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THE ARCHITECTURE ISSUE

(Sittin' On) The Dock Of The Bay
This home on Moriches Bay features contrasting exterior cladding of white PVC plastic and thermally modified dark weathered oak. The dock is ThruFlow composite decking. See Resources.

BAY WATCH

For a client in Westhampton, architect Stuart Disston sets his sights on the water

BY **CRAIG KELLOGG**
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Setting The Tone

In the kitchen and dining area (THIS PAGE), an Arteriors Imogene chandelier hangs above a Phillips Collection mahogany dining table and Artistic Frame chairs; the ovens are from Miele. The family room (OPPOSITE) includes a Designlush cocktail table, a Crate & Barrel armchair, and a Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams sofa. See Resources.

It's

difficult to peg this Moriches Bay contemporary as a design by a member of New York's Institute of Classical Architecture & Art. But its owners already lived in a traditional house near the city, and they asked Stuart Disston, whose firm, Austin Patterson Disston Architects, is known for transitional classicism, to build an easygoing beach getaway where they could unwind. "They just wanted to wear shorts and relax," says Disston, who, despite his traditional leanings, lives in a thoroughly modern beach house in Quogue, where he helms the Connecticut-based company's Hamptons office. "People who come to our firm for modernism are basically saying they want a house like mine."

Durability and easy maintenance, particularly in tricky beach and wetland environments, are hallmarks of Disston's creations. For instance, he advocates a mechanical heat treatment that caramelizes sugars in certain types of wood siding, making it both rot-resistant and imbuing it with a distinctive deep brown color. And this project's painted exterior cladding, which looks like smooth stucco, is actually a high-tech welded PVC plastic that he describes as "bulletproof."





THE BAYFRONT LOT WAS FORMERLY HOME TO A WORN-OUT 1970S STRUCTURE THAT WAS "PAST THE POINT OF NO RETURN"

Seeing Blue
 (OPPOSITE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) Roll & Hill's Rudi pendant lights hang in a corner of the living room. A bench from Artistic Frame sits against a mudroom wall. The tub in the porcelain-tile master bath is from Americh; the shower hardware and bath filler are from Graff. The master bedroom (THIS PAGE) features a Poliform bed and a custom Lucite chair with cushions upholstered in a Donghia fabric. See Resources.

Water World

Harbour Outdoor lounge chairs, sectionals, ottomans, and a fire pit furnish the ample mahogany terrace (THIS SPREAD). See Resources.



AN OUTDOOR TERRACE SUPPLIES ALMOST AS MUCH LIVING SPACE AS THE INTERIORS



The bayfront lot was formerly home to a worn-out 1970s structure sited dangerously close to the shore. Despite the house's groovy, unconventional octagonal layout, Disston deemed it "past the point of no return." What's more, high tide lapped at the pilings, which released creosote fumes whenever the building sat closed up between visits.

Current zoning and setback requirements significantly reduced the land's buildable area, although a revegetation project on the site of the teardown allowed wiggle room for a revised footprint. The new structure is positioned farther from the shore, overlooking wetlands now proliferating with beach plum and dune grasses. At a not-grand 4,500 square feet, it boasts 10-foot ceilings on the ground floor, which impart a welcoming sense of scale. Large storm-resistant, laminated-glass windows frame Disston's wow moment: a center-stringer steel stair with cantilevering chunks of white oak for the treads. Engineered-oak plank floors camouflage any beach sand that hap-

pens to get tracked in, and an ample outdoor terrace supplies almost as much living space as the interiors.

Because the house is made for entertaining, there are two kitchens: a presentation kitchen that can be concealed from view behind a panel, and a fully enclosed kitchen that offers a double of every appliance except a cooktop. The latter is bright white, but elsewhere, the palette of interior designers Scott Ornstein and Mary Rabiner, of Kings Point-based decorating firm Ornstein Rabiner, is softened in deference to the views. "You see water from almost every room," notes Ornstein, adding that the bedrooms on the second floor have the additional benefit of ocean vistas. The designers also commissioned an impressive eight-foot walnut slab dining room table and sourced new large-scale furnishings throughout, creating an airy, inviting decor scheme that couldn't be further from twee or trad. As Disston notes, "Everything about the house is pretty dialed down." ❀