



ON THE WATERFRONT

BY **EMILY LIEBERT** | PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER MARGONELLI

A SHIPPAN COUPLE CREATES A ROOMY, SHINGLE-STYLE HOME ON THE SOUND TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR GROWING FAMILY AND A STEADY STREAM OF GUESTS



Hot Water | The east side of Jamie and Michael Delaney's waterfront house in Shippan, a strip of land that was previously ignored, now features a Jacuzzi (PREVIOUS SPREAD LEFT) and pool with views of the Sound. An antique bin once used for French wine bottles now holds towels. **Make a Splash** | Madeline, the daughter of Jamie's niece and a frequent weekend guest (PREVIOUS SPREAD RIGHT), leaps into the swimming pool. **Blue Period** | In the living room (THIS PAGE), artworks and accessories pop against the neutral wall color created by colorist Donald Kaufman. **Open Door Policy** | Madeline poses in the entry hall (OPPOSITE) in front of a gate-leg table that once belonged to Jamie's grandmother. See Resources.



WHEN JAMIE AND MICHAEL DELANEY set out to renovate the circa-1912, mission-style home they'd just purchased in Stamford's Shippan area—a sliver of land jutting into the Long Island Sound—they knew they needed room to dance. "We told the architect that we wanted to be able to have a conga line around the kitchen island," says Jamie, who, along with her husband, owns a knitwear company in Manhattan. The designing duo, known for entertaining and hosting large feasts, had two other priorities to maximize their waterfront location, which features a private beach below a sea wall in back. "We recognized that the views from inside and the outdoor area were going to be the stars of this property," Jamie says. "All doors and windows needed to lead to the water." With these goals in mind, the Delaneys first called upon Stamford-based landscape architect Bruce Zellers to transform the one-acre lot. "This project was all about the view of the Sound and not imposing on it," Zellers says. "The mature trees on the property are the only original plantings that remain. Perennials and vibrant hydrangea add elements of surprise, along with the occasional antique bench to sneak away to." On the east side of the property, which was previously ignored, Zellers designed a spectacular spa and pool overlooking the Sound complete with fan palms at the entrance. The installation was by Signature Pools of Norwalk. To ensure that the 2,000-square-foot outdoor space was both private and inviting to company—including



the Delaneys' children Hallie (20), Luke (17), and Ryan (16) and their friends—the focus fell on the deep wraparound porch. “It’s why we fell in love with the house,” says Jamie, who set up multiple sitting areas so guests could spread out. “We’ll have hors d’oeuvres in one spot and then dine on the other side, where we have curtains, banquettes and a table I picked up at a flea market in Paris.” Comfortable furniture, flowers, plenty of candles and antique touches from the family’s travels make it a summer haven. “It’s understated luxury at its best,” Zellers says.

In keeping with this concept, Zeller introduced his clients to Fairfield architect Richard Swann, who modernized the exterior into a contemporary shingle style. “The original structure had carved rafter tails and long roof overhangs. We retained that architectural vocabulary for our alterations and additions,” says Swann, who worked closely with craftsman and builder Charlie Savatsky to reproduce similar timber framing and details. The two-year process involved renovating every inch of the house, resulting in 1,500 square feet of new space that upped the total to a generous 3,200 square feet. “The staircase was the only thing we didn’t touch,” Jamie says.

Natural light was integral to every decision. “All of the ‘people spaces’ range right and left along the water side of the house. It’s fairly narrow, so even from the opposite side of the home one can ‘borrow’ views of the Sound,” says Swann, who made his mark on all 14 rooms spread over three floors. He moved the breakfast room and kitchen to the water side of the house, added a bedroom and exercise room above it (on the second and third floors, respectively) and turned the former kitchen into the dining room. In addition, he combined several of the original bedrooms on the second floor to create a master suite with

Rock Out | Limestone covers the floor and chair rail in the master bathroom (OPPOSITE TOP LEFT). Black fossilized marble countertops break up the neutral tones. **It’s a Wrap** | Fairfield architect Richard Swann transformed the exterior of the circa-1912, mission-style home (OPPOSITE TOP RIGHT) into a contemporary shingle style. The deep wraparound porch was a major selling point for the Delaneys. **Decked Out** | Hallie and Luke Delaney (OPPOSITE BELOW) lounge with their golden retriever Missy and their mother’s niece Jessica (far right) on one of several captain’s beds on the porch. The cushions were made with Sunbrella fabric. Jessica’s daughter Madeline relaxes on the floor. **Open Wide** | In the master bedroom (ABOVE), three sets of French doors open onto a terrace overlooking the Sound. The windows and iron bed are dressed in cool linens. See Resources.



Al Fresco | The “dining area” of the wraparound porch (LEFT) is outfitted with an oak table found at a Paris flea market. Three Indonesian fish figures from St. Barths are mounted above. **Summer Set** | Jamie (TOP) prepares lunch under a Smith & Hawken outdoor umbrella. The teak table and chairs are from United House Wrecking in Stamford. **Dining in Style** | During the two-year renovation, Swann created a new addition on the water side of the house with this kitchen and breakfast room (ABOVE) on the first floor. The banquette and slipper chairs are covered in Osbourne & Little fabric. See Resources.

three sets of French doors opening onto a narrow terrace overlooking the water. The master bath has the same view. Finally, he turned the downstairs bathroom into a coat closet and replaced the back staircase with a powder room.

As for furniture, Jamie enlisted the assistance of a close friend who is also a decorator by trade. “Some pieces have come from family, others are from our travels,” Jamie says, emphasizing her eclectic style. “We also bought upholstered items we selected after seeing them at the D&D building and antiques from the shops in Stamford.” The predominantly neutral hues are courtesy of renowned colorist Donald Kaufman, who mixes his own paints with specific pigments that, when the light hits them, possess great depth.

Delaney, who looks forward to one day watching her “grand-kids play in the yard and find shells and sand crabs on the beach,” wants all visitors to feel welcome, and perhaps join that conga line in the kitchen. “Laughter is a huge part of our life. We hope our guests leave this little oasis on the Sound with a smile.” ☀️