

EAST COAST HOME + DESIGN

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The completely transformed 1960's-style ranch house. Renovations included a new roof with a redesigned roofline and the construction of a cupola. The old shingles were replaced and the exterior painted in a taupe/gray color. Fieldstone, shutters, and a walnut front door made the updated façade complete. The new horse-shoe-shaped driveway involved an extensive excavation.

GOLD COAST

Golden Design

Story by Christine Benton | Photography by Marco Ricca





The many-windowed living room, with lots of natural light, was renovated with a tongue-in-groove ceiling and new oak floors. The existing corner fireplace was retained to serve as the room's focal point. A comfortable sofa and armchairs invite relaxation and the layered ivory and navy area rugs draw all the elements in the room together.



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Before its renovation, this was a typical 1960s one-story ranch house. The homeowners wanted to transform it into a sprawling, open-concept design where they could retire and enjoy their golden years. With an eye to the future, they required that the house have as many ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) modifications as possible.

The home is located in Oyster Bay Cove, on the stretch of the North Shore of Long Island appropriately named the “Gold Coast” because of the palatial mansions and estates built there by several wealthy families in the early 1900s. Oyster Bay was named even earlier:

“On June 4th, I anchored in a commodious haven on the north of Long Island.

We found fine oysters there, from which the Dutch call it Oyster Bay.”

—Diary of David deVries, Voyager, 1639

As the residence is beautifully situated adjacent to a prestigious golf course, the owners felt that a Hampton-style home would be more in keeping with the building’s surroundings. The challenge was to design an open and spacious floor plan while simultaneously creating a cozy and inviting ambience.

Award-winning interior designer Kim Radovich of Kim E. Courtney

Interiors & Design, based in Huntington Bay, Long Island, collaborated with architect George Suddell to create this Eden from the inside out.

Kim is all about restoring integrity to design, and she accomplishes this with each project—whether it’s infusing new construction with classic detail, or lovingly preserving a historic estate. Her background in the fine arts from the renowned Parsons School of Design informs her signature style. Kim’s firm provides an array of services in both residential and commercial design, including consulting, space planning, architectural detailing, sustainable (green) design, custom furniture design and even feng shui.

George Suddell is the head of Suddell Architects & Builders, located in Huntington, a diverse architectural firm committed to the belief that architecture should profoundly enhance the quality of daily experience.

The original house had never been updated. It still had old linoleum and carpeting on the floors, and ancient Formica on the kitchen counters—and it definitely did not have an open floor plan. Kim and George completely transformed the house over a period of one year, making renovations that included roofline changes, a new roof, the addition of a cupola, and the reshingling and painting of the exterior in a taupe/gray color. Fieldstone, shutters and a walnut front door were added to the façade. To open up the space, some walls were



Opposite: The round dining table in rich walnut is circled by a grouping of chairs with walnut legs and upholstery in ivory with a navy welt. The area rug reflects the color palette used throughout the home.





The kitchen presented a major test of architectural innovation because of its almost galley-like, very narrow shape, which could not be enlarged.

taken out, leaving a total of four bedrooms, one of which is used as an office. The existing swimming pool and surrounding stone patio, which were not in very good condition, were also renovated.

A large excavation was necessary to create a horseshoe-shaped driveway. The original garage under the house was backfilled, and a new garage was erected at grade level. This enables the homeowners to drive straight in and provides access to the kitchen from the garage.

The designers opened up most of the ceilings and enhanced them with a tongue-in-groove application of wood and beadboard, creating a more spacious look. To augment the quality of the natural light, the ceilings are painted white throughout the house. The old linoleum and carpeting were removed and new oak floors laid down; these are finished with a deep walnut stain with a satin finish.

One requirement of the owners was that the window treatments at the back of the house provide privacy when needed, but not conceal the view of the swimming pool and golf course. Designers met this challenge with the use of cornices that are subtle enough to reveal the view, but also able to accommodate blinds that can be easily drawn in the evening. The front windows are dressed in paneled drapes.

The kitchen presented a major test of architectural innovation because of its almost galley-like, very narrow shape, which could not be enlarged. Also, as one wall was mostly windows, it was a challenge to install enough cabinets. An L-shaped working island with low seating was added to complete the space. The outcome is a wonderfully designed, custom-built kitchen in a difficult space.

The dining area contains a circular walnut dining table. This is surrounded by chairs with walnut legs and upholstered in a resilient



One wall of the kitchen. As the opposite wall was mostly windows, it was quite challenging to provide enough cabinets.



indoor/outdoor ivory-colored fabric with a navy welt.

The living room has mostly windowed walls and is flooded with the magnificent Long Island light. The focal point of the room is the corner fireplace, which is flanked on both sides by huge sliding doors with transomed windows above. (One set of doors leads out

to the redone patio and the other to the swimming pool, both overlooking the golf course.) The room is furnished with comfortable ivory-colored sofas and a linen-wrapped cocktail table. Layered ivory and navy area rugs complete a space that invites relaxation.

An extension on the back of the house that had previously been used



A gorgeous custom wool rug in ivory and shades of blue enhances the master bedroom.





as a family room was turned into the master bedroom suite. Double doors lead to a small terrace looking out over the golf course. A very beautiful custom wool rug in ivory, navy and periwinkle and a ceiling fan complete the light and airy ambience of the master bedroom interior.

The master bedroom has two en-suite bathrooms (his and hers), each tiled with Carrera marble and each featuring its own walk-in closet. Hers contains a soaking tub and a shower, while his has a shower only. Her shower is done in a subway tile, and his in a basket-weave inlay. All hardware is polished nickel.

The home has a total of five bathrooms: two in the master bedroom suite, one each adjacent to the two guest bedrooms, and one in the pool area.

The homeowners had a few collectibles, but their major requisite regarding interior design was that it be organized around the collection of artwork painted by a family member. These diverse, abstract paintings were reframed and accorded places of honor on the various walls of the house. Apart from a few repurposed pieces, all the furniture was selected by Kim.

One of the homeowners, a retired landscape designer, wanted as much attention paid to interior detail as exterior detail. Her career provided her with an eye for color, which is reflected in the interior design of the house. The main color palette





The rear of the house with its garden landscaped by one of the owners.

is ivory and navy blue, which provides a striking contrast to the deep mahogany of the floors and the rich walnut of several pieces of furniture. The aim was to create an interior as unfussy as possible with simple lines—a crisp and clean look. Attractive ivory and navy area rugs in soft geometric designs are scattered throughout the house. Cushions and lamp bases pick up the same color scheme throughout the rooms.

As a change from the main color scheme, a touch of brilliance is

added to the two guest bedrooms, with lemon-painted walls and a matching bed cover. Simple lighting is key to providing unobtrusive soft evening light throughout the home.

The finished transformation is a home with outstanding architectural appointments and a stunningly beautiful interior. Kim and George made the perfect team for this project and, according to the owners, “They nailed it!”



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