirtieth year in business this December,” he says. “That comes from building trust.” And, indeed, it seems that Butera’s sense of job satisfaction derives as much from continuing his relationship with his valued client as it does with making the most of this lovely home by the water. “Nothing is more fulfilling than being appreciated for your talents and having clients return to you over and over for their new residences.” See more of this home at [barclaybutera.com](http://barclaybutera.com). ■



“When I first saw the home, I pictured lazy, hazy days in the sun,” says Butera, “watching boats float by.”