

lenges, what with the pounding surf and driving wind that often brings salty air, heavy mists, and other inclement conditions. Naturally, Palmer says it's important to be mindful of planting rugged materials and ensuring that natural surface stones and concretes have an

minimize slippery spots. One special tip is to buy certain sand-finished concrete that has "a bit of texture so it's not slippery, yet it's not quite like an aggregate, so it creates a beautiful surface."

There are also some interesting gravel materials, Palmer adds, that can

great design element, like sandstone paving in Malibu that matches the color of the ocean and mimics the waves with its undulating patterns. As for actual water treatments, cast glass lit from below a pond that reflects the sky, and spillings over stone walls are some of the lovely touches at Luncheon.

"When you're developing a space on the coast, whether it's oceanfront or bayfront, really what you're doing is creating a foreground, because the view is really the larger landscape," Palmer says. "You're kind of setting a stage for life on the foreground; you have this whole view that's really the main focus. You're creating the space you're creating, and that's your focal point." —**Scott Kauer**

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