

BREATHTAKING BEACHFRONT

The deadline was met and all were happy

Story by Joan Tyor Carlson
Photography by Bill Rothschild
Construction by Telemark
Architecture by Michael McCrum
Interior Design by Steve Bastone

On preceding pages, the living room with its large upholstered pieces provided an opportunity to utilize beige, pink, green linen fabric furnished from the Adams style. The French lantern was made in Paris in scale to the room.

Letting the sunshine, the dunes and the ocean into the house was the intent of the architect and Telemark Construction who chose Super Millwork, the distributors of Marvin Windows, for this huge undertaking.

When a hundred year old ocean front house that was awkwardly renovated by a former owner was purchased by a highly successful entrepreneur and his wife, they requested the seemingly impossible: a top to bottom makeover of the 9000 square foot house with the installation of all the amenities that comprise a luxury estate in the Hamptons had to be completed in less than six months.

"It was a very 'vigorous' construction project," admits Frank Dalene of Telemark Construction in Bridgehampton, a firm that prides itself on fine Scandinavian craftsmanship and the ability to do virtually any project in house.

"One of the reasons we were chosen was because no other contractor could do the work in that time frame—more like double or triple it. We are able to do this sort of job because we don't rely on outside subcontractors. We did our own millwork and considerable in-house carpentry and used kiln dried wood from our own lumberyard. It was a complex job, gutting all the rooms, installing new plumbing and electricity, completely redoing seven and a half bathrooms, replacing heating ~~that had been~~ improperly



engineered with a fine tuned computer controlled system and installing air conditioning, alarm and phone systems and adding architectural trim and details that enhance the house enormously."

Architect Michael McCrum was the second member of the troika that worked seamlessly together at full gallop throughout last winter so that the house, honed to perfection, awaited the couple and their children on a most memorable Memorial Day when the man of the house sipped white wine and listened to Mozart from the comfort of an expansive upholstered chair in his new living room.

"The owners, had rented the house for a summer before purchasing it so they understood its special appeal. While they wanted to upgrade it, they stressed that it was to be returned to its beach house origins with shingle style details. A former owner had turned it into a larger version of a New York City apartment. While the architect isn't known, the house was originally well designed and constructed with a two story living room that was rare in those days and two staircases to the living room," reflects Mr. McCrum.

"We broke the record in Southampton," admits the woman owner who is credited by the



In the bedrooms, flush doors are padded and covered with the fabric used in the room, either as wallcovering or in the draperies. The master bedroom shows a raised ceiling and a newly installed French limestone mantle.

Clarence House fabric was used in the dining room while the ceiling was painted light green. The twin mahogany Empire extension tables were accompanied by eighteen chairs.

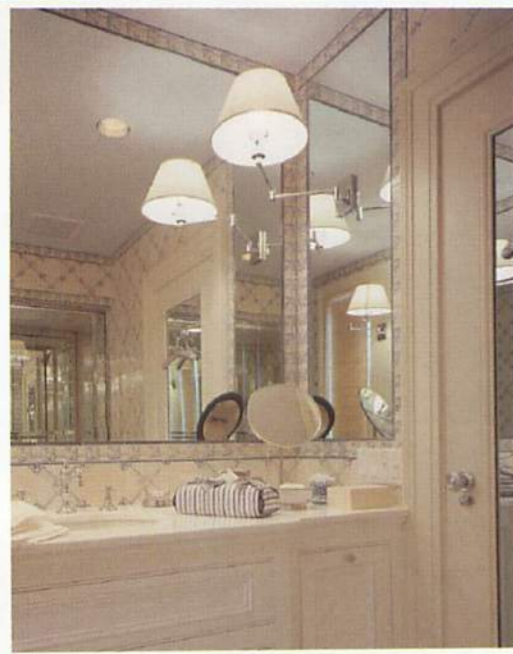




The bathrooms show Portuguese tile from Country Floors and marble vanity tops.

The guest bathroom has a patterned floral wallcovering and white tiles around mirrored walls.

The "backyard" of the beach and the ocean are still the most appealing amenities.



Photos on this page by Wade Zimmerman



troika with "really running the job." She, in turn, praises the entire team noting that Telemark project manager Warren Schmidt worked "97 hours a week."

The man of the house pared down this enormous project into one simple request. He asked only that his wife be happy with the results.

Interior designer Stephen Bastone became the third member of the troika when renowned designer Vincent Fourcade of Denning and Fourcade, which had decorated the New York apartment of the clients, died when the project was just getting under way. The clients commissioned Mr. Bastone who had worked with Mr. Fourcade for ten years and had just decided to start his own firm.

"I worked closely with the woman client then and, while I would never say I have the knowledge that Vincent Fourcade had—what I did learn from him is that there are a lot of bad imitations of his extravagant European Le Style Rothschild in America. The clients trusted me to continue his work," says Mr. Bastone.

The living room provides comfort and elegance with a strong sense of quality. Mr. Bastone designed the large upholstered pieces which are covered in a beige, green and pink French printed linen fabric in the Adams style. The outsized reproduction French lantern hanging overhead was made in Paris in scale to the room. Porcelain 18th C. Chinese vases were transformed into lamps.

"The tufted leather ottoman was my idea," confides Mr. Bastone. "Vincent had given me a small tray and I had a larger version of it made so that the ottoman can serve as extra seating or, with tray top, cocktail table as needed."

Since the client was experienced in working with an interior designer, Mr. Bastone was able to proceed with the confidence that

his client understood "how long things take and what this lifestyle involves." Many fine antiques purchased at the New York auction houses which client and designer hunted together and at New York and some local antique stores.

After the picture frame molding and paneling was removed, Mr. McCrum added pilasters, sconces and extensive molding to the 22x30 foot living room. The floors and bannisters were lightened and the balusters and mantle painted. The flat walls were painted linen white—the color used throughout the house—while trim and woodwork were glazed and striaed by Wolfgang Jensen of New York. Mr. Bastone mixed the ceiling color himself—it's his favorite icy blue green.

The needlepoint rug, made in China in a tile pattern which Mr. Bastone, explains works well because there is no center medallion to worry about, is used in living room and dining room.

In the dining room the former pantry which hogged a fine view was eliminated and windows, along with outsized cornices which Mr. Bastone asked for "to give an important look while enlarging the room" were installed. This room boasts twin mahogany and parcel

gilt Empire extension tables. Because eighteen chairs were required, a copy of an antique chair was reproduced and covered with a sprightly Clarence House plaid accompanying the Clarence House floral fabric on the walls which was chosen for its faded look. The ceiling is painted the lightest of greens.

While every room has a unique flavor, care was given to provide unifying themes throughout the house. In the bedrooms, flush doors are padded and covered with the fabric used in the room, either as wallcovering or in the draperies.

The master bedroom, with its ceiling raised from 7'6" to 13' features a Brunschwig & Fils toile and a newly installed antique French limestone mantle. All bathrooms designed by Mr. Bastone "with the same format, different styles" have Portuguese tiles from Country Floors and marble vanity tops. A guest bathroom with a patterned floral wallcovering has complementary blue and white tile around the mirrored walls.

To accomplish all of the work required complete cooperation from everyone involved. As Mr. McCrum states, "We were all tied in together. I was there three days

a week, Steve came, first once a week and then three times a week, Telemark was always there."

Mr. Dalene agrees, "It was all team work. Otherwise, the job would have taken a minimum of nine months and could have been two years."

Amazingly, the troika was able to be flexible and still keep to their deadline. Well into the project, the woman client asked that an exercise room be installed in the former boiler room. This involved moving myriad pipes and involved negotiating with Lilco and other matters but it was completed on time so that the man of the house could watch his opera tapes on a large video while using the treadmill.

Of course, the star of the house is the ocean. While it is impossible to mention all the detailing in this elegant beach house, the spirit of the home is exemplified in the window treatments which are deliberately kept simple for ocean viewing. Yes, simple matchstick Roman shades are used. However, they are edged in grograin silk—one of the discreet touches of luxury that typify this house that will be savored over the years by its owners for many Memorial Days to come. ■

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LIFESTYLE OF THE ISLAND