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APRIL 2010

SURFERS'

After surfing at Santa Cruz's celebrated Pleasure Point for years, Scott Trobbe caught the biggest wave of his life: the chance to build a family beach cottage down the street from his favorite break

PARADISE



ON THE HOUSE

STYLE: California beach bungalow meets lifeguard tower meets surf shack

SPACE: 2,100 square feet, with an open kitchen and living room and a master bedroom on the second floor and three bedrooms that open onto a courtyard with a fire pit below

SETTING: Pleasure Point, the Santa Cruz beach community devoted to surf culture since the Prohibition Era, when it got its name

VIEW: Monterey Bay and the surf break at Pleasure Point from the second floor



The Trobber's dog, Everest, waits in the woody, ready for action. OPPOSITE: Teresa, Scott, Jeff, Alexandra, and Alexandra's friend Maddie at Pleasure Point

a steady northwest wind raises powerful swells off Pleasure Point in Santa Cruz. Cresting far above the heads of upright surfers, the awesome waves pound the beach with rhythmic roars. All over town, surfers like Scott Trobbe are stoked, grabbing boards and heading

to the beach. His passion for the sport takes him to a special spot at the end of 38th Avenue known as “the 38th break.” Paddling out with buddies he’s known for years, he’s exactly where he wants to be: “Gettin’ wet!” he says.

“I was body surfing here for years before I tried a board,” says the former Stanford basketball forward who used to hit the town at the close of every basketball season to ride the waves with teammates. Decades later, driving his four kids from their home in Los Gatos (out-



side San Jose) to surf the same break, he finally gave it a shot. “The first time I stood up, I was hooked,” says Scott. “There’s absolutely nothing else that compares.” But even more amazing than unfurling his 6-foot, 7-inch frame on a surfboard was the serendipity of finding a place to build a beach house where he could enjoy those incredible waves every day.

Santa Cruz’s reputation as the ultimate surfing community is what attracted Scott and his wife, Teresa, to the legendary 10-mile stretch of mid-California coastline. “Every surfing magazine rates Santa Cruz a top world destination for the number of breaks, frequency of waves, and variety of conditions for every experience level,” says Scott.

Much to his delight, property close to his favorite surf break came up for sale at just the right time. The lot had a 1930s motor court on it, so Scott and San Jose architect Noel Cross had to start from scratch and rezone it for residential living. The new house, Scott decided, had to honor the neighborhood’s relaxed, built-over-time character.

To get the scale and feel of the house just right so it would look like it had been a part of the town forever, Noel researched the area and

TOP: At 6’7”, Scott had a prerequisite: custom dimensions for the doorways, kitchen counters, sofa, and beds. **SHOP THE LOOK:** Walls in Mellowed Ivory (2149-50), Benjamin Moore

LEFT: A Northern California native, Teresa is a photographer who created all the art for the house, including the stairwell’s “Surf Lockers in Waikiki,” a digital photograph on canvas.

RIGHT: Scott’s son Tim kicks back in the living room below an undulating model of a dune fence that Teresa made to hold family beach photos. **SHOP THE LOOK:** Walls in Boothbay Gray (HC-165), Benjamin Moore



“We wanted the house to be a casual assemblage of the neighborhood’s materials and styles”

—NOEL CROSS, ARCHITECT



IN THE TROBBE
FAMILY,
EVERYBODY
SURFS—EVEN
EVEREST!



LEFT: "Scott kept telling me he wanted a special piece of art over the bed," says Teresa. "This image's blues, greens, and taupes were perfect."

SHOP THE LOOK: Headboard, West Elm. Walls in Antique Jade (465), Benjamin Moore

RIGHT: The bunkroom's 7-foot-long beds were made to accommodate Scott's visiting Stanford basketball buddies. **SHOP THE LOOK:** Quilts, The Company Store. Walls in Wythe Blue (HC-143), Benjamin Moore

BELOW: A nod to the beach, striped curtains with sand-and-sea hues and a subtle rope detail woven between the bands of color dress the master bedroom windows. **SHOP THE LOOK:** Stringline Stripe curtain fabric in Spa, Kravet. Love seat, Crate & Barrel

the living areas and master bedroom on the second floor to maximize the view. The ground floor holds the kids' and guest bedrooms, including a bunkroom that sleeps four. Interior designer Gina Viscusi created a casual, laid-back mood inside, with super-comfortable furnishings

photographed local cottages and beach shacks. "We wanted this house to be a casual assemblage of the neighborhood's materials and styles," says Noel. The exterior's board-and-batten siding and its Craftsman-inspired details give the home instant street cred as an authentic California beach bungalow.

Because it's a block from the ocean, Scott and Noel designed the house with



such as a plush chenille-upholstered sectional in the living room and a woven headboard in the master bedroom. The palette—shades of blues, dune grass green, and sand—ties the interiors together. Even the artwork, mostly Teresa's photography, is surf themed.

Now that the house is finished, Scott starts each morning monitoring the swells from a lifeguard tower-inspired deck off the master, and then, coffee cup in hand, again from the kitchen table he couldn't resist shaping like a wave. "I check out the surf at dawn, and my buddies and I put on wet suits and paddle out," he says. "After the session, we have coffee at the fire pit and spend some time exaggerating to each other about our rides." In this case, the fire is gas-fueled and the logs are steel. "It's instantly hot, so it's a popular hangout at night, especially when the beach gets foggy," says Scott.

With a panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean upstairs and a place below to gather after hours on the waves, the house has a beach vacation vibe from daybreak until nightfall: surfing at dawn, breakfast by the fire, lazy afternoons at the beach followed by outdoor showers, then back to the fire pit for cocktails at sunset. And the next morning? "Everyone heads for the breaks," Scott says. "When the swells come in, you feel the excitement escalate all around you. The pulse is here."

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life in... **Pleasure Point, California**

One of the most famous surf spots along California's coastline, Santa Cruz's Pleasure Point, a blufftop neighborhood overlooking Monterey Bay, has a storied past. It earned its name during the Prohibition Era, when the isolated promontory became home to speakeasies, brothels, and booze trading posts for San Francisco bootleggers. That rebellious spirit, plus the community's abundant surf breaks and huge swells, made Pleasure Point a natural birthplace of the 1950s and 1960s surf culture. That groovy, laid-back vibe is still very much alive in Pleasure Point today. Check out some of the Trobber's favorite neighborhood hot spots:



GROOVIEST SURF SHOP **Freeline Design**

A custom board shop that's been around since 1969 and also offers a complete line of surf wear and accessories; 831/476-2950 or freelinesurf.com



BEST CUP OF JOE **Verve Coffee Roasters**

Roasting coffee beans from all over the world and serving piping-hot espressos to weary surfers all day long; 831/475-7776 or vervecoffee.roasters.com



TASTIEST SLICE **Pleasure Point Pizza**

Known for fresh ingredients and creative topping combos, like the Abyss, which features shrimp and pesto—yum! 831/475-4999



FAVORITE BREAKFAST **BURRITO**

Chill Out Café

A dive café that serves breakfast all day. Comfy booths lure surfers for a grind after morning rides; 831/477-0543. ☘

“When the swells come in, you feel the excitement
escalate all around you. Everyone heads for
the breaks. The pulse is here” —SCOTT TROBBE

The home's design was
inspired by lifeguard
towers with lookout
decks. **SHOP THE LOOK:**
Exterior in Night Train
(1567), Benjamin Moore
LEFT: Like a bonfire at the
beach, the fire pit warms
the patio. A boardwalk
path and tall grasses
add more shore style.

