

VANISHING ACT

This California home throws itself wide open with a movable wall of glass, then blurs the lines between in and out even more with paint and decor.



An L-shape banquette uses every inch of a corner to create a comfy dining spot in Susan Hunt's kitchen.

Talk about breaking the fourth wall. In the cottage built by interior designer Susan Hunt and her husband, Mark, one entire wall of the kitchen can all but disappear. By opening a bifold window and a door, any division between the Hunts' 700-square-foot main level and their backyard patio dissolves into the Coronado Island air.

Just below the window, a custom bar designed to look like a surfboard creates a centralized place for eating and socializing on that threshold. "People love sitting there because they can be a part of conversations both indoors and out," Susan says. "It was important to me that we feel connected to the outdoors so we wouldn't feel cramped inside."

FLEXIBLE FUNCTION

A stucco fireplace that Susan and Mark studded with shells draws the family to the back porch for relaxing and playing board games or enjoying Friday night pizza. A roof covering the seating area protects a TV from rain. Remote-control screens can be lowered if bugs get annoying. Beyond is a grilling station and dining table where the Hunts serve dinner when they have guests. Tall vine-covered walls give the small lot plenty of privacy.



“THERE ARE TIMES YOU JUST WANT TO BE IN YOUR PAJAMAS AND DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN. WE HAVE THAT PRIVACY, INSIDE OR OUTSIDE.” *SUSAN HUNT*



SOCIAL HUB

Mark, a builder, made the surfboard-like bar using a variety of woods for a vintage look. He took it to a surf shop to have it finished in fiberglass.

SPACE-SAVER

Susan chose to forgo a dining room, opting for a petite banquette instead. She saves even more space by storing extra sets of dishware under the seats.



CEILING
WOODLAWN
BLUE HC-147
BENJAMIN
MOORE

COLOR BY NATURE

Susan took cues from the nearby beach to launch her color scheme. “The blue on the tongue-and-groove ceiling is a reminder of the ocean, while the floors are a darker blend of matte gray and brown that reminds me of driftwood,” she says. A capiz shell chandelier over the dining table, *below*, adds to the relaxing ambience. When the bifold window is open, the shells chime softly in the breeze. ■

ZONES THAT FLOW

The Hunts’ kitchen is a step inside the front door, so it was important that the space feel as inviting as a living room. Three informal seating areas—the bar, the banquette, and the patio—function as separate conversation areas or work together with the turn of a chair.

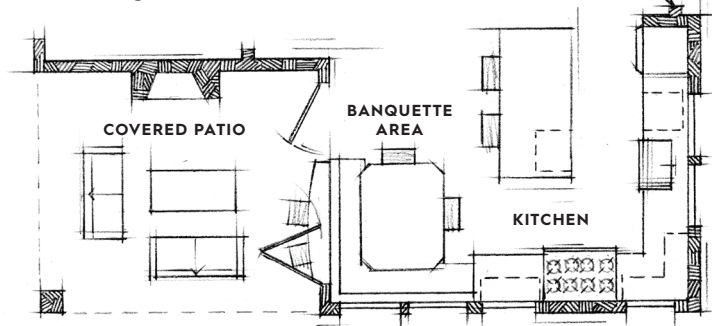


ILLUSTRATION: TOM ROSBOROUGH