

Enter the Unexpected

The shore location influences a home's color palette, but there's no maritime kitsch in sight

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The architecture is typical of the Jersey shore with unpainted cedar shingles, a cedar roof and copper gutters. However, interior designer Lisa Connolly and the homeowners forgo the usual shore-related accessories and furnishings inside.





The focal point of the foyer is a floating staircase with custom millwork leading to upper-level bedrooms. The chandelier is just one example of unique fixtures throughout the home.

A shore home for a family of five has an exterior style that’s in keeping with the Jersey shore vernacular.

The interior, though, is a different story; it speaks to a collaboration by an interior designer and a homeowner who steered clear of the usual, sometimes kitschy, sea shells and nautical accessories meant to reflect shore locations.

No need for those given the stunning vista of beach, ocean and sky, say the homeowner and designer Lisa Connolly of Cedar Grove-based LC Interiors. That atmosphere “speaks for itself,” the homeowner says.

She and her husband, along with their three teenaged daughters, spend every summer at the spacious eight-bedroom house, making it a second home to their primary residence in

A large piece of artwork in the living room, which the homeowner bought in Telluride, Colorado, contains the cool greens and blues that became the color palette for the home. At left the fireplace surround is natural walnut. A glass-topped coffee table with a sculptural metal base sits between a sectional and a Herman Miller chair warmed up by a Sherpa hide.



The real focal point of a conversation area open to the living room is the ocean, designer Lisa Connolly says. She arranged four blue-green swivel chairs around a circular coffee table and overlapped two hides as a floor covering.

North Jersey. During summer, the husband continues to commute to his job in New York City.

The Monmouth County home has become something of a retreat for friends and family also. That works for the homeowners because they love to entertain. “For two years in a row, we literally had 60 people in the house for graduation parties,” the wife says. That scale of entertaining is never too much for the house—with its many living and entertaining spaces—to handle.

TRANSITIONALLY MODERN

There’s nothing formal in the interior design, which Connolly characterizes as a transitionally modern décor that is welcoming and functional with a sophisticated flair. “Traditionally, one might also expect to

find pediment head trim details and plenty of bead board in a home like this, but you won’t find those here,” she says. Connolly, the homeowner and R. Popovitch Builders worked together to create a customized transitional trim package.

The color palette—which *does* reflect the shore location—grew out of a piece of artwork that commands one wall in the living room. The wife purchased it from Tweed Interiors in Telluride, Colorado. “I love the colors; it feels like the beach,” she says. The home’s palette—cool blues and greens and creamy neutrals—also took cues from Mother Nature, Connolly adds. “We didn’t want to distract from the outside” with colors that would fight with their surroundings.

Less-is-more describes the living room design in



part, Connolly says. In this bright, open space, a celadon sectional with hints of blue sits before a window, covered in an indoor-outdoor fabric in a practical nod to the shore location. A classic Herman Miller chair adorned with a Sherpa hide sits nearby. Between them, a glass-topped coffee table has a metal base that looks like a piece of sculpture. An area rug of creams and blues imparts warmth.

The bedrooms for the owners’ three daughters depart from the color palette elsewhere in vibrant shades of fuchsia with purple, yellow with green and pink, and turquoise with white, reflecting each girl’s personality, Connolly says.

The kitchen is also something of a departure with natural black walnut cabinetry that lends a darker look. “The goal was to make it [the kitchen] stand

out and be a rich anchor in the house,” says the homeowner, who loves walnut and also used it on the living room fireplace. “There’s also so much painted cabinetry throughout the house that we wanted natural wood for the kitchen cabinetry.”

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Among the home’s most distinctive features are the staircase in the foyer and the lighting throughout, Connolly says. In fact, a concern about the tightness of space between the front door and the stairs led to an “aha moment” and Connolly designing a floating staircase with custom millwork resembling a stack of books.

The foyer’s chandelier is just one example of the distinctive lighting fixtures in the home. Resembling a

French doors in the cabana room open to the pool area. The countertop at left can be set up as a buffet station for parties indoors or out. The custom oak cabinetry holds refrigeration, a sink and a dishwasher for easy entertaining, while the massive coffee table hides roll-out ottomans for extra seating. The custom blue sofa and swivel barrel chairs are covered in indoor-outdoor fabrics.



Custom natural black walnut cabinetry creates the “rich anchor” the wife wanted for the kitchen, while cream-colored marble counter-tops provide contrast. Cone-shaped pendants with frosted glass tips light the island, which has wood and leather counter stools.

Contoured-back chairs with leather seats flank a glass-topped table with a geometric walnut base in the breakfast area. The light over the table features interlocking polished nickel circles.

mobile, each piece is made of fused, handmade frosted glass and suspended individually from a canopy.

Other examples: rock crystal floating pendants (used instead of lamps) over each nightstand in the master bedroom, cone-shaped pendants with frosted glass tips over the kitchen island and the fixture of interlocking polished nickel circles that Connolly says resemble noodles over the table in the breakfast nook. **DNI**

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The second-floor master bedroom has “jaw-dropping” views of the ocean, the designer says. “I wanted the interior here to be secondary to the primary [ocean] view.” With that in mind, Connolly describes the taupes and cream colors as “mostly a void.” A custom mahogany bed has attached nightstands, a leather platform and a concealed television in the footboard. Rock crystal pendants hang over each nightstand.

Stained ribbon mahogany forms the master bathroom vanities, cabinetry and mirrors. The countertops and floor are marble.



Above: Each of three teenaged daughters selected her favorite color for her own bedroom and bathroom. This bedroom features a fuchsia upholstered headboard and fuchsia rug with a diamond pattern in black and white. The wall covering is a purple and white awning stripe.

Right: Fuchsia lacquered cabinetry in the bathroom coordinates with this daughter's bedroom. The wall covering is a tone-on-tone black floral print, and the flooring is a jet set marble design.

Above center: The chunky four-poster bed in another daughter's room had been with her when she was younger but was repainted turquoise. The walls are clad in an oversized horizontal bead board.

Above far right: The turquoise color scheme carries over to this daughter's bathroom. The vanity is lacquered white with insets of turquoise glass. The walls are floor-to-ceiling turquoise glass mosaic tile.

Opposite bottom left: The color scheme for the youngest daughter's room was taken from the window panel fabric of yellow, lime green and pink.

Opposite bottom right: This daughter's bathroom has a white vanity, a light green wall and a shower covered in three shades of green glass mosaic tile.





Opposite: The lower-level is edgier than upstairs. The family room is done in shades of taupe and beige and opens to a “grotto” through the doors at left.

Top: This space with a distinctly masculine vibe contains a billiards table that’s been in the family for years. The custom sliding barn doors made of reclaimed wood open to a gym. Antique cane-backed chairs flank an antique armoire.

Above: The patio off the kitchen lends itself to outdoor dining with its woven resin seating and a teak dining set.

Right: Just off the pool is an outdoor shower and a full bathroom with marine blue glass tile.

SOURCES Overall: interior design, LC Interiors in Cedar Grove; architect, Lederer & Wright Architects in Bay Head; builders, R. Popovitch Builders in Brielle. **Foyer:** chandelier, West Essex Lighting Studio in West Caldwell. **Living Room:** custom fireplace mantel, Salerno's Custom Cabinetry in Saddle Brook; fireplace surround, Stone Surfaces in East Rutherford; chair, Design Within Reach; custom sofa, made by Masters Interiors in Clifton and upholstered in fabric by Cowtan & Tout in New York City; coffee table, Robert Allen Design in New York City; art near sofa, by Deborah Jones, purchased at Tweed Interiors in Telluride, Colorado. **Sitting Area Off Living Room:** chairs, made by Master's Interiors and upholstered in fabric by Cowtan & Tout; light fixture, West Essex Lighting Studio; coffee table, Barbara Barry in Los Angeles. **Cabana Room:** cabinetry and coffee table, Salerno's Custom Cabinetry; recessed fixtures and lighting accents, Krell Lighting in Park Ridge; sofa, chairs, ottomans, made by Master's Interiors. **Kitchen:** cabinetry, Salerno's Custom Cabinetry; countertops, Stone Surfaces; backsplash, Paris Ceramics in New York City; appliances, Sub-Zero refrigerator, Wolf wall ovens and warming drawer, Best cooktop; faucets and cabinet hardware, through Hardware Designs in Fairfield. **Breakfast Nook:** chair, Cliff Young in New York City; table, Robert Allen; light fixture, West Essex Lighting Studio; window treatments, Interior Elegance by Elki in Wayne. **Master Bedroom:** custom bed, chairs and ottoman, manufac-

tured by Master's Interiors; window treatment, made by CMI Interiors in Springfield, panels are with fabric by Calvin Fabrics in Medford, Oregon; oval link side table, Profiles in New York City. **Master Bathroom:** cabinetry, Salerno's Custom Cabinetry; countertops, Stone Surfaces; faucets, Hardware Designs; flooring, Artistic Tile. **Fuchsia Bedroom:** nightstand and desk, Bungalow 5 in New York City; wallpaper, Stroheim in Tulsa, Oklahoma. **Turquoise Bedroom:** nightstand, Bungalow 5. **Yellow, Green and Pink Bedroom:** window treatments, CMI Interiors, panels are with fabric by Lilly Pulitzer through Lee Jofa in Bethpage, New York; bench, made by Master's Interiors and upholstered in fabric by Osborne & Little in Stamford, Connecticut; rug, ABC Carpet & Home in New York City. **Daughters' Bathrooms:** vanities, Salerno's Custom Cabinetry; countertops, Stone Surfaces. **Lower-Level Family Room:** sofa and chairs, made by Master's Interiors; coffee table, Roberta Schilling in Miami; end table, Arteriors Home in Carrollton, Texas. **Billiards Room:** custom barn doors, Peter Glassford in San Antonio; billiards table, homeowners; chairs and armoire, antiques. **Grotto:** furniture, Crate & Barrel; floor, Marmiro Stones in Carlstadt. **Outdoor Bath/Shower:** blue glass tile, Stratta, the Tile Boutique in Wyckoff. **Patio:** seating, Frontgate; dining set, Brown Jordan in Simpsonville, Kentucky.

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