A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

RUSTY PULLIAM’S NEWPORT COAST HOME IS A DAILY DELIGHT

TEXT BY KATHY BRYANT

The infinity pool was designed by Landscape Architect Mark Scott of Mark Scott Associates of Newport Beach and constructed by Promontory Pools, Inc. of Tustin. Rusty Pulliam loves to sit here and enjoy the sunsets.
“Living here is like living in a resort,” says Rusty Pulliam, Principal/CEO of Pulliam Properties, Inc. in Ashe-
ville, North Carolina. “I fell in love with the house’s location as soon as I saw it. It was so different from North Carolina.”

Although Pulliam will always have a home in North Caro-
lina since his family has been there for four generations, he needed a change from his hectic life as a commercial real
estate developer. “I was thinking about slowing down and Newport Coast is the perfect place to do that,” he says.

“I came to Southern California for the first time in 2002 and loved the area. I came back every year on vacation and then decided this is where I wanted to spend the latter part of my life. I found the exact property I wanted in July 2014,” he continues. He bought this property and started an over-two-year renovation plan. “I bought the house immediately because of the view which takes in everything up and down and coast. I completely redid the house to my taste though.”

Pulliam worked with John M. Garcia of JMG Architects who did some of the interior architectural elements and Frank Stoltz of South Coast Architects in Newport Beach who did the exterior. “I wanted an Italian Tuscan look for the exterior and a teal blue color palette for the interior design with a modern/transitional look. It’s all completely different from my house in Asheville.”

For the interior design of his ideal house, Pulliam used Linda Burnside of LGB Interiors in Columbia, South Carolina. “She did my house in Asheville in 2003 so she knew my taste and style,” Pulliam says. “I trusted her completely.”
"We literally started with the art work," remembers Burnside. "Rusty was involved in the creation of this house every step of the way." All the artwork was commissioned by LGB Interiors after many meetings with artists to discuss the color, subject, size and materials of each individual piece. The paintings' blue and teal colors pull the outside in which was important to Pulliam.

Since Burnside is based in South Carolina, she hired Newport Beach interior designer Jennifer Mehdtash of Mehdtash Designs to be her project manager. "She was an integral part of the team," says Burnside. "We couldn’t have done it without her."

This was Burnside’s first project in Southern California, although her work takes her all over the world. Some of the elements that Burnside had to deal with that were different from those in the South were curved walls which she found both challenging and rewarding. Since this was an extensive remodel, rooms like the kitchen had to be completely refigured. Pulliam’s experience as a developer made him especially sensitive to the use of space both inside and out. The house is relatively small for Newport Coast, around 7,000 square feet on a .33 acre lot. Still Pulliam and his team were able to

ABOVE The family room is made comfortable with a sofa imported from Italy, chairs by Swaim Furniture and an ottoman from Chaddock Home. The rug is from Jaipur Rugs. The fireplace wall was designed by LGB Interiors and fabricated by Venetian Stone. Photograph by Robin Damore.

LEFT The art work commissioned by LGB Interiors and the custom blown glass chandelier by Seth Parks set the stage for luxurious dining. The table and chairs are from Swaim Furniture and the rug from Stark Carpets. Photograph by Robert Clark.
maximize the area to its full potential so that there were expansive views from almost every room. “The team had outstanding talent and all worked together in perfect harmony,” he says.

Pulliam and Burnside made two trips to High Point in North Carolina to pick out furnishings for the house, although many pieces were custom designed. They’re particularly proud of the dining room chandelier that they commissioned glass designer Seth Parks of Seth Parks Designs in Murrieta, California, to create in shades of blue resembling a school of dolphins.

Mark Scott of Mark Scott Associates did the exterior landscaping. They did it so well that the project won HGTV’s 2018 ultimate picturesque landscape award for the infinity pool and surrounds. And quite a pool it is. Pulliam and Burnside found steel-blue glass tiles that took six months to lay. The effect is spectacular. “It has a shimmery reflection,” says Scott. “We oriented the landscaping to get full advantage of the ocean view.” The exterior has many areas for just relaxing and enjoying the views, especially in the custom-deigned pergola with an outdoor kitchen and fire pit lounge area.

“There is nothing better than in the evening sitting outside with a glass of wine watching the magical sunsets that happen almost daily here and reflecting on one’s blessings and the wonder of God’s beautiful creation,” says Pulliam about his dream house on the Coast.

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