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BREAKING



THE WAVES

Decorator Ray Booth conjures up a dreamy getaway on the ocean in Amagansett

BY ALYSSA BIRD | PHOTOGRAPHS BY SIMON UPTON



Water World

Armchairs by Janus et Cie and a Harbour Outdoor sectional upholstered in a Sunbrella fabric create two seating areas on the *ipe* wood deck that surrounds the pool. The loungers are from DDC. See Resources.



In the decorating world, five projects in 15 years with the same client and designer qualify as a certifiable success story. For interior decorator Ray Booth, who began collaborating with a young New York couple after they discovered his work via the industry matchmaking company Designer Previews, it was a slam dunk from the start. “They really have an affection for creating a home, and it inspires me to do my best work,” says Booth. So when it came time for the pair to transform a dated shingle-style house on the beach in Amagansett into a weekend retreat for themselves and their two young children, there was no ques-

tion who was going to get the call. A partner in the architecture and design firm McAlpine, Booth splits his time between offices in Nashville and Manhattan and has also collaborated with the couple over the years on an apartment in SoHo, a townhouse and an apartment on the Upper West Side, and their Hamptons guesthouse. “It has been a long, lovely love affair with this family,” he adds.

The home had three positives going for it: a 20-step walk to the water, an existing pool and deck on the ocean side (something that’s impossible to get a permit for today), and a deep sense of community. But while everything seemed ideal from the outside, the interiors of the 4,000-square-foot, four-bedroom residence, which was built in 2004, begged for an overhaul. “It was basically a better version of a Hamptons spec house, with lots of Sheetrock and golden oak floors,” recalls Booth. “It felt a little too suburban for its location right on the beach.”

Casual Glow

The living room (THIS PAGE) features a Cisco Brothers sofa, slipcovered armchairs from Verellen, a Janus et Cie armchair, an elm cocktail table from Clubcu, and a Booth-designed console that's suspended from old wooden ship pulleys. In the dining area (OPPOSITE), a Lindsey Adelman chandelier hangs above a Gregorius|Pineo pedestal table and chairs covered in a Romo fabric. See *Resources*.



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pieces in a soft palette of gray, blue, white, and beige. "We wanted the home to feel lighthearted and evoke tranquility," says the decorator, who was careful to avoid too many nautical references, although he couldn't resist throwing in a couple for good measure, such as the custom console table in the living room that's suspended from the ceiling by a pair of old freighter pulleys, and a nine-foot-long carved-wood boat that's mounted onto a wall in the sunroom.

Outdoors, multiple seating areas provide plenty of space for enjoying views of the Atlantic and the naturalistic landscape design by Edmund Hollander. In addition to numerous poolside perches, there's a small dining area perfectly sized for the immediate fam-

ily, a table for larger get-togethers, and, closer to the beach, the "sweetest spot for a glass of wine by the water's edge," says Booth. But the pièce de résistance, according to the designer, is the master suite, which features ocean vistas on three sides, a raised tub with untrammelled sightlines to the sea, and a seating area complete with a fireplace and a soaring vaulted ceiling. ("It's like the crow's nest of a ship.")

"Our last project together was more traditional," reflects Booth, "but this time my clients wanted to pare stuff down and keep everything clean. I tried to create a beautiful backdrop for them, always keeping in mind what was right outside the windows." ✪