



BELVEDERE RETREAT

Lark + Palm Create A Tranquil Getaway

BY **KENDRA BOUTELL**
PHOTOGRAPHY **PAUL DYER**

ANSLEY MAJIT & STEPHANIE WASKINS OPENED their Sausalito design firm Lark + Palm in 2018. Each brought different strengths and talents to the partnership; Majit focuses on interior architecture and renovation, while Waskins' expertise lies in interior design, furnishings, and textiles. It was the perfect match for a client who purchased an iconic 1950 storybook cottage in Belvedere perched high on a cliff. The waterfront property features magical views of Tiburon, Corinthian Island, Angel Island, and the San Francisco Bay Bridge.

In the interim of securing building permits for the main home's renovation, Majit and Waskins concentrated on the freestanding studio apartment located below the street level garage. Their goal was to create a retreat where the client could enjoy the property during construction and a place for visiting children and grandchildren later. The designers teamed with



Designers Stephanie Waskins and Ansley Majit recently posed for photographer Christopher Stark.



the architectural firm Pacific Design Group and contractor Danny McCauley to address the studio's challenging structural issues that resulted from it being randomly cobbled together onto the cliff's face.

In the entry of the studio, Majit and Waskins flanked a vintage East Asian demilune table with a pair of contemporary teak chairs finished in charcoal black. A neutral

palette of textures in creams, browns, grays, and blacks highlights the apartment's seascape. The design team utilized custom millwork to maximize the space and conceal necessities like the built-in refrigerator and freezer drawers. Belgian linens dress the raffia upholstered bed, a striped alpaca throw, and an oblong pillow in Elworthy Studio's Wild Palms fabric adds subtle

ABOVE A pair of Swizzle sconces from The Urban Electric Co flanks the windows; their bronze finish with black accents adds style and function to the room. The seats on the chairs open to reveal hidden jewelry boxes.

OPPOSITE TOP The deck posts were custom-made to create a more contemporary take on the existing beams. Modern, minimalist glass railings maximize the views of SF Bay and Raccoon Strait.



LEFT A pair of Hedges sconces with slim oval back plates and opal glass from The Urban Electric Co bracket an inset mirror surmounting the bathroom vanity.

BELOW Throughout the project, the designers relied on the expertise of Danny McCauley from the Marin-based family-owned McCauley Construction.

BELOW LEFT The demi lune console displays a contemporary abstract ink drawing of a crane by Jose Trujillo; behind it is a hand-drawn map from the late 19th century found at Alfies Antique Market in London.

OPPOSITE TOP The designers sourced the ottomans at the end of the bed from Summer House in Mill Valley. They are solid walnut with a hand-stamped inlay.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM A view of the cliff shows the exterior of the studio apartment. To the left of it is another storybook compound.



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pattern. Throughout the room, art reminds the homeowner of places she has traveled.

Descending a new staircase, the team excavated into the hillside to fashion the lower-level bathroom. The tranquil spa-like environment continues the neutral theme of the upstairs with wood paneling and Emperador marble. Elegant chrome fixtures from Waterworks complete the space. **CH**

