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THE HOME &
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NEW BEGINNINGS

A fresh start in Pierpont

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31ST ANNUAL OJAI WINE FESTIVAL GUIDE INSIDE

NEW BEGINNINGS

A Pierpont beach house creates community.

BY KATERI WOZNY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY T CHRISTIAN GAPEN

When Keith Repult and his family decided to leave their 4,000-square-foot house and downsize to a 2,600-square-foot bungalow on Pierpont Beach, they had a vision: to create something organic within the community and embrace simplicity.

"In our last home, we built it to impress people. In this home, we wanted to be able to embrace people," explains Repult, whose former house is a half-mile from the newly built one. "We felt something that blended with the beauty of the beach community would be more accessible and more welcoming."

Repult has been a part of the Pierpont community since 2007. As a successful businessman (he is the owner of Surf 'N' Yogurt) and craftsman, Repult began his career in carpentry building shelves. Years later he became the co-founder of Native Oak in Ventura, a cabinet making business that opened in April 2016.



WIDE OPEN: Large windows all around provide expansive ocean views from every angle. One set of glass panes in the kitchen fold back completely so that, when fully open, a kitchen counter doubles as a bar for plein air dining.

Repult met his partner in crime, Jay McCoy, through church. Also a successful cabinet maker, McCoy is the president of W.L. Rubottom Company, and he has played a role in the new home's interior design.

"We both had different ideas to bring to the table when building the house," says McCoy. "I was an expert in cabinet making and Keith is a forward thinker with a 'get it done' attitude. This whole project was an opportunity to make friends."

Repult purchased the land (as he jokes, the sand) and began construction in March 2016, taking a year to complete. The outside of the bungalow has a Hawaiian look, as an homage to its beachy environs. But the inside has, according to Repult, more of a farmhouse feel. It sports two and a half levels, four and a half bathrooms, three bedrooms, a kitchen, and indoor and outdoor living areas. The outdoor area has two glass garage doors that open up to the cool ocean air. Repult says he got the idea from the restaurant Social Tap in Ventura.

Repult's wife, Samantha, was also an influence during the design process. After a stay at the Four Seasons Resort on the Big Island, some of the elements that impressed her found their way into the new home. Those details include the ipe wood decking on the outdoor areas, a palm tree motif on the guest bathroom's wallpaper, a dining room chandelier made of Capiz shells and the master bedroom's chandelier, which is made out of wooden beads.

"My wife has an eye for detail; she sees things I never saw," says Repult.

The lower level has been transformed into a guesthouse-like space with a kitchenette, washer and dryer and direct access to the beach. What's more adorable is the dog tunnel that leads from underneath the staircase to the outside — a special arrangement for his two Maltese pups.

"I needed something for them; they matter too," says Repult.

Other furniture or pieces came from Restoration Hardware and Pottery Barn. The house is updated with state-of-the-art technology, including remote control or cell phone access to open or shut the blinds or turn on the music that echoes throughout the house, LED lighting, tankless hot water heater and solar panels on the roof. Even the master bathroom has gaslight windows to shut on or off when getting in or out of the bathtub and shower. Repult credits McCoy with influencing him to have the house be more tech-savvy.

"Jay has taught me many technical things and new ways of operating in this tech world," he says. "There were so many aspects as we went along."

Indoors and out, Repult's home is filled with numerous things to envy: his own private walk-in closet ("After 20 years I finally have my own. I'm ecstatic," he jokes), the large, well-planned kitchen, views with surfers in the foreground and the Anacapa Islands in the background. Those views, by the way, can be seen from all angles of the house.

But what Repult likes best about his new home is what it represents for him and his family. "This house has a lot of meaning with layers of new beginnings," says Repult. "I have a grandson coming in June. I have a book about new beginnings coming out this summer and I'm a recovery pastor at Mission Church. We're going to have a lot of fun days ahead. This is a dream." **V**





OUTSIDE IN: Interior design reflects the seaside environment, with sandy browns, driftwood grays and seashell accents throughout living room, dining room and kitchen. An outdoor bathroom (inset) makes it easy to wash off sand and seawater after a day on the beach.



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LIFE'S A BEACH: The Repult family (including two Maltese pups) watches the sunset from a glass-enclosed deck.