

SHAKE & Stir

A DESIGNER EMBOLDENS
A BEACHY SOUTHAMPTON
VACATION HOME FOR OWNERS
LOOKING FOR DARING COLOR,
STRIKING ARTWORK AND,
OF COURSE, A LITTLE REST
AND RELAXATION.

WRITTEN BY **ELAINE MARKOUTSAS**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JOSHUA MCHUGH**



INTERIOR DESIGN / JENNIFER POST, JENNIFER POST DESIGN
ARCHITECTURE / MICHAEL JAMES PALLADINO, MICHAEL JAMES PALLADINO ARCHITECT P.C.
HOME BUILDER / JOHN NOCERA, NOCERA GENERAL CONTRACTING
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE / GEORGE LYNCH, GEORGE C. LYNCH, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, P.C.,
AND RUBEN DARIO GARCIA, DARIO'S LANDSCAPING



A curving New York-bluestone path leads to the home, which features a Dutch gambrel façade with low mounds of boxwood at the sides; divided-light windows showcase diamond detailing. Karney stone, a sedimentary rock from New Jersey hand-chipped and chiseled to fit, was used for retaining walls.

Tucked behind a wispy screen of river birches, just steps from the waters of Mecox Bay, is a sprawling 10,000-square-foot Shingle-style home set on a 1-acre site in Water Mill. Architecturally, it's not unlike many of its neighbors in the Hamptons, so when interior designer Jennifer Post initially walked up the New York-bluestone path to the entrance, she was a little confused. Her first thought: "Are you sure you have the right person?"

For Post's idiom is contemporary: crisp, clean lines; bold; bright; ethereal. And despite what the exterior

may have portrayed, that is exactly what the owners of this home were looking for in a vacation residence. "They envisioned modern and sexy interiors—a very entertainment-oriented décor, indoors and out," says Post. "They wanted to use every room, every day."

For the almost newlyweds, the redesign was an opportunity to create a from-scratch living space, with pops of their favorite colors and art—a haven for family and friends. "It's all about the views," says the husband, a finance executive who has four children ages 17 to 24 from a previous marriage. "We wanted to come in from the bay and plop down in comfort."

Interior designer Jennifer Post balanced the home's traditional paneled walls, ceiling and balustrade with a playful, modern, 47-foot-long custom silk-and-wool runner from Doris Leslie Blau accented by white markings reminiscent of beach pebbles. A pair of square poured-concrete pillars held up by bronze, by artist Eric Slayton, represents the owners' new life together. The painting is by Oscar Murillo.





Above: Neon art by Tracey Emin adds a touch of levity to the lounge's masonry fireplace—clad in a surround of honed Pietra Cardosa stone—that is shared with the dining area. The owners commissioned Vancouver artist Martha Sturdy to create *Crunch*, the high-gloss enamel metal sculpture that resides on the coffee table.

Left: The lounge is awash in a palette of blue and white, with soft gray and sandy accents. A circle of Poltrona Frau rockers made of walnut and white leather creates a dramatic dynamic around a tiered iron coffee table with bamboo texture from Paul Ferrante. Hanging above is Artemide's painted-aluminum Kao suspension fixture. The custom pashmina rug from Doris Leslie Blau has a white leather border.

Vivid blue metal frames on Richard Schultz outdoor mesh chairs and a powder-coated-aluminum-and-glass table—all from the 1966 collection—create a casual dining area adjacent to the kitchen. The tatami mat squares by Igusa-Mono can be replaced if they are soiled. Glass-blown Spin Light fixtures by Lucie Koldová of Lasvit were inspired by a child's spinning top.



“THEY ENVISIONED
MODERN, SEXY
INTERIORS—A VERY
ENTERTAINMENT-
ORIENTED DÉCOR,
INDOORS AND OUT.”

-JENNIFER POST

Traditional diamond details on the bay windows of the sitting room are countered with bold over-scale furniture: a pair of Andersen Lovechairs by Minotti in orange Kravet faux leather and one in a Brunswick & Fils' parrot pattern. The woven cotton rug with orange trim is a custom design by Post through Shyam Ahuja.



Originally built with pile construction and grade-beam foundation, the architecture was designed to be stately and timeless, but it also needed to comply with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) elevations to accommodate the flood zone. “We had to build it up in excess of 30,000 yards of fill after we built the retaining wall,” explains general contractor John Nocera. “The first-floor elevation is above the flood plain, and there are 196 pilings under the home.” To take advantage of the views, though, architectural changes were made—such as relocating the master-suite wing to the east side and, perhaps most important, shifting the location of the pool from the backyard to the side of the home facing the bay on the south.

It is in this context that Post began setting up engaging tensions in the interior, installing her signature Benjamin Moore Super White on the walls. She next re-stained the floors from dark chocolate to a heather

gray to make them simultaneously fun and sophisticated. “Everything I do is very deliberate,” says the designer. “I truly believe furniture should be comfortable—but I like to treat it as architecture and sculpture.”

Indeed, the furniture serves function with distinctive forms. Post calls a large-scale white-lacquer carbon-filter floor lamp that hovers over furnishings in the living room her “praying mantis.” In the lounge, the designer eschewed expected furnishings and placements in favor of a quartet of modern rockers gathered around one of her custom-designed tables. “I just wanted to do something arresting,” says Post, who launched a palette of brilliant blue with orange accents—requested by the homeowners—which remains consistent throughout. “Blue goes so beautifully with the beach.” For the octagonal sun room that looks out on the bay, she gave orange the starring role with roomy lounge chairs. The spacious master suite is a peaceful oasis, furthering the

Post designed the über-size trapezoid table in the living room. Deep, comfortable seating includes a Sherman sectional and chaise by Minotti, covered in Maharam fabric, and a Mobius chair by Giorgetti, which features Kravet faux-leather upholstery. The *Orange Loop* stoneware sculpture is by Merete Rasmussen; the Katana floor lamp from Leucos doubles as artwork.



Left: The pool house's fun interior is geared for the kids, says Post. The bean bag-style channeled sofa, chair and ottoman from Ligne Roset are clad in striking Knoll metallic vinyl, complemented with splashes of blue in pillows, painted high-gloss cabinets and Douglas Fanning LED-light blades hung from the ceiling. The woven-vinyl Zigzag rug is from the Bolon by Missoni collection.

Opposite: Architect Michael James Palladino designed the Western cedar-clad pool house as a scaled-down version of the Dutch gambrel-style home, including columns and diamond-pattern glass details. Generous sectional seating in white marine-finished teak from Sutherland is positioned at the edge of the 20-by-40-foot pool, which features an 8-foot-square spa.

Below: Outdoor rooms include seating, dining and grilling areas. Casual white-metal-and-mesh seating from Royal Botania's Ninix collection is sheltered by the company's roomy umbrella. Pee Gee hydrangeas add color at the perimeter.





water-sky blue palette, especially appreciated from a couple of private balconies.

The link to the outdoors and the ambience from within was important to the landscaper, as well. “My inspiration was to create three different rooms,” says landscape designer Ruben Dario Garcia—who took over the project when the original landscape architect, George Lynch, passed away. “The barbecue area, seating area—where you can enjoy coffee—and the outdoor dining area are all surrounded by different shapes of boxwood, Pee Gee hydrangeas, big round white Annabelle’s and purple nepeta, so there’s color and separation.” Existing clay soil was not nurturing, however, and he had to replace it with sand and create natural irrigation troughs. “We dug 100 holes by hand, 6 feet down and almost as wide.” A natural, almost wild, look with indigenous plantings was the

goal, with the use of modern outdoor furnishings creating a seamless transition with the interiors. “Jennifer balanced sophistication with the artwork and furnishings,” notes Nocera, “maintaining a beachy feel throughout that is totally livable.”

And the homeowners are in complete agreement. “Coming out here,” says the husband, “my whole mood changes. I feel like I’m heading to a place of relaxation.” His wife especially appreciates this aura in the bright, open kitchen, which is complete with top-of-the-line appliances and a 2-inch-thick honed statuary marble-topped island. “It is my favorite room,” says the wife. “It’s the place where everyone gathers. We spend the most time there, standing around the counter with a bottle of wine. I start cooking something, and it’s spacious enough to fit everyone. Good things are always happening—it’s perfect.” ■

Above: In the master bathroom, a tufted Arioso chaise from Roche Bobois pairs well with the minimal Monaco bathtub by Victoria + Albert, a single piece cast from volcanic limestone and resin. A custom shower with Waterworks body sprays is paved with Carrara marble, as is the floor.

Opposite: The wife’s passion for violet is seen in the master bedroom with an Andersen Paolina chaise from Minotti and a custom Pari light by Natasha Baradaran. The Massimosistema bed from Poltrona Frau is upholstered in white Giant fabric and leather; the Riga desk from Cappellini is teamed with a Paragon chair from Artistic Frame.