



THE WORLD OF COASTAL ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN IS BUZZING WITH

fresh thinking, new technology, and innovative solutions to environmental challenges. As a result there's never been a better time to imagine what the ultimate ocean home could be.

With that in mind, we asked some of the world's leading coastal architects, interior designers, and outdoor-living experts to show us what the future holds. Here are some of the things they see emerging.

KITCHEN WITHIN A KITCHEN

These days, the heart of the home is getting a little chaotic. Doug Kulig, CEO of the

architectural firm OBM International, says the open-kitchen concept, and the natural gravitation of people into the kitchen, has exploded. It's all good, except disorganization can result.

OBMI clients are asking for oversized butler pantries to mitigate any messiness. "Think a kitchen within a kitchen," Kulig says. "An oversized butler pantry has become the workhorse of the kitchen, where dishes are stacked and cleaned, food prep is completed, and small appliances reside." When the pantry gets out of control, Kulig adds, "simply close the door. Your large, open kitchen that

flows into the rest of the home remains looking spectacular." obmi.com

OUTDOOR GAME ROOM

Weaving together the indoors and outdoors is always a key component of the work at KAA Design in Los Angeles. The firm's favorite spaces are those that reside in between indoors and outdoors, says KAA architects Grant Kirkpatrick and Duan Tran. Consider the appeal of the shuttered outdoor room, often equipped with a fireplace, heating elements, and television. Rooms with operable shutters are ideal, Kirkpatrick says. "Automatic shutters make these spaces even more usable on chilly evenings and give them a sense of scale and intimacy."

On the lawn, look for another trend: bocce courts. According to Erik Evens, principal at Evens Architects (a KAA Design company), "We are increasingly asked to incorporate bocce courts and other classic outdoor games of skill into our landscapes. I believe that they are so popular because they provide great outdoor entertainment and integrate seamlessly into the natural environment of the garden. They are at once useful, beautiful, and fun." kaadesigngroup.com

GREEN IS GREAT

The changing climate and cost of energy have more homeowners investigating netzero homes, which allow them to eliminate energy bills and the typical carbon footprint of homeownership through intelligent, energy-conscious design. Modern NetZero, a high-tech architecture and design firm headed by Anna and Marc Cléjan, based on Long Island in New York, believes that sustainable homes are good for quality of life as well as the environment.

"Our net-zero design is achieved by combining solar, geothermal, LED, insulation technology, and passive design, resulting in a sustainable lifestyle that is financially smart," says cofounder Marc Cléjan. "Our homes have virtually no ongoing carbon footprint and won't contribute to pollution or climate change. The only footprint you leave will be in the sand."

modernnetzero.com





PORCHES POP

Although innovation steers design, tradition has stayed strong in some corners. For one, the high perch of the porch as a place to sit quietly or entertain hasn't changed. According to architect Gary Brewer, partner at Robert A.M. Stern Architects, that is as it should be. "I'm happy to see our clients remembering porches as places for gathering

family and friends," Brewer says. "We always orient them to take advantage of views and size them to accommodate six for seating and six for dining, which is perfect for drinks, dinner, and coffee." A few fillips are crucial, he adds: a pendant light fixture, ceiling fan, and sconces are essential to making a porch livable long after the sun has gone down. ramsa.com

Porches are also the perfect vantage point