NEW YORK SPACES

THE HOME DESIGN MAGAZINE OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK

JULY–AUG 2014

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A FAMILY AFFAIR

WHILE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED, THIS HAMPTONS HOUSE EXUDES A SENSE OF HISTORY, WARMTH, AND HOME

INTERIOR DESIGN **FOLEY&COX INTERIOR DESIGN**

ARCHITECTURE **JOSEPH CERAMI ARCHITECTURE**

TEXT **ARLENE HIRST**

PHOTOGRAPHY **MARK ROSKAMS**

SCENIC STEALERS The clients selected all of the art for their Hamptons beachfront house, including the exuberant floral painting in the entry that makes such a dramatic opening act. A mid-century console by Machine Age provides a strong color contrast. It sits atop an easy care indoor/outdoor rug, which covers the teak floor. *Opposite, top:* The sofa from custom upholsterer Peruvian Touch is covered with indoor/outdoor fabric from Janus et Cie. It's flanked by a vintage Milo Baughman side table. The two solid oak pull-up chairs were found on One Kings Lane. *Opposite, bottom:* In the powder room, the designers, who met when they both worked for Ralph Lauren Home, turned an old desk into a whimsical vanity, painting it in a palette of colors inspired by the sea.

WHAT BETTER WAY TO LURE YOUR GROWN CHILDREN to come for a visit than to get a beach house? That was the plan of this Brookville, LI, couple who went hunting in the Hamptons to find a place that would suit them, their three kids, and a grandchild. They found the perfect spot—an unremarkable '70s house between Southampton and Sag Harbor. While it was not in mint condition, its strong appeal was that it was right on the water. They knew it would need extensive renovation, but soon discovered that the entire structure would have to be torn down. "Clients are almost never prepared for this," says Mary Foley, partner in Foley&Cox Interior Design, who with architect Joseph Cerami and B.K. Kuck Construction teamed up to turn the house from tragedy to triumph.

After the initial shock, the project turned into an upbeat one, with everyone involved, including the client, whose daughter had interned in the Foley&Cox office the year before. Cox says that since it was a second collaboration—her firm worked on the renovation of the clients' Brookville home—it made the process much friendlier and more fun.

The new structure has five bedrooms upstairs, each with its own bathroom, as well as a powder room on the first floor. There's also a full basement, which is now a game room.

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GETTING GRAPHIC *Left:* Hans Wegner's Ox chair sits by a Noguchi lamp at the side of the Janus-like fireplace, which is cut through to provide a hearth for the family room. There, the mantel is clad in black. Here it's crafted of white Corian. The fireplace screen, a sculpture by John Lyle, adds panache. *Above:* Foley&Cox designed all the kitchen's custom cabinetry. Polished nickel light fixtures from Urban Archeology shine down on the generously-sized Caesarstone-topped island. *Right:* The Christian Liaigre sofa is distinguished by its contrasting upholstery with black fabric from Perennials and white fabric from Rogers & Goffigon. An antique carved African table from Cameroon sits in front. Two art deco-style armchairs by Foley&Cox complete the scene. The floors are European white oak.

THE DESIGNERS AIMED FOR A NON-DECORATED LOOK AND KEYED THE COLOR PALETTE TO THE HUES OF THE SEASIDE

OCEANS AWAY *Opposite:* On the second floor, a painting found by the clients creates a trompe-l'oeil effect in the master bedroom. A mid-century teak bench topped with cushions by Hilda Oostdyk sits in front of the Christian Liaigre bed. *Left:* The windowed master bath is outfitted with a lounging tub from Waterworks. *Below:* The couple can just step outside the bedroom door to enjoy the sea view from the deck. Curtains made from Kravet fabric provide a screen from the summer sun.

The interiors are an ode to beach living. The upholstery fabrics are all waterproof for indoor/outdoor use, as are the rugs. Most of the windows face the water—in the original house, none did. The entryway leads directly into a big open space of living room/kitchen, lined with windows and dressed in a graphic black-and-white palette. The family room, directly behind the living area, is done in seaside tones of blues and greens. The furniture is a cheerful mix of styles, says Cox, including '40s French, mid-century Danish, modern sculpture, and African textiles—a slightly bohemian and overall casually collected vibe, he says. "We were able to shop at Clignancourt in Paris for wonderful little elements that would instantly give the newly constructed house a sense of history, warmth, and home."

"It's not meant to look decorated," Foley adds. "It's a wonderful place. You can kayak from the front door." SEE RESOURCES ‹