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oriental point

This gorgeous home in Long Island, New York was built to define the personality and lifestyle of its owners

Images: Costas Picadas / Dlux / Snapper Media
Text: Vasiliki Barba



LIVING AREA The clean colour palette and furniture choices are complemented by art, eye-catching bookshelves. The sectional sofa was chosen for its low back, ensuring that the paintings on the wall can be enjoyed.



This two-storey house at North Fork, Long Island, New York, has a full basement and an attic space, and was purchased at the end of 2006 to replace another, more timid house about a mile away. The house comes with majestic ocean views from the second floor, thanks to its location one block from the waterfront. It's situated in a substantially more exclusive part of Orient Point, famous for its reclusive but luxurious summer homes. It's also in the midst of the wine country of the eastern United States, and about two and a half hours away from Manhattan.

Designer and project manager Paris Kostopoulos of Paris K Interior Design says of the project: "The owners bought a shell of a house that the previous developer had put together in a very traditional New England look. Almost square, very symmetrical, it almost didn't allow for any interventions. Where there are problems however, there are always solutions, and where there is a will there is always a way. The owner is an avid art collector who was determined to make this a permanent home for the entire year, in contrast to most neighbours who only visit on weekends from Spring to Fall."

**DINING AREA**

A cozy spot for dining is lit up by the clear glass sliding doors that lead to the garden outside.

KITCHEN (opposite)

A grand centre island was retained to complement the custom cement countertop.

"The owner was determined to use only the best quality construction materials and furnishings, so she entrusted me with the entire design and renovation project, from the first wall that was demolished to the last candle that was lit. And that's what my company specialises in – lifestyle!"

Paris explains that working on this house, wasn't an easy task. "I made the five-hour roundtrip commute weekly or bi-weekly, and in some cases, I stayed over for a couple of days until everything was seen through to completion. It was a commitment that paid off at the end with a home filled with a plethora of custom-designed spaces and furnishings creating a unique feeling of belonging for my client."

Starting from scratch, the entire residence was stripped down to just its bare walls. Not even plumbing fixtures or kitchen cabinets were left intact, just walls and some electrical wiring. "After the first drawings were drafted and decisions were made, we embarked on the long and daunting task of finding the right local contractor for the job. We hit the jackpot with a young, local contractor. We started at full speed and completed by June 2008, with every single piece in the house and the grounds looking immaculate".

The windows in the kitchen were moved to provide wall space for the Thermador stove, hood and double ovens. The ceilings were reframed as coffered ceilings with cove lighting and pin spots for general lighting. They were then covered in bead board to achieve a nautical look befitting the historical region of maritime Long Island. A grand centre island was installed and a custom cement top was poured over the kitchen cabinets.

To achieve a unity of space in this open-planned first floor, Paris stretched out built-in bookcases from the den to the kitchen. Each room however, has its own distinctive function. The living room houses a custom-designed sectional sofa that provides maximum seating, but is low enough to allow paintings to be displayed on the walls.



spaces



The antique armoire was refinished at Renaissance Restauration in South Hampton along with the unique, antique round dining table. The dining chairs were painted from their original black to a stark white to reflect the light of the region and reupholstered with a fantastic fleur de lis velvet fabric. Two television sets are hidden behind paneled doors, and Paris installed a central stereo system so that the entire first floor could enjoy the music on summer gatherings.

Other standouts in this house include the Ingo Maurer chandelier in the dining room and antique Burmese chests in the hallway. Not only do these additions enhance the look of their respective rooms, they also present a functional use throughout the home.

The three guest bedrooms are individually themed, accented with different Ralph Lauren and Calvin Klein



GUEST BEDROOM (opposite)

The bedroom evokes a sense of tranquility reminiscent of a calm sea, thanks to the minimalist fixtures.

PATIO

Weather-proof deck chairs and an L-shaped sofa create a relaxing spot for the owners to revel in.

MASTER BEDROOM (left)

The master bedroom has been enlarged to include a walk-in closet, a study area and a large bathroom.

linens. These rooms are almost like a calm oasis amidst the fervour of this eclectic environment with their white tiles and minimalist fixtures.

The master bedroom is where the owners spend a lot of their time when they're at home, and has been enlarged to include a walk-in closet, a study area and a large bathroom clad in mahogany. The bed itself was designed by Paris to fit all the requirements of the client. Facing the bed is a 60-inch television set, hidden behind paneled doors.

"The client wanted to find a home not only for her and her husband but also for her vast selection of paintings and objects. The atmosphere had to be serene but also functional and aesthetically intriguing. Being an experienced owner that had completed multiple renovations in the past, the client had set really high standards for the design and construction process."

Paris Kostopoulos concludes: "This has been a dream house for my clients and in many ways for me as well! Just the right amount of luxury, plenty of functionality and lots of nature inside and outside made this a beautiful home. What came out at the end is that we did not just design a new home for our clients, but also defined their lifestyle, which is our main objective" ■