

Decor Maine

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LIVING BEAUTIFULLY IN MAINE

The INTERIORS ISSUE

MEET
**FIVE DESIGN
TALENTS**

SHAPING THE WAY MAINE
LOOKS INSIDE

Step Inside:

SISTER PARISH'S
ISLESBORO HOME

& A MONUMENTAL CAPE ELIZABETH
RETREAT *with an Intimate Soul*

The elegant blue door hints at the hue repeated throughout the home.
OPPOSITE: Beth on her colorful monkey mural: "It's so not like me, but I just had to have it for my bedroom!"



A STORIED REVIVAL

RATHER THAN TEAR DOWN A WEATHERED OGUNQUIT
LANDMARK, BETH DUFTON EMBRACED ITS HISTORY,
CREATING A JOYFUL HOME THAT WELCOMES
GENERATIONS TO COME

ARCHITECTURE **PETERSON DESIGN GROUP**
CONSTRUCTION **HOBART CONTRACTING** INTERIOR DESIGN **BETH DUFTON**
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE **TED CARTER INSPIRED LANDSCAPES**

by **ANNA MANGUM** photographs by **LIZ DALY**

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Walking down a beachside lane in Ogunquit, Mark and Beth Dufton came across a “For Sale” sign in front of a weathered, brown, and outdated home. “I thought it was hideous,” Beth admitted. The couple owned a place just down the road, and this house on the market was a familiar landmark on their morning walks. But the “For Sale” sign gave Beth pause.

In her own words, Beth admits, “I am weird about houses.” Certain homes give her an insistent feeling where she sees beyond what exists, transforming the place with a vision of what could be. She immediately had that feeling about this “junky” house come over her on that walk. And the ocean view was impossible to ignore.

The brown, unremarkable exterior hid a world of history and heart. Mark and Beth purchased the home, which led to an unraveling of the story hidden in the home’s bones. Peter Winn, the owner of the Yellow Monkey Guest Houses & Motel, had used the property as one of his rentals. With the sale, he shared a lot of the history from his years of ownership. “Every single gay man in Ogunquit had a party in this house and swung from the chandelier. And then told me about it!” laughs Beth. “People sent pictures from the library, and there are books that refer to this property.” Players performing at the Ogunquit Playhouse would often rent the place.

Learning about the home’s history and its importance to the Ogunquit community made Beth rethink her original plan to demolish the building, hire an architect, and start over. When they originally bought the home in 2012, Mark and Beth used it primarily as a second home. They threw all the furniture out and painted the walls, floors, and



The striking blue that demarcates the living room from the kitchen area is a custom color of Fine Paints of Europe by Goods Ogunquit.



ceiling white. Their oldest daughter was married in the backyard, which inspired Beth to hire Ted Carter Inspired Landscapes to design the grounds.

When the couple wanted to move to Ogunquit full time, they hired Adam Hobart to renovate the interiors. They discovered Adam much the same way they found the house itself—working next door. Coincidentally, one of Adam’s former clients had brought him to Beth’s house years prior to model their project after the home, so he was familiar with the property.

“I was brought on to renovate the primary suite, but the project grew into much more,” said Adam. He added a new wing with a hallway, exercise room, and laundry room. Because the house sat on a nonconforming lot, the addition was limited in size, but Adam made the most of the restricted space. White cedar shakes and ample natural light keep the new wing airy and open, in keeping with the home’s beachside setting.

Beth designed the residence. A lifelong lover of transforming interiors and the founder of the home boutique, Goods Ogunquit, she worked closely with

Adam to bring her vision to life. Growing up in a military family, Beth learned that it isn’t just a structure that makes a house a home. For her, it’s the details and the treasured objects she’s carried from place to place that tell her story and make a space feel familiar. Chairs fashioned from aviation aluminum in the living room remind her of her father, a pilot. She also finally found a place to use the high-gloss blue paint she’d long wanted to incorporate into a design, creating a striking distinction between the kitchen and living room. A vintage window Beth found on a trip to Paris was painstakingly restored and installed by Adam in the pantry. “I want to be in this space looking out the window, cutting roses from my garden in the small wooden sink,” says Beth, already picturing the quiet ritual.

One piece of advice Beth has for people wanting to renovate a home is patience. “How you live in a space and how you *think* you are going to live in a space never line up. I tell people to live in a house first before going all in on an interior design project.” Having spent time in the home for years before updating

ABOVE: White, blue, marble, and wood come together to create a coastal atmosphere in the kitchen, naturally suited to the home’s Ogunquit setting. **OPPOSITE:** The pantry features richly toned wallpaper sourced from a Naples, Florida, company that resells excess wallpaper from overorders—a crafty way to bring high-end style to nookish spaces.



Playful built-in bunks made with the grandkids in mind. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Beth's eclectic approach to decorating brings together chairs from RH, a found wicker cabinet, and a wooden console from her childhood bedroom. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM:** A shiplap cathedral ceiling echoes the chevron-patterned floor, which stretches from the kitchen to the bedroom.



“This house is called *the healing house*. Everyone in the family comes here to relieve stress and be by the ocean.”

– BETH DUFTON



the interiors allowed time for the house to speak to her. “The house narrated what it wanted to be.”

Though one of the first things Beth did to the home was paint everything white, the house feels far from sterile. Whimsy and joy clearly spoke to Beth when she was designing the home, and it has become a gathering spot for her many grandkids. Her bedroom features a tropical mural with a curious-looking monkey. Custom bunk beds for visits to “Lala and Papa’s” house are always ready for tiny visitors. To Beth, working with a contractor like Adam made all the difference in preserving the history, adding elegant features, and bringing a sense of lightness to every room. “This house is called the healing house,” says Beth. “Everyone in the family comes here to relieve stress and be by the ocean.” From its days as a lively rental filled with performers and partygoers to its present life as a serene retreat for a couple and their extended family, the story of this house continues to be told throughout time. ■



ABOVE: This handy wooden coat rack was discovered during travels in France. **BELOW:** When Beth’s oldest daughter got engaged, it set in motion a landscape project with Ted Carter Inspired Landscapes to “make it amazing,” which he did. Both daughters have since gotten married in the yard. Now, the family enjoys dining en plein air, accompanied by ocean breezes. **OPPOSITE, TOP, LEFT:** A textured floral chandelier and scone from Palecek enhance the bathroom’s serene atmosphere. **OPPOSITE, TOP, RIGHT:** This window Beth discovered in France adds a vintage touch to the mudroom. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM, LEFT:** Expansive glass creates a sense of indoor-outdoor living.

