

retreat

DESIGN + REAL ESTATE

Interior designer Maureen McDermott sourced Marleigh Culver's "#8" from Tappan Gallery for this Sag Harbor home.



Interior designer Maureen McDermott sourced resin bowls from Homenature and mugs from Harbor Market to complement the Compac Unique Calacatta counters. Opposite page: A porch resembling a pagoda makes for pleasant Sag Harbor days outside.



PHOTOS BY READ MCKENDREE



FRESH START

With thoughtful planning and modern panache, Winter McDermott Design transforms a compact waterfront cottage into an inviting family retreat.

by JEAN NAYAR

Situated on a shy quarter-acre lot abutting the Sag Harbor Cove Yacht Club, this waterfront cottage's primary selling point is its unique location overlooking Sag Harbor Cove. Said to have once been the setting of a toll house that had been demolished and later replaced with the modest home and office of a previous owner, the dormered Cape also brims with charm. For its current owners, though, an active couple with grown children, the compact size of the original structure—roughly 1,600 square feet contained within a single story—was a significant drawback. Strict zoning and environmental restrictions on renovating a home with historic ramifications on the Sag Harbor waterfront added to the challenges of making the humble house livable for their extended family.

Its allure outweighed its shortcomings, however, so

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HOME



From top: Floor-to-ceiling windows bring expansive water views into the living room; D&D Harvey Architects and builder Greg D'Angelo added a second story to the house.

the couple opted to purchase the property, then tapped a conscientious team of professionals to transform the unassuming dwelling into a comfy, multifaceted summer home that maximizes its potential and diminishes its deficiencies. Pivotal in recreating the interiors was designer Maureen McDermott, a principal of Winter McDermott Design, who worked with D&D Harvey Architects and builder Greg D'Angelo to turn the small residence into an inviting home. “The owners wanted to keep a beachy feeling,” says McDermott. “But the wife also had a wish list of contemporary elements with lots of mixed metals, so to take it beyond a clichéd beach house, we elevated the interiors with modern touches.”

Since McDermott signed onto the project just after the architects and builder had reconfigured existing spaces and framed out an addition that almost doubled the size of the home, she was able to contribute to the layout and flow of interior spaces and select character-defining materials and fixtures, such as white oak floors and Foscarini sconces. Among the choices she





From top: The cozy den features ottomans from CB2 and a coffee table from Serena & Lily; a vintage foyer console is topped with Ruby Beets pottery; paint colors throughout the home came from Benjamin Moore's supply of soft grays and whites.



made to update the home's beachy flavor was to apply exaggerated shiplap paneling in the kitchen, which had been relocated and expanded at the front of the house. "We treated part of the millwork like a block, painted it a charcoal color and added brass door handles to make it modern and give it pizzazz," says the designer. She also paired Gubi light pendant fixtures with Shaker-style cabinets to bring lively contemporary touches to the traditionally inspired ambiance.

Other rooms on the ground level were designed to make the most of limited space. In the living room, for example, floor-to-ceiling windows and doors bring expansive water views indoors, while a custom TV/storage/fireplace wall unit and built-in bar make the room as functional as it is pretty. A cozy den with a sleeper sofa, on the other hand, does double duty as a guest room, and one of two bedrooms on the main floor was fitted out with four bunks to accommodate a bevy of spillover guests. Throughout, accents and furnishings, such as a striped area rug in the living





From top:
Lani Trock's
"Biomimicry" hangs
in a guest bedroom;
the bedroom on
the main floor
has four bunks to
accommodate guests
or children.



DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE

Waterfront retreat

LOCATION

Sag Harbor

Architect

D&D Harvey Architects
ddharveyarch.com

Builder

Greg D'Angelo
gdcbuild.com

Interior Design

Winter McDermott Design
wintermcdermott.com

RESOURCES

Bakes & Kropp
Kitchen millwork
bakesandkropp.com

Buster & Punch

Powder room pendant
busterandpunch.us

Circa Lighting

Kelly Wearstler
den floor lamp,
guest room sconces
circaighting.com

Holly Hunt

Living room sectional
and den sofa fabric
hollyhunt.com

Lewis Dolin

Kitchen and living
room bar hardware
lewisdolin.com

One Kings Lane

Living room, master bedroom
and powder room art
onekingslane.com

Tappan Collective

Dining room, bunk room,
master bedroom art
tappancollective.com



Clockwise from top left: Honed limestone tile was sourced for the master bathroom from Walker Zanger; an octagonal sitting area opens up the master suite; the custom-designed bed is made of Rogers & Goffigon's pale gray wool-blend fabric; the second-floor terrace overlooks Sag Harbor Cove.



room, contemporary artworks in bedrooms and baths, and a Saarinen tulip table in the open dining area, inject notes of surprise that keep the atmosphere upbeat and fresh.

The *coup de maître* of the reconstituted home is the new second-story addition, which houses an expansive master suite and is fitted out with a terrace that runs the length of the room. A plush custom-designed bed anchors one end of the serene space. "We upholstered the bed with a pale gray wool-blend fabric from Rogers & Goffigon and topped the bench at its foot with a fluffy Tibetan fur, which the owners love," says the designer. Opposite the bed, a double-height octagonal sitting area with views of the water establishes an appealing focal point and draws in relaxed energy and light. "It's incredibly calming," says McDermott. It's also a perfect place to start and end a lazy summer day. ■

