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Tour a New Jersey Beach House, Where Everything Is Blue, White, and Sand Colors

Interview by Karen Greenwood | Photos by Eric Roth

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A clean anything better than a virtual home tour? Designer Dennan Hunter, a co-owner of Hunter Design, gives us a tour through several elegant and luxurious homes in the Long Island area and in Hoboken, New Jersey. It's all the charge we love about browsing virtual real estate listings, with the added benefit of learning exactly what it is that makes these dream homes so special.

Owner

© Eric Roth

Karen S. Wolf of KSW Interiors

Location

Long Beach Island, NJ

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"Growing up, I spent every happy summertime on Long Beach Island and always dreamed of owning a beach house there," explained Karen. "When that opportunity presented itself, location was never a question."

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Style

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After purchasing the perfect plot of land, Karen designed the 3700 sq. ft. home from the ground up. "Designed to bring to mind a clean-lined California beach cottage."

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"I instilled something very specific that would comfortably house three generations and I thoroughly enjoyed designing the space myself. My parents, my husband and I, and our three children, ranging from 8 years to 21 years old live on the second floor, and the ground floor is the large—an indoor/outdoor space that opens up onto the backyard via a sliding garage door."

© Eric Roth

We describe the home's design aesthetic as "beach chic—light and airy with a blue, white, and sand palette based on the color of the Sand scraped, wide plank white oak flooring. The house was created to embody that getaway feeling—pure California cottage, pure boutique beach vibes."

Designing an Open-Concept House

© Eric Roth

Even though the land was exactly what Karen hoped she would find, it still required careful planning. "The lot itself was a particular challenge as first as it's long and narrow—so many Long Beach Island lots are. From the beginning, my goal in the space was to make it feel wider."

© Eric Roth

As she designed the house, Karen focused on "differentiating specific areas in an open-concept space to draw the eye from left to right."

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"On the third floor, I raised the ceilings, eliminated hallways, and tucked the bathrooms into the dormers to create a light-filled, contemplative environment that mimic of the available space, so I acquired a sunroom than third perimeter and swapped traditional cheater hangers for custom chairs, placing the chairs and the grouse behind them symmetrically to draw the eye outward from the tone."

Outdoor Space

© Eric Roth

Though "technically an indoor-outdoor space," Karen calls the latter "the showpiece of the yard. It is breathtaking and serene and provides a welcome respite from the sun-drenched pool and backyard that are connected."

© Eric Roth

The indoor-outdoor environment is enhanced with "a garage-style door [that] opens to let fresh ocean air in," and the home itself features "three carefully considered outdoor living areas, including a front porch that wraps around the house (comfortable living area)" Karen calls the space "cheerful, bright, and happy," which "sets the tone for the entire house."

© Eric Roth

The floor of the lanai features "hexagonal ceramic tiles in white and pale blue." The rare majority of the furniture in the lanai is indoor-outdoor, "including a faux wicker sectional sofa with every other cushions and a fanail driftwood-topped table."

© Eric Roth

There's also a morning rooftop deck, which "sets between the ocean for sunrises and the bay for sunsets."

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The Windows

"The windows are final on Long Beach Island. Karen said there were some areas where she ranked her on gold," We did not have a choice as to the direction of the homes," she said. So compensate for this, she "added as many windows as possible to maximize natural light without sacrificing cooled wall space. Pocketed and highly, sunsets windows in bathrooms and on cedar walls helped to bring in extra light."

© Eric Roth

The Floors

© Eric Roth

Throughout the home, "white oak [floors] and in light and air and sand," explained Karen. "I begin virtually all of my designs with the flooring whose tones I strategically echo throughout the space. Pale hardwood flooring is the foundation of my design, the thread that helped accomplish the ethereal feeling I was going for."

The Kitchen

© Eric Roth

Karen continued with white oak as her common thread to pull her kitchen together, too, along with the floors, it's also "in the wood look porcelain on the perimeter of the cabinetry and in the range hood's trim, crowed from the floating mesh"

© Eric Roth

Alongside the white oak, Karen turned to blue for her pop color. "I love the serene, airy feel of the coastal blue accents—Benjamin Williams Windy Blue on the frieze of the island and in the oled Mantrose Blue backsplash from Classic."

© Eric Roth

The Bathrooms

© Eric Roth

"Each bathroom in the house has a distinctly different coastal chic vibe," explained Karen. But it's the junior primary bathroom that last favorite. She described it as "a fresh, quiet space with a neutral pop of turquoise cerulean tile."

© Eric Roth

Crisadio operates numerous offs as "understated and casual elegance," making the bathroom "feel like a powder room but function for utility."

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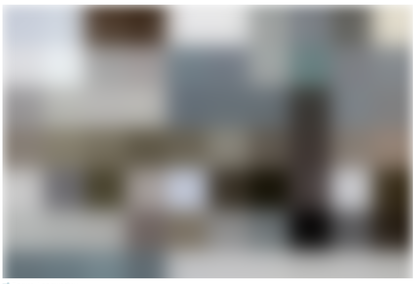
Raquel Langworthy

The Lanai



Raquel Langworthy

Of all the spaces, Karen says that "the lanai is a favorite gathering spot for our family. You can use it for the pool, but you can also lounge in the middle of winter and enjoy the space in warmth and comfort."

It's also designed with nature in mind. "The lanai garage doors are our favorite architectural feature and focal point. They flood the room with light and bring the outdoors in."

This extends further to the home's exterior, where "the exterior blue color on the board and batten is just bright enough."

The total effect is a laidback, beachy vibe, inside and out.

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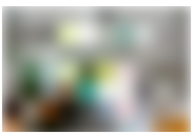

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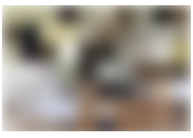

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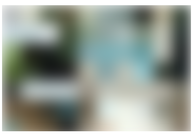

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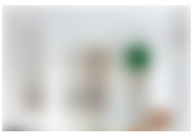

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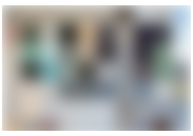

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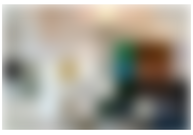

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