

HOMESTYLE

By the sea

MAGAZINE
HOMESTYLES BY THE SEA
Monterey, CA

Circ-120,000
Quarterly

FALL 2008

Media Equivalency:
\$83,250

PREPARED BY:
ANN HILL
COMMUNICATIONS

MONTEREY BAY'S
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Window
on the Pacific





If ever a house was designed to capture views and meld seamlessly with the surroundings, this is it. Overlooking Spindrift Cove, this marvel of stone and glass offers a wide-open window on the Pacific. A natural mural appears as one proceeds down the driveway as vast glass panels on the front and back of the home draw the eye to the ocean. Expanses of glass line the shore side of this retreat furthering the jaw-dropping effect.

Eddy and Roberta Bennett often traveled to the area from their home in Hillsborough. While lunching at the Highlands Inn, Eddy spotted the property visible from the restaurant and they decided to take a look. The house's roof was caved in, there was no driveway and the lot was covered in weeds. "Eddy loved it and saw the potential and we decided to make it our permanent residence," says Roberta. Both Realtors with Sotheby's International Realty, the couple share a discerning eye for possibilities. The purchase was completed in 1999 and they began working with architect **Mary Ann Schicketanz of Carver + Schicketanz.**

"She was familiar with the property as she'd developed plans for a previous owner," says Roberta. "We envisioned something quite different so the three of us put our heads together and came up with the design. We wanted something as dramatic as the location."

*By Melanie Chatfield
Photography Wayne Capili, Interface Visual
Kodiak Greenwood, Wayne Holden*

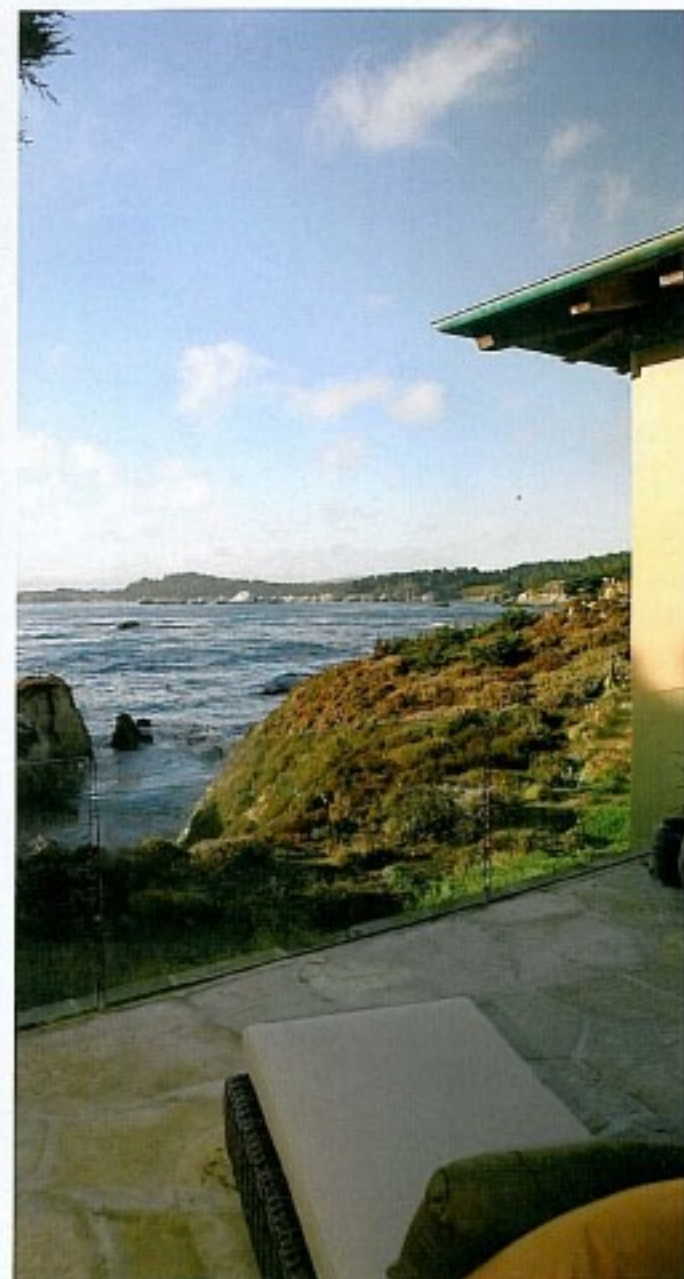
The old house was taken down and construction on their new home started in January 2000. The guest house was completed first and they lived there for six months while the main house was being finished. "I love that guest house," beams Eddy. "It's cozy, arguably has the best view of the water and enabled us to live on the property sooner."

The 5,800-square-foot residence has just two bedrooms and two-and-one-half-baths, with a decided focus on large, open spaces and plenty of room. The guesthouse includes a kitchenette, living room/dining room/bedroom combination, a private bath and an ocean-facing patio, offering exquisite privacy for visiting family and friends.

Eddy focused on the kitchen design (since he's the cook in the family) while Roberta took to the landscaping. "I wanted a kitchen that was functional, not just for show," says Chef Eddy. "Eddy is with the kitchen like I am with the garden," laughs Roberta. "I swear he has to help me turn on the stove!"

Majestic brownstone was paired with glass and topped with a copper shingle roof. Copper isn't used very often this close to the ocean and the couple expected to wait many years for it to get a patina. "It seemed to change before we got to the end of the driveway," quips Eddy.

The Bennett's Carmel Highlands home affords comfortable living options both indoors and out. The magnificent views can be enjoyed from just about anywhere.





The home's entryway is sheathed in glass—one panel alone is 16 feet high. "When that panel arrived, we knew we were in for a challenge," says Eddy. Since the roof was already in place, they had to cut a slit in it and lower the panel into place using two cranes. "Monterey Glass did a fantastic job."

When they moved into the main house in the spring of 2003, they brought some of the furniture and art from their previous home—a century-old French Pavilion-style house. Roberta had selected neutral paint tones and subtle faux finishes to complement the natural elements of wood, stone and concrete. "We wanted to live here for a while before tackling the interior design," recalls Roberta. When the time for decorating came, the couple hired Jorie Clark, Allied Member ASID.

"Much of the existing traditional furniture just didn't work in this contemporary setting," says Jorie. One item—a stunning rosewood dining table and chairs Roberta had purchased in 1964—made the cut. "I had it refurbished and it fits beautifully."

Jorie's skill is evidenced throughout the residence and guest house in the art, furniture, hand-woven Tibetan rugs and accessories. "We wanted to furnish the home in a subtle, contemporary style that wouldn't detract from the setting," says Jorie. "We drew from the palette of the sea, the surroundings and the stone and chose luxurious but understated fabrics."

Rosemary and native plants dominate the landscape. "We let it go natural," says Roberta proudly. "It's magical to see the colors of the plants and the water change with the seasons." Every evening as many months of the year as possible, Eddy and Roberta retire to the "front yard" to watch the setting sun. The land and private cove are teeming with life. Gulls nest and raise their offspring on rocky outcroppings, otters frolic nearby and seals lay about, while geese, pelicans and cormorant soar overhead. "It's a living painting," Eddy adds. ■



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Don Kendall (Ironwork)
Sand City
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Monterey Glass (Glass panels)
Monterey
(831) 333-0163

Sonoma Cast Stone
(Countertops/mantles)
Glen Ellen
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Walton & Sons Masonry
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Mark Meryash (Paintings
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