

DESIGN DETAILS

INTERIORS COME TO LIFE AS DESIGNERS SHARE THE FEATURES BEHIND THEIR SUBLIME SPACES.



PHOTO: TREVOR TONDRO.

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OPEN-DOOR POLICY

DESIGNER MARIE-CHRISTINE MCNALLY PLAYS UP A RENOWNED HAMPTONS ARCHITECT'S AESTHETIC IN THIS QUINTESSENTIAL AMAGANSETT BEACH COTTAGE THAT IS BOTH CASUAL AND CHIC.

This home has quite the history. Architect Alfred A. Scheffer's main patron, Ella Barbour, commissioned this cottage in the 1940s. It truly exemplifies Scheffer's architectural style from that time period and area of the Hamptons. The architecture is clean and simple with small, well-proportioned rooms and beautiful materials such as knotty pine plank floors and exposed brick. The entire first floor features exposed beams revealing the floorboards of the second floor. The idea for my design was to highlight these simple details and not to overpower them.

How exactly did you call out these subtle details in your design? The home is located in such a special area—think swimsuit-clad parents toting their sandy kids around in red Radio Flyer wagons—and I sought to imbue the house with that same spirit. I wanted the home to be beach-chic while still casual and low-maintenance. Everything in the home represents all of my personal inclinations: lots of white and natural textures, such as rattan and abaca, layered with interesting pieces. The overall effect is calm and relaxing, which is exactly what you want when at the beach.

What are your tips for creating such an easy-going and laid-back space? Sun rooms are naturally inviting because of the light streaming in and this one is especially sunny thanks to windows on three sides of the room. I used a thick, cushy flokati rug to warm up the brick flooring and chose a versatile hair-on-hide ottoman that can also be used as a coffee table, footrest or as additional seating. All of these elements create the perfect place for a small gathering.

Interior Design / Marie-Christine McNally / Marie-Christine Design, LLC / mariechristinedesign.com. Flokati Rug / Ruby Beets / rubybeets.com. Home Builder / Marty Mahar / Martin Mahar Inc. / **631.267.8000**. / Landscape Architecture / Daniel P. Popadick / Alluvion Gardens / **631.241.8188**. Large Cubic Lantern / Formations / formationsusa.com. Large Dream Boat Ottoman / Ochre / ochre.net.