



## *Ocean Views From A Big Kitchen Bay Window Make This 1950s' La Jolla Remodel Both The First And Forever Home For Its Young Owners*

▲ **DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH** can be easily overlooked, but not so this La Jolla ranch house untouched since the 1950s. Especially from the kitchen, its sparkle was unmistakable: The blue Pacific glistened in the sunlight, signaling a forever pact with its prospective young owners who'd never purchased a home of their own. "She's from France and he's from Britain, and they immediately fell in love with the views," says Jennifer Pinto, one of the interior designers with Jackson Design and Remodeling, which gutted the kitchen and remodeled the entire property for the couple.

One of the first improvements made by the Jackson team was to maximize the view with an enormous bay window. "Before, the kitchen was tiny and closed off," recalls Pinto. While the remodeled airy style resonates as California casual, its undertones are French. "The homeowner has a great sense of style and influenced the materials we selected. The black and white palette is a nod to her Frenchness," says the designer. The wide plank wood flooring also has a rustic character suggestive of the Cote d'Azur, and the

farmhouse sink might as easily outfit a kitchen in Provence.

As a gemologist, however, the homeowner had no interest in camouflaging her kitchen beneath a veil of rusticity. "She wanted splashes of bright turquoise throughout the house." Chairs pull up to the breakfast table in a blast of blue. A turquoise door opens to a food pantry near the stove. "She chose metal hardware for the cabinets that has a slight bevel, like jewelry, and the funky, geometric feel of the barstools also is an expression of her personality." Stainless steel Italian appliances are "less bulky than most, while also being very simple and professional." Years ago in Copenhagen, the couple had fallen in love with light fixtures while shopping in a showroom. "It took some research, but we were able to find them for the area above the island," Pinto says. Though they had never owned a home, the couple had been thinking of what they wanted for years. "They had a whole file of magazine clippings," laughs the designer. Now with their roots planted in La Jolla, "it's family time all the time. They never want to leave this home."

**LEFT** The Kohler sink, an updated version of a traditional farmhouse sink, scrubs any residue of slickness from the streamlined Italian appliances for a more authentically casual style. Clear glass inserts in the upper cabinets break up the white. The Italian stainless steel hood is unusually narrow and feminine. Hardware on the white cabinets is polished stainless pulls.

