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*The Wild Life*

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RESTAURANT REVIEW:  
O'LEARYS SEAFOOD**

Vol. 13, No. 3 2022

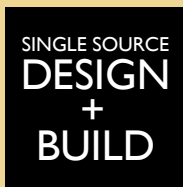




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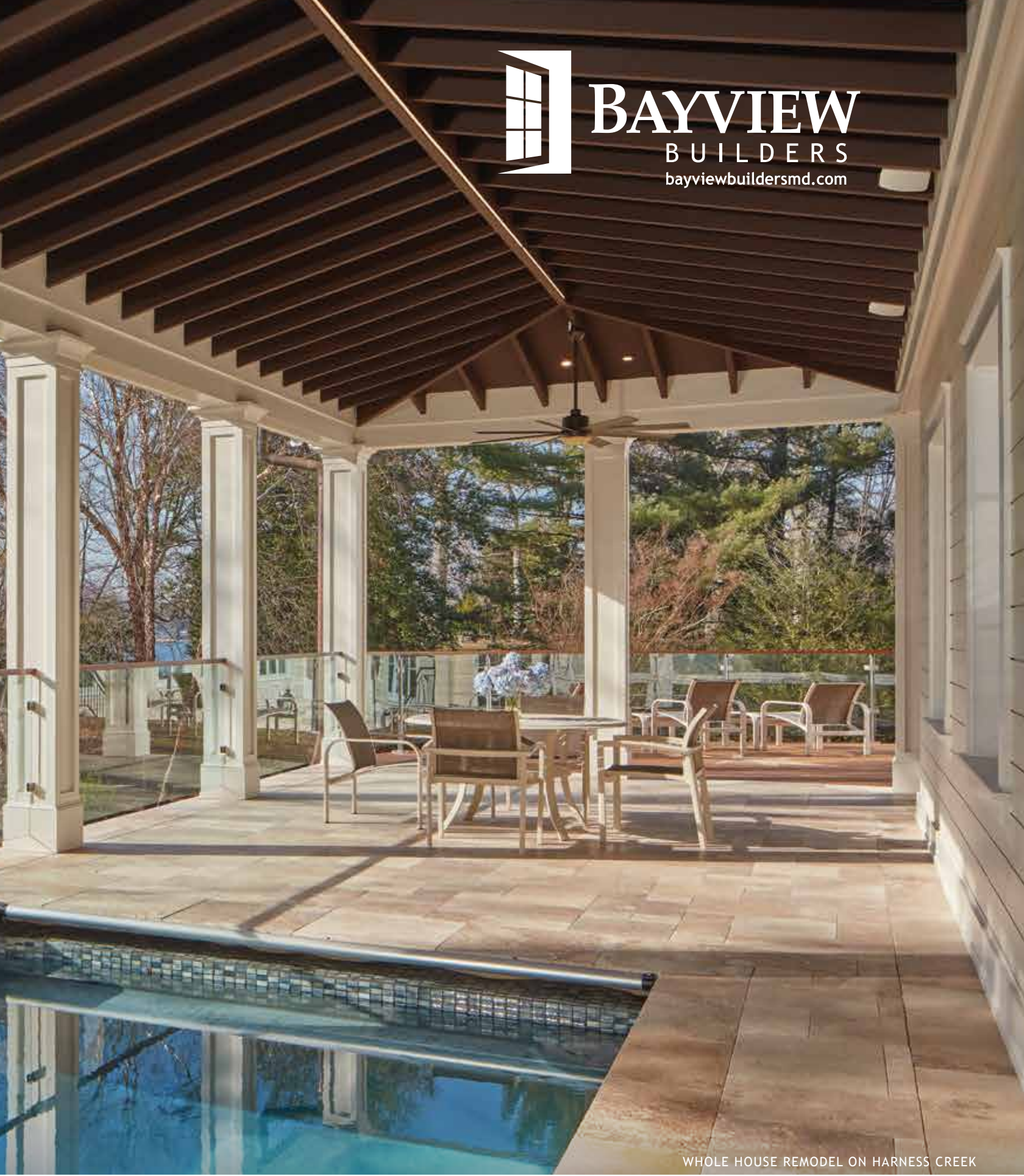
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WHOLE HOUSE REMODEL ON HARNES CREEK

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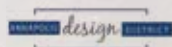
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A large, two-story house with a white porch and a swimming pool in the foreground. The house has a dark grey roof and white trim. The porch is white with a railing. There is a swimming pool in the foreground with a concrete deck. The sky is blue with white clouds. The house is surrounded by green trees and a lawn.

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## Coastal Comfort on Bethany Beach

The interior designer of this Bethany Beach vacation home conceived a mindful mix of private and common spaces.



Photograph by Dana Hoff



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Photo by Donna Weaver

## PUBLISHERS' LETTER

Welcome to the May issue of *Annapolis Home Magazine*! In this issue, you will learn about three homes with interiors that reflect the talents of their designers and the passions of their owners, whether they be wildlife preservation, world travel, renewable resources, or family-centered spaces. Two of these new projects are beach houses and arrive just as many of us are longing to feel the sun and the power of ocean waves.

As you browse our pages, don't miss High Design. This year, *Annapolis Home* paid a personal visit to the High Point Furniture Market 2022, a huge trade show featuring the very latest furniture designs. For High Design, we invited our interior design partners to select a piece of stand-out furniture from the show. If any of the selections in this feature appeal to you for your own home, just contact the designer, select a fabric you love, and place an order.

In May, we also publish our annual *Faces of Annapolis*. Our lead story on Nora Demleitner, the new president of St. John's College, features a woman who means to heighten the power of a liberal arts education, energize students on campus, and foster greater connections with the city of Annapolis. *Faces* presents profiles of leading professionals in our region along with a guide to significant historic homes and chefs to visit for an extraordinary meal.

Please take time from your day to sit back and read both *Annapolis Home* and *Faces*.

Happy Summer 2022!

Kymerly Taylor & Robert Haywood

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*Ntozakhe II, (Parktown)*, 2016 (detail)  
photographic wall mural from digital file  
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## Robert's Picks

**1** What is summer without visiting the Smithsonian Institution in D.C.? The first on my list of must-see exhibitions is the **Afro-Atlantic Histories at the National Gallery of Art**. The show offers an in-depth look at the historical experiences and cultural formations of Black and African people since the 17th century. More than 130 powerful works of art by artists from Africa, Europe, the Americas, and the Caribbean bring narratives of the African Diaspora to life. The show is open from April 10 to July 17, 2022.

**2** **Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre** When it comes to entertainment, no Annapolitan summer is complete without an evening of theatre under the stars. In the open-air venue at Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, you'll have a chance to see one (or all three) of an eclectic slate of musicals, starting with *Rock of Ages* May 26–June 18, followed by *Bright Star* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Visit [summergarden.com](http://summergarden.com) for show dates and tickets.

**3** **Tides and Tunes at Annapolis Maritime Museum** Whether you like rock, folk, blues, or something else entirely, you'll find something you love on the 10-week lineup of music artists playing waterside at the Annapolis Maritime Museum (723 Second Street, Annapolis). It all starts with *Sweet Leda* on June 16, *Honey Sol* on June 23, and the *John Frase Project* on June 30. Shows start at 7:00 pm, and admission is free (though donations are accepted, and food and spirits are available for purchase). Check out [amaritime.org/tides-tunes-summer-concerts-series](http://amaritime.org/tides-tunes-summer-concerts-series) for the full schedule.

**4** **Maryland Dove Dock Party** Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum is commemorating the Maryland Dove with a dock party on May 28, starting at 11:00 am. Enjoy refreshments and live music while hearing from the museum's shipwrights about the work they've done to build this replica of the ship European settlers sailed to Maryland in the 17th century. Visit [cbmm.org/tag/dock-party](http://cbmm.org/tag/dock-party) for details about the day.

**5** **The Fred Hughes Trio at the Friday Night Jazz Club** A D.C. original jazz group, the Fred Hughes Trio will bring its four decades of musical experience to the Friday Night Jazz Club in Easton on Friday, May 27, at 7:00 pm. See this accomplished group that has played all up and down the East Coast and even in international gigs at the 1996 Summer Olympics and in the Republic of Korea. Visit [simpletix.com/e/the-fred-hughes-trio-tickets-100226](http://simpletix.com/e/the-fred-hughes-trio-tickets-100226) for ticket information.

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Follow Robert Haywood on Instagram:  
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Hommel helped create a personal sanctuary that reveals a great connection to and reverence for the wild and the many life forms within.



THE  
*Wild Life*  
IN VERO BEACH



AN ANNAPOLIS DESIGNER  
REIMAGINES A FLORIDA HOME

BY KYMBERLY TAYLOR | PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAISY BURNS



The coiled threads in an African sea-grass rope table seem to radiate outwards and contrast with the brown tones in the bamboo chairs.



When the humble porcupine drops a quill, it rests unnoticed on the forest floor. However, Peter W. Busch, Anheuser-Busch family heir, has put an end to that. Inside his new Vero Beach home, a mirror is bedecked with this nocturnal visitor's striking needles, naturally shed and collected on a farm in Cape Town, South Africa.

The Porcupine Quill mirror is one of many appointments that interior designer Lucretia Hommel of Lucretia Hommel Interior Design discovered for Busch. The beverage magnate founded the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary and Rehabilitation Center in Jupiter, Florida, and continues to help oversee Grant's Farm, the Anheuser-Busch family's wildlife preserve in St. Louis, Missouri. Its 283 acres house the much-loved Budweiser Clydesdales and many other animals.

In the spirit of respect for the natural world, this interior is composed mainly of furnishings that are organic, hand-made, and sustainably sourced, with accessories, lighting, and mirrors crafted by indigenous African tribes. Many homes and stores today boast "sustainable" furnishings. However, Hommel advances the concept, freely incorporating exotic

and raw materials such as grasses, cow horns, fibers, fronds, and quills to create a fluid mix of the raw and refined.

This is exactly what Busch and his family wanted. "They wanted the home to feel very open: not kitschy, not Palm Beach, not Vero Beach. They wanted a South African feel."

This has been accomplished. As if on a safari, the more time you spend within these rooms, the more you see. Within a field of neutrals, subtle details gradually resolve and come into focus, as do animals disguised in the Sahara. For example, in the living room, amid the shifting sand tones of the flooring, upholstery, and walls, the coiled threads in an African sea-grass rope table radiate, and the variegated brown tones in the bamboo chairs seem to flex—especially when silhouetted against the white-trimmed arched windows. In the hallway, almost blending into the air itself, a blond cow horn has been carved into an intricate chandelier.

In the foyer, many sculptural organic forms are juxtaposed in close proximity. Under the porcupine mirror composed of hundreds of quills is another sea-grass rope table. Artists in





In the foyer, a porcupine quill mirror is juxtaposed with other organic forms; underneath the mirror is a table made of African sea-grass rope.

an indigenous African tribe fashioned a nearby chandelier out of lyrical leather strips. The dining room table is centered by a chandelier composed of cow horn that seems in perpetual motion.

In the kitchen, the eye registers an unusual combination. Another chandelier, this time composed of coconut beads and accentuated by brown and black grass wallpapers, mirrors the subtle hues and texture of arid grasses.

Hommel worked closely with the clients on their “South African” vision. Yet, there is a special influencer here: the home itself—it has a story to express. “When I walk into a home, it is telling me that story. So, I try to listen. I combine that with the client’s dreams and wishes and what they want to have... Then, we marry it all together,” explains Hommel.

What did this home have to say? Clearly, it seemed troubled. “This home was in need of TLC. The sea wall was falling in, and the roof leaked... the previous owners just did not take care of it. It needed a new start.” Hommel ripped out the kitchen, the floors, and more. “We did a whole lot to bring it back to itself, to its natural state. This, I feel, kind of gets lost when people are decorating, especially in Florida. It is OK to bring back in natural elements... and this is where this home sits, feels, and breathes.”

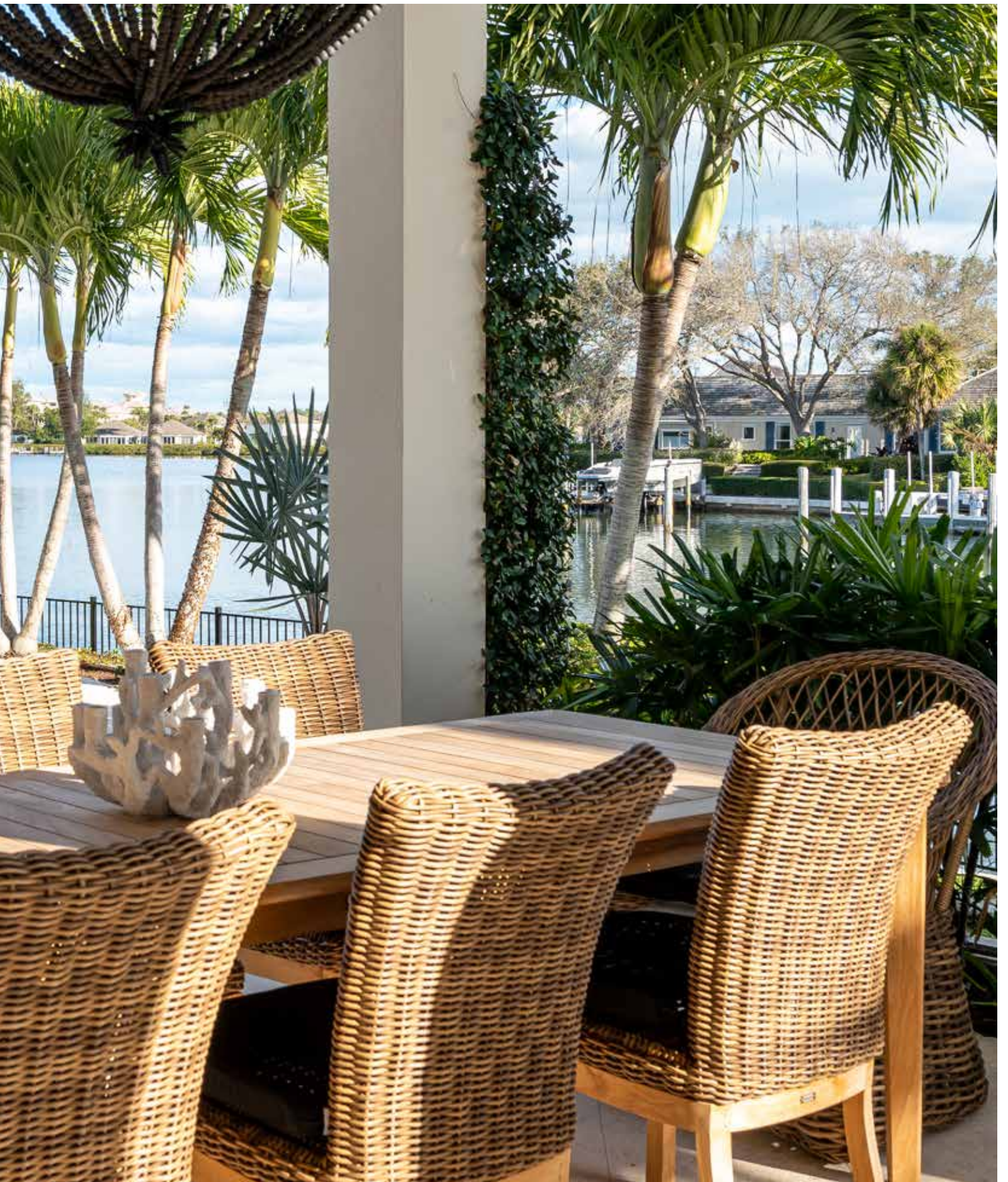
She learned how to “listen” to houses from her mother. During her childhood, she was raised Baptist. “Before we moved in anywhere, my mom would always go into the house and pray over it. You don’t know what happened in there or what kind of energy there is. It would not





Outdoor furniture is by Summer Classics through Lucretia Hommel Home Collection. The overhead fixture composed of wooden beads is also available through Lucretia Hommel Home Collection.







Lucretia Hommel designed this kitchen on a piece of paper. The cabinets are 17 feet tall, made of recycled white oak, and coated with a hand-mixed stain to protect them from UV rays. The chandelier composed of coconut beads was created by an indigenous African tribe.



necessarily be a murder, but it could be, you know, unhealthy relationships or abuse or whatever—and you just kind of get that all out of there.”

“And,” continues Hommel, “she taught me how to ‘just be’ in a house for a while.” As an interior designer, this has been invaluable. “Most people jump right in before moving into their building. Yes, I get that, but you need to be kind of in the space for a bit to hear what story it is trying to tell you.

“I think listening to the home and designing in a way that captures its essence ensures that each interior has its own voice; none are quite the same. I am not implementing my taste, my style. I am telling my client’s story and the house’s story.”

There were challenges to meet, especially in finishing this home, which was just completed in February. “Covid—that was a huge shake-up. In Africa, they were having tough times with the illnesses. We are down to two workers, and there are usually 115 women working. They didn’t have the medicine we have—or the doctors. Production did take twice as long.”

At last, the rooms are ready for relaxation and visitors. The Busch’s wildlife sanctuary, about 30 minutes away, shelters many creatures such as the Florida panther, mountain lion, black bear, as well as the alligator, whistling duck, eagle, and rat snake. These are animals that have been displaced by wildfires or found abandoned or injured. With its free-spirited décor, this home is both a personal sanctuary and a reflection of the natural world, with a generous touch of the wild. It reminds us that wild creatures must be healed and set free; they help us connect to what is wild and precious within each of us. **AH**

INTERIOR DESIGN: Lucretia Hommel, Lucretia Hommel Interior Design, [lucretiahommel.com](http://lucretiahommel.com) | COUCH: Baker Furniture | DINING ROOM TABLES & CHAIRS: Restoration Hardware | RUG: Lucretia Hommel Home Collection | GLASS CANDLES: Zodax | AFRICAN GRASS NECKLACE, CHANDELIERS & WOODEN BEADED FIXTURES: Private fair trade sources and African tribal artists | OUTDOOR FURNISHINGS: Summer Classics; also available through Lucretia Hommel Home Collection.





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# Coastal Comfort

ON BETHANY BEACH



The dimensions of this huge Nantucket-inspired beachfront home are downplayed in spaces designed to feel personal and comfortable.

BY DYLAN ROCHE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANA HOFF



This spacious vacation home has a mindful mix of private and common spaces.











Weathered beams on the ceiling add a traditional coastal ambience. Shades of blue in artwork and accessories ensure warmth.



A cozy seating area has a window wall that opens to an expansive deck and endless sea.





An unusual staircase is both modern and coastal, with nautical wiring and white woodwork recalling a lighthouse or lifeguard stand.

vacation homes aren't the same as full-time homes. Nobody knows this better than those professionals who make these homes a reality. They have to create spaces that feel inviting for owners and guests alike, that serve multiple generations, and that can be as accommodating for large groups as they are cozy for just a few people—while providing multifunctional gathering places for all the activities vacationers want to do.

“In a beach house, you have to think about a lot of different scenarios,” says Marnie Oursler of Marnie Custom Homes. “Who’s going to occupy the house at the same time? ... How do you separate people to give them privacy but then also give them communal spaces where everyone can be together and be comfortable?”

This was a challenge Oursler stepped up to when she began work on a project in Bethany Beach, Delaware. The Nantucket-inspired beach house—which combines traditional architectural elements with more contemporary ones for a style Oursler describes as coastal modern—entails six bedrooms, an expansive kitchen, a family room, a large deck, a screened-in porch, and what’s known as the observation room overlooking the beach from the top floor.





A butler's pantry is equipped with a full bar for entertaining.



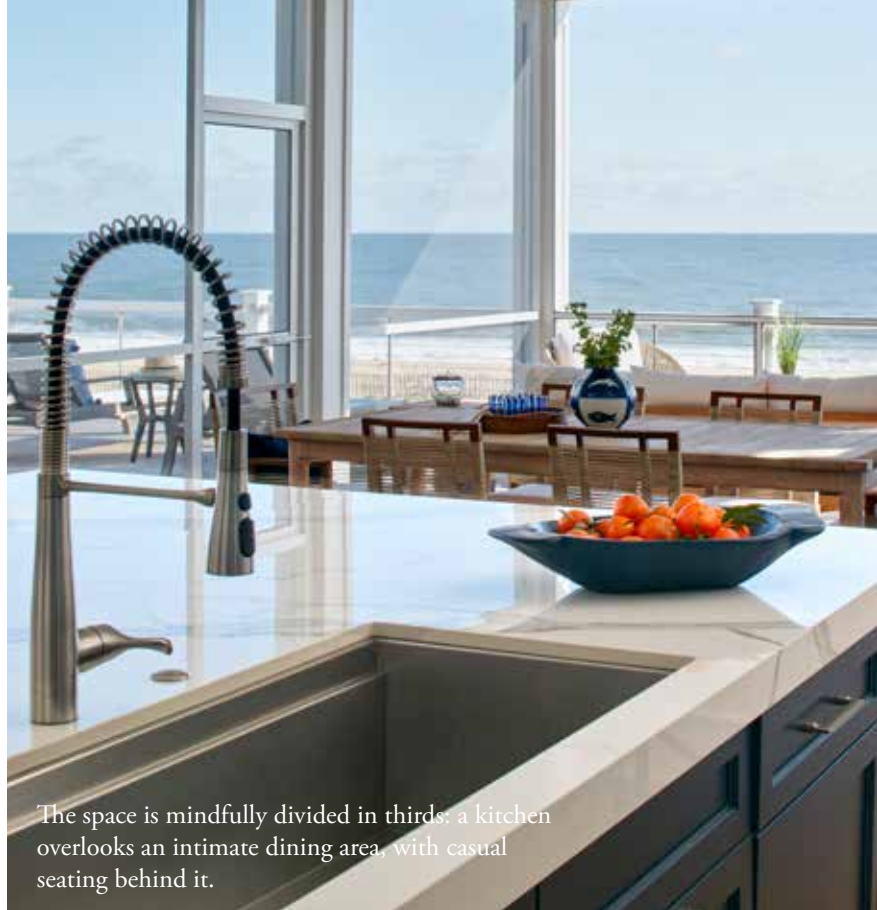
To create this balance of community and privacy, Oursler worked with architect Aga Sokolow of the Bernardon firm to design a layout where the common areas flow easily from one to the other while plenty of individual guest rooms give people time apart. By putting the rec room on the ground floor away from most of the bedrooms, the layout allows people to stay up late socializing (or get up early) without disturbing the sleep of others in the house.

Of course, one clear priority emerged when it came time to build—maximizing the view. “They wanted to be able to see the ocean from the front door,” Oursler says. The home boasts expansive floor-to-ceiling Anderson 400 windows in every east-facing room, as well as LaCantina doors. Much of the detailing draws on coastal elements: natural wood flooring, exposed beams made to appear weathered, light colors, a stone fireplace in the family room, and a kitchen island in a statement shade of nautical blue.

Stephanie Simmons of Karen Renée Interior Design, Inc. used these elements for inspiration as well. “In creating the design, I kept the oceanfront location in mind,” she says. “They wanted to incorporate different shades of blues, from navy to accents of aqua. I selected natural linens and textures. I sourced furniture with a relaxed coastal vibe and a focus on comfort.”

Décor throughout the house calls to mind natural elements you would see walking along the shoreline. The chandelier from Serena and Lily in the foyer incorporates seashells. Tables and chairs from brands including Palecek and Arteriors are made from wicker, grass, or natural wood. Even the artwork reflects beach life: from the contemporary piece hanging over the fireplace in the family room to the surfer paintings in the observation room on the top floor. Elements of surprise pop up throughout the design, from the geometric pattern on the host chairs in the dining room to the metallic-finished nightstands in the master bedroom.

In the great room, Simmons started her design based on textiles—specifically, the navy and cream pillows and sofa upholstery from Lee Jofa and Fabricut. This seating is arranged for gathering while still enjoying the room’s breathtaking ocean view. To give the room some warmth while still maintaining the white walls the owners wanted, Simmons chose Pearly White by Sherwin-Williams, which she describes as a “warm white.”



The space is mindfully divided in thirds: a kitchen overlooks an intimate dining area, with casual seating behind it.



A vaulted ceiling with windows beckons natural light into the generous bedroom.





The kids' room has four bunk beds. Each nook has drift wood panels for books, art and nautical lighting.



If the purpose of a beach house is to accommodate many people under one roof at the same time and offer them the utmost in comfort without taking them too far away from the natural scenery they came to be a part of—well, this team made that vision a reality. **AH**

ARCHITECT: Aga Sokolow, Bernardon, [bernardon.com](http://bernardon.com), Wilmington, Delaware | DESIGN/BUILD: Marnie Oursler, Marnie Custom Homes, [marniehomes.com](http://marniehomes.com), Bethany Beach, Delaware | INTERIOR DESIGN: Stephanie Simmons, Karen Renée Interior Design, [karenreeneinteriors.com](http://karenreeneinteriors.com), Severna Park, Maryland | KITCHEN: Marnie Custom Homes in collaboration with Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen & Bath, [gilmerkitchens.com](http://gilmerkitchens.com) | Photo Styling: Sherry Moeller, MoKi Media



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The carnation has been cultivated for 2,000 years and especially loved by Theophrastus, a student of Aristotle's.



*Flower*  
THE  
MISUNDERSTOOD



BY KYMBERLY TAYLOR

The carnation, *Dianthus caryophyllus* or clove pink, is one of the most misunderstood flowers. My husband says that, for him, they conjure up images of a cheap dyed blossom wilting in the lapel of a nervous young man on a prom date. He admits that for most of his life, he thought they were artificial!

I don't share his rather harsh view. However, in the grocery store, they do seem cast aside, even abused—a discount flower jammed into crinkled cellophane. I rarely see them spotlighted in the “designer bouquets” or popping up much in local Annapolis gardens. Perhaps because of their startling unnatural colors, we have forgotten their true roots. No wonder they do not get the respect they deserve!

It is time to set the record straight. Carnations are over 2,000 years old with a fascinating history. Theophrastus, a student of Aristotle's, found their scent and color so intoxicating he named them *Dianthus* by combining the Greek words *Dios* (divine) and *anthos* (flower). Among other things, Theophrastus is known for his botanical treatises, *Enquiry into Plants* (*Historia Plantarum*) and *On the Causes of Plants*. Both ancient texts were studied by scholars during the Renaissance, when botany emerged as a science independent of natural history.

A staple in early European cottage gardens along the Mediterranean, carnations were nick-named ‘pinks’ because the flower's edge is serrated as if trimmed with pinking shears. During the Elizabethan era, fevers were treated with tea made from crushed carnation leaves, and its petals were used to spice wine and ale as a substitute for the more expensive clove.

Carnations probably crossed the Atlantic in the early 1800s, perhaps as a seed in the pocket of an immigrant from the British Isles. The beautiful bloom eventually caught the eye of Thomas Jefferson. Peggy Cornett, director of the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, writes that Jefferson sowed China pinks at Monticello, which he got from Philadelphia nurseryman Bernard McMahon in 1807.

This flower is associated with motherhood and linked to the Virgin Mary. Christians believe that when Mary saw Jesus taken down from the cross, the tears she cried fell to the ground and later rose up as pink carnations. Some compare the carnation to a mother's heart as in this familiar adage: The carnation does not drop its petals but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts; their mother love never dying.





Spray carnations called ‘punch’ invigorate a spring garden.


Old-fashioned carnations were pink and purple. With the advent of the 20th century and genetic engineering, botanists began creating hybrids, producing deep red and clear white blooms. In the mid-20th century, florists made a startling discovery: when they stood a white, freshly cut carnation in water with food coloring, the flower quickly drew the water up through its stem and changed color. The white carnation had become a blank slate! From that time on, florists dyed carnations every shade of the rainbow, experimenting wildly with fringes and bicolor blooms. As carnations can be dyed to match almost anything, they have become popular for celebrations and, of course, proms.

Today, there are 300 different varieties of carnations in colors that range from mauve-blue to yellow. Most grow in a well-drained, neutral to alkaline soil in full sun and can be propagated in the summer by layering dirt over the woody, nonflowering stems.

Carnations grow well in Anne Arundel County’s Zone 7 and have a special life force you can bring right into your home. One of the longest-lasting cut flowers, they stay crisp for about two weeks. That is outstanding, in my opinion. Their bold little faces remind

me to buck up and keep going when times are tough. The larger varieties have their own special look, with ruffles casting slight shadows that make them seem experienced yet kind.

Yes, there is an unusual kindness in the carnation, a flower grown historically close to the back door, where people talk freely and frankly, where life really happens. And I love how carnations beam out from bouquets like small joys. It may help to have some in your garden. As we face so many complexities in our families, in our minds, and in the world, our lives need to be easy and calm at home.

I admire their Greek lineage and their spunk and have welcomed them into my garden this April. I will keep a close eye on them to better appreciate their perpetual hearts, beauty, and fragrance. Soon, I will certainly pick some for my husband to reverse his opinion! 

*Follow Kimberly Taylor on Instagram: @thehighheeledgardener*



Carnations are grouped in three main categories: large-flowered, spray, and dwarf.



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# Making Moves

TTR Sotheby's International Realty is proud to welcome Betsy Dunigan and Gwin Hunt to our Annapolis Brokerage.



## Betsy Dunigan

Betsy Dunigan is best known for two things, her love of skiing and sales. She is no stranger to the luxury market. Her previous career was the East Coast Sales Representative for Bogner Ski Wear, the renowned German sports apparel company. Over the years she honed her sales skills in the most exclusive stores and resorts in the US. Betsy began her journey in real estate, joining O'Connor, Piper and Flynn as they transitioned to Coldwell Banker on Church Circle. For more than 20 years, she has helped her clients buy and sell in Anne Arundel County and the Eastern Shore. With over 200 million in sales under her belt, Betsy knew her next move would be joining the ranks at TTR Sotheby's International Realty, which she calls a privilege.

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## Gwin Hunt

After earning a BFA in photography from Savannah College of Art and Design, Gwin worked in the interior design field for two decades. Focusing on high-end properties in the Washington, D.C. area, her photography has been published in regional and national magazines. Gwin's experience, talents and passion for real estate have served her well as a licensed agent, leading to a Rookie of the Year Award in 2017. Whether it's photographing stellar interiors or showcasing gorgeous listings, Gwin Hunt has made a name for herself in the architectural photography and real estate space servicing buyers and sellers throughout Anne Arundel County and the Eastern Shore.

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# DESIGNERS' FAVORITES

## HIGH POINT FURNITURE MARKET

The High Point Furniture Market in North Carolina is where interior designers from all over the world travel biannually to view and test new products for the home. Thousands of pieces of furniture are on display in hundreds of showrooms. We invited AHM partners to select a favorite piece of furniture from the recent Spring market so that we could share it with you.

If you would like to order any furniture from the High Point Market, contact the furniture companies or an interior designer listed in the AHM Home and Professional Services Guide located in the end of this magazine.







## BERNHARDT FURNITURE: Aventura Ottomans

"These ottomans have such a great shape and so much strength, I can imagine them at the foot of the bed or a couple on one side of a cocktail table!"

Gina Fitzsimmons, Fitzsimmons Design



## GLOBAL VIEWS: Ives Writing Desk

"This waterfall style writing desk from Global Views is a favorite find because its classic silhouette and handsome burl wood veneer make it a versatile addition to many rooms."

Cathy Newman, C. Newman Interiors





## ROBERTA SCHILLING: Ayolas Sofa

"The Ayolas sofa is simple yet versatile, incorporating cloud-like seats met with natural oak laminate—multifunction meets modern luxury."

Samantha Sopp-Wittwer, Senior Designer, Interior Concepts, Inc.

## CENTURY FURNITURE: Thomas O'Brien Chair

"The small scale and lines of this chair make it a fun and unexpected accent piece. It's very abstract and sculptural!"

Lisa Tullai, Annapolis Interiors



## CENTURY FURNITURE: Carrier Sectional Series

"The Carrier sectional series from Century Furniture does not just offer an amazing shape and form; it's super comfortable and offers a multilevel seating arrangement for any room. It gives each person space to spread out yet allows everyone to be together at the same time."

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# Treasured Condo

By Dylan Roche  
Photography by Matthew Dandy

Outside the Annapolis condominium that recent downsizers Ken and Maureen Reightler now call home, it's only a short walk to the U.S. Naval Academy or the historic downtown district. But step inside, and you're looking at a home that pays tribute to a life of travel and moving around from place to place. It's a home that designer Melissa McLay of Melissa McLay Interiors describes as a "cozy, eclectic mix of styles and materials," all drawing inspiration from the art and novelties the Reightlers have collected throughout their adventurous life together.

Designer Melissa McLay worked in a warm, earthy color palette for this condo.







The Reightlers say the best feature of their home is the breathtaking view of Annapolis.







The built-in shelves hold books and collected items of sentimental value.







The high school sweethearts married shortly after they graduated from college. While raising a family together, they traveled extensively both for fun and for business—to National Parks throughout the United States, as well as to Canada, Japan, Russia, Norway, Sweden, France, and many other countries around the world. Ken's Navy career meant they moved frequently, so every few years, they were in a new city in a new state, making new friends and integrating into a new community.

In addition to their many travels, Ken is a seasoned astronaut who made several deployments to space after being selected by NASA in 1987. In speaking of their home, Ken says, “[It] reflects [our] lives, our experiences, the things we enjoy, the things we like looking at, the things that connect us to family and places we’ve been.”

The Reightlers' condo is part of 51 Franklin Condominium, a complex developed and built by John Pilli and Matt Long, respectively—both USNA grads and longtime Annapolitans. Pilli was the developer, and Long, who owns Gate One Builders, did the execution. Once the administrative building for the Annapolis Hospital, 51 Franklin Condominium is now divided into nine residential units custom-designed for their owners—or close to custom-designed, at least. “You couldn't change windows or do certain things that were uniform to the building, but we could do a different kitchen package or put an inside fireplace or do the bathrooms to whatever their custom designs were,” Long says. He describes Ken's strong vision for his unit as “particular, planned, researched, thought-out to the nth degree on everything he picked out.”

As is appropriate for a couple who have traveled extensively and enjoyed so many experiences the way Ken and Maureen have, the finished design of the condo is eclectic and does not fit easily into any specific category. “I wouldn't say there are modern elements in it. It's slightly contemporary and transitional, but then there are traditional elements,” McLay says.

This can be seen in the home's mix of metal and wood. Woven window treatments add texture and subtle color without distracting from the breathtaking view of Annapolis, and wallpaper around the fireplace gives depth to the room. Boucle





Woven window treatments offer an element of dimension.

fabric on the kitchen stools, along with pillow fabrics with a variety of thread colors, add texture and interest. “I find a space more interesting when you mix different looks and feels,” McLay says.

Downsizing to a condo feels natural for the Reightlers, who have frequently found themselves in small living quarters on their travels. Ken has not only made weeks-long trips to space; he has also lived aboard boats as an avid sailor, in cockpits as a pilot, and in tents as a camper. “Living in smaller spaces with less room has never been a problem for me,” he says.

And living on the top floor of the building means he and Maureen, a retired psychotherapist, get to look down on their view of Annapolis—it’s a way they love to view new cities when arriving by plane. “That’s part of what I really love about flying, being able to look down on cities from the airplane,” Ken says, calling the uninterrupted view of Annapolis the “greatest feature” of their home.

Nearly everything in the condo has a story behind it. The Thomas Moser chairs around the dining room table—replicas of chairs found in the Reading Room of the New York Public Library—pay tribute to Maureen’s love of reading. As bibliophiles, she and Ken had to pare down their collection of books before moving to Annapolis, so those on the built-in shelves around their living room are tomes of special significance, such as Maureen’s grandfather’s collected works of Shakespeare, published in 1911. One of the few traditionally Annapolitan elements in the home, the boat-top dining room table pays tribute to Ken’s love of sailing, which he still does competitively every other week from cities on the Eastern Shore. Memorabilia reflecting Ken’s 22-year career in the U.S. Navy are displayed around the built-in desk in the home office.

For McLay, creating an overall vision for the Reightlers’ home presented a new but welcome challenge. As the Reightlers weren’t moving in any furniture, she drew her inspiration entirely from their collection of treasures, many of which had nature-inspired colors like greens, grays, and reds, such as those seen in a framed piece of papyrus that Ken brought back from a carrier deployment.





Memorabilia from Ken's career as an astronaut decorate the built-in desk in the home office.

The nature-inspired colors differ from the blues and creams that are so popular in Annapolis—colors McLay is used to working in. “It was nice to work in this earthy palette, and I have a whole new appreciation for that palette as a result,” she says.

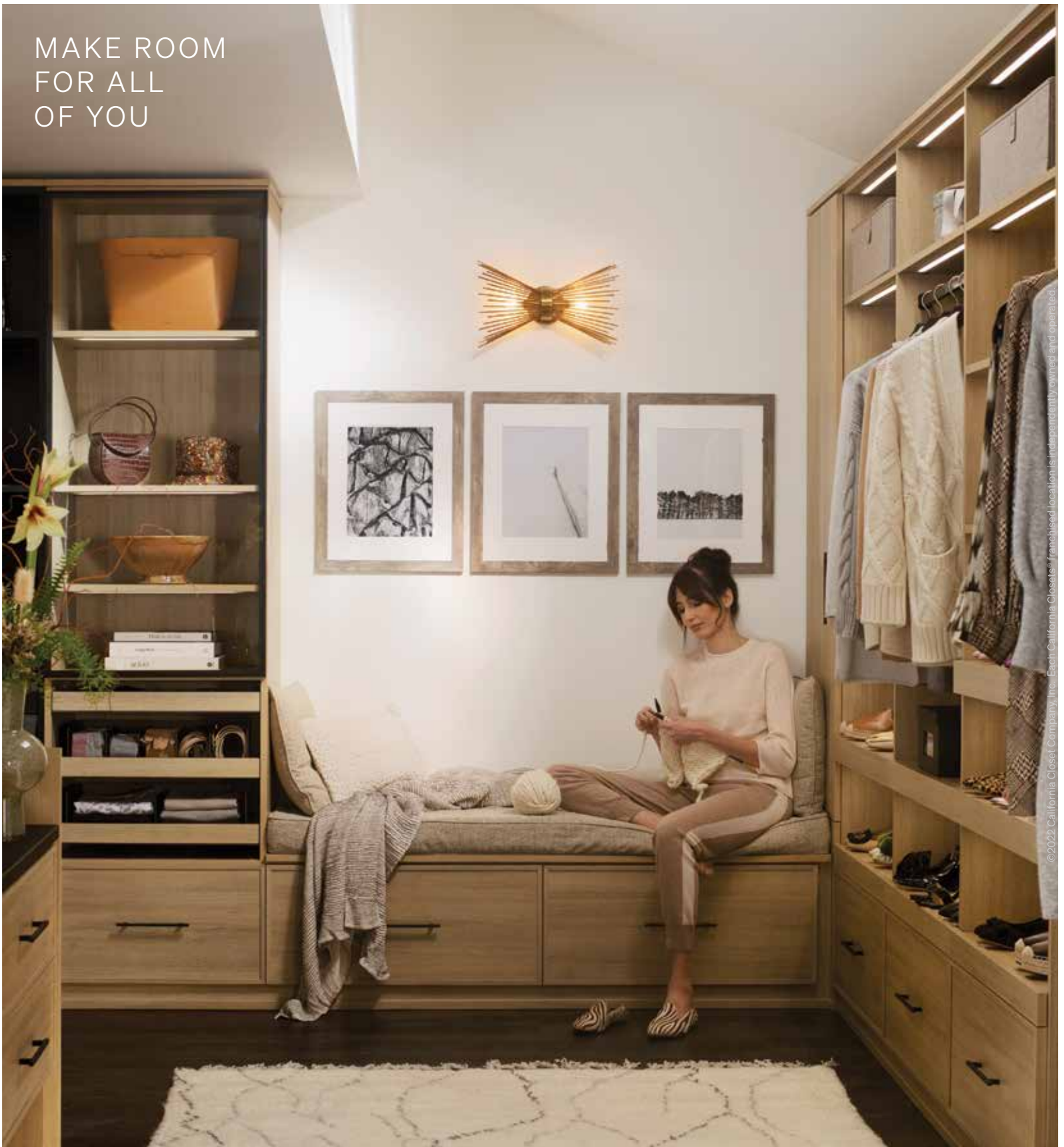
One aspect she loves about these warm, earthy tones is the way they complement the natural beauty of the décor, including wood and textiles, like the creamy wool on the swivel chair or the burnt-orange alpaca mohair on the ottoman, both of which McLay describes as “very cozy and luxe.”

The finished effect is a home that's unique: one that serves as a showcase of treasures garnered throughout a lifetime, a place that's a cozy retreat from the outside world, a high-end residence that doesn't constrict itself to any one style or aesthetic. You might even say it's a home as interesting as the Reightlers themselves. **AH**

INTERIOR DESIGN: Melissa McLay Interiors, [melissamclayinteriors.com](http://melissamclayinteriors.com), Annapolis, Maryland | DEVELOPER: John Pilli, Pilli Development Company, Annapolis, Maryland | BUILDER: Matt Long, Gate One Builders, [gateonebuilders.com](http://gateonebuilders.com), Annapolis, Maryland | ARCHITECT: Pete Miller, Fourth Street Design Studio, [fuds.biz](http://fuds.biz), Annapolis, Maryland | EXTERIOR & COMMON SPACE CONTRACTOR: BuilderGuru Contracting, Inc. and Gardiner & Gardiner Contracting, LLC., [builderguru.com](http://builderguru.com), Millersville, Maryland | PHOTO STYLING: Mike Grady



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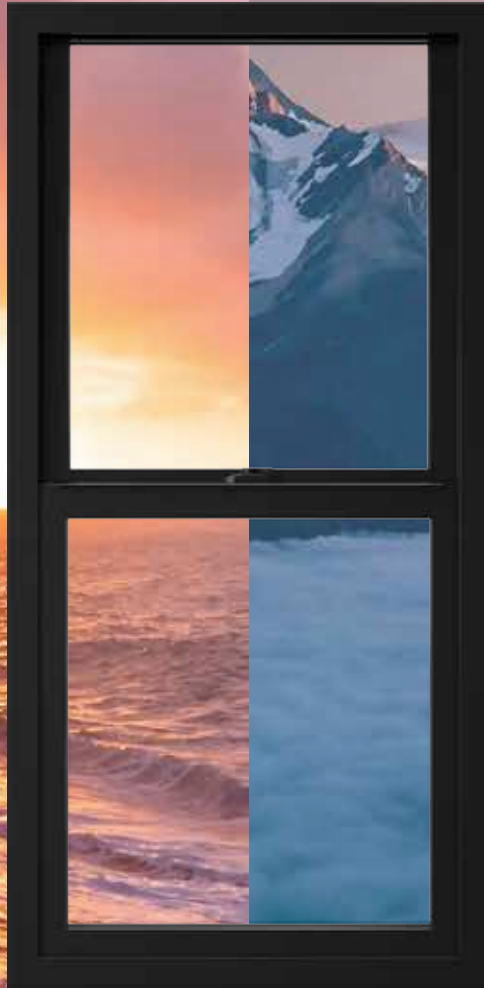




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# CREEKSIDE SUSTAINABLE

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As architect Melanie Hartwig-Davis designed this home, she considered the materials necessary to build it, chose ones that would cause the least harm to the environment, and then interwove them.

BY TODD KARPOVICH  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY 410 FILMS & GEOFFREY HODGDON





The architect chose HardiePlank Fiber cement siding instead of traditional wood or vinyl. HardiePlank is less toxic to produce than vinyl siding, and fewer trees are needed to create it.

**I**n the mid-1600s, those who settled on Maryland's Eastern Shore had few choices when building their homes. They hitched up a cart and drove to the closest forest for oak and cypress logs, to the river for mud and clay for brick making, and to a local quarry for stone.

Fast forward to 2022. Today, building a home is a complex endeavor, with thousands of components and no horses involved. We still have conventional building practices, with forests razed and suburban enclaves appearing overnight. However, a parallel universe exists: the "green" building movement, which advocates energy-efficient structures created with renewable resources. Once a niche industry, it now has a solid following, with its share of innovators. Building upon this momentum, certain architects believe passionately that how a home functions, as well as its location, longevity, and environmental impact, right down to the composition of its insulation, are just as important as its form. What distinguishes sustainable architects from others is this: they are closely involved not only in the design of a home but also in its construction, specifying which advanced technologies and renewable materials should be used.





Plenty of windows on most exterior walls allow ambient light to flood the interior, reducing the need for daytime electricity.



The kitchen cabinets were designed by HD Squared Architects and supplied by Jeffrey Holloway, who was previously with Stuart Kitchens.

Ricky Goldman's waterfront home in Edgewater, designed by Melanie Hartwig-Davis, is a prime example. "My philosophy about sustainable architecture is at once aspirational and realistic," says Hartwig-Davis, the principal/CEO of HD Squared Architects. "The Goldmans did not come to me specifically for a sustainably designed home, while they did express interest in energy efficiency. I wove sustainable design aspects into the design at each phase, taking the opportunity to educate them along the way."

After almost a decade of working with environmental regulations along Brewer Creek off the South River, Goldman and Hartwig-Davis, with the help of Bayview Builders, built a house that is both picturesque and efficient. An example is its Zip-R wall system: a structural panel with built-in exterior insulation that provides superior energy efficiency. In its production, very little is wasted. Approximately two percent of its byproducts are disposed of in landfills, according to its literature.

For siding, instead of traditional wood or vinyl, Hartwig-Davis used Hardie Fiber cement siding. HardiePlank siding is made from natural and sustainable raw materials: cement, sand, wood fiber, and water. While not a natural material, it

is lower in toxicity than vinyl, with no glass asbestos fibers or formaldehyde. Additionally, it contains far less lumber than wood siding, which ultimately preserves our forests.

To frame the home, Bayview Builders construction manager Rich Lang notes they used engineered lumber rather than steel, a choice much safer for the planet. To produce steel, large amounts of coal and coke are used, which emit carbon dioxide and other gases dangerous to the earth's atmosphere. Lang explains that less energy is used to create engineered lumber, and that process is more efficient. He adds that in the making of OSB, up to 90% of the raw material is used as a wood product. In the case of milled lumber, that number drops to 60% or less. What's more, engineered wood is more resistant to water damage than pure wood and provides more insulation.

The approximately 5,000-square-foot home is situated about 200 feet from Brewer Creek. Located next to Pocahontas Marina, it was positioned to preserve as many trees as possible. Due to a seven-year moratorium on building new houses enforced after the Mayo Waste Water Treatment Plant was decommissioned, it took time to begin construction.





The IPE decking is FSC certified, which means that it comes from responsibly managed forests.

The home has four bedrooms and four full baths. The floor plan has an open space, with the first floor flowing into the kitchen.

“We are cognizant that people need to get away at times and have their privacy,” Hartwig-Davis explains. “One of the things we have on this level that is easily accessible is an office/flex space.”

In the kitchen, the Silgranit solid surface sink and separate refrigerator and freezer units have separate compressors for efficiency. The leather finish on the kitchen counters gives the granite a warmer, more natural look. Ricky’s wife, Deb Goldman, thought that regular granite was too cold for the kitchen. The leather finish is subtle but makes a big difference. Beyond the kitchen, there is a mudroom and laundry room with a sink. As the first floor has an owner’s suite with two walk-in closets, it can serve as the entire living space.

Ricky spent years traveling to Asia on business and brought back old-world antiques that adorn the first and second floors. Deb Goldman practices Eastern meditation in two distinct spaces: a nook in the master bedroom and an office

on the first floor. The entire house is adorned with artifacts from China, Thailand, and Burma (now Myanmar), among other exotic places: statues with gold leaf trim, masks, vases, and antique screen panels that stand close to six feet—all of which add a refined element to each room.

Wooden ceiling fans in each bedroom are energy-efficient, move the air, and are aesthetically pleasing. “I was not into ceiling fans, but Melanie convinced me,” Ricky Goldman said. “Now, I love them. I use them all the time.”

In many ways, this home is a testament to modern sustainability. Design was not sacrificed despite using low-impact, high-performance materials. The real success of those renewable features is that they are part of a beautiful home. **AH**

ARCHITECT: Melanie Hartwig-Davis, HD  
Squared Architects, [hd2architects.com](http://hd2architects.com), Annapolis, Maryland | CUSTOM BUILDER: Bayview Builders, [bayviewbuildersmd.com](http://bayviewbuildersmd.com), Annapolis, Maryland



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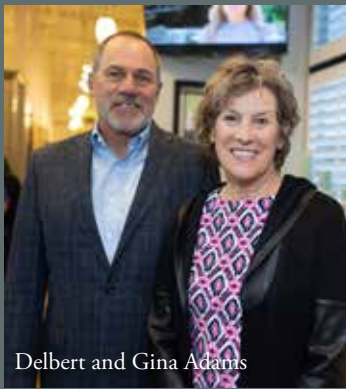




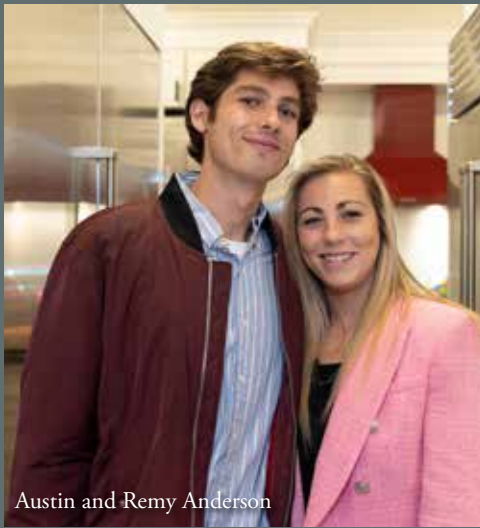
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*Annapolis Home* celebrated its March 2022 issue with a “welcome spring” party, Flower Up, at ADU-Your Appliance Source in Annapolis. The flower-themed event included a rum bar by Lyon Rum in St. Michaels. We also celebrated ADU’s forty years as a leader in the appliance industry. ADU was founded in 1982 by Thomas Oliff and today is still a family-operated business. With eight showrooms, ADU serves the mid-Atlantic region. Winners of the AIA design awards, showcased in the March issue, also attended. To learn more about ADU, visit [www.adu.com](http://www.adu.com).



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Straight Up  
on Dining Out



*Photo courtesy O'Learys Seafood*

# O'Learys Seafood: A TASTE OF THE SEA IN EASTPORT

By Christine Fillat

O'Learys Seafood is something of an institution, housed since 1983 in a charming frame house on Third Street in Eastport, just steps from the water's edge. "We have a cult following of regulars," says owner Wil Peterson. O'Learys serves its diners in two cozy dining rooms with a spare bar painted in marine shades and decorated with paintings of luxe aquatic scenes. The tables are elegant with white tablecloths and napkins. The place has a romantic under-the-sea kind of vibe.

An attentive server brings us a cocktail that sets the stage for the meal to follow. The Fear and Loathing is an intriguing concoction that includes Arette Blanco tequila, carrot purée, blood orange juice, mushroom simple syrup, and lime juice. The chilled orange beverage appears with a delicate sprig of thyme clipped to the edge of the martini glass with the tiniest clothespin. Layers of flavors subtly reveal themselves in this drink: the carrot purée counterpoints the acidity of the blood orange and lime juices, while a hint of mushroom lingers in a surprising but pleasant umami.



Appetizers continue the element of surprise. Crispy Buffalo Oysters taste exactly as you would imagine: perfectly battered and fried oysters coated in a blue cheese buttermilk sauce and a bit of hot sauce. If you are a fan of Buffalo wings and oysters, this is the dish for you.

Unfortunately, Mussels Meunière served some of the smallest mussels we have ever seen. The disappointment in the size of the mussels carried over into the sauce with which it was served. One of the principal side benefits of a bowl of mussels is the baguette served on the side. However, we found the brine—a super-light white wine sauce bobbing with several cherry tomatoes—wasn't substantial enough to enjoy dipping the baguette.

The entrées arrived with mixed results. The wild halibut is a delicious fish. It is wonderful as is. Sharing the plate is a superfluous collection of cherry tomatoes and Kalamata olives. A side dish of parmesan and truffle fries saves the day. They arrive hot and plenty salty, with slim curls of parmesan cheese and the earthy essence of truffles.

The Crispy Rockfish presents a beautiful, perfectly fried piece of flavorful fish with some jumbo shrimp. Atop the fish is a sweet barbecue sauce and a drizzle of chipotle aioli. A smattering of salsa is on the side. Everything sits on top of a dull hillock of black beans and rice, which could have used some attention from the kitchen. Minus the rice and beans, this was a very good dish.

Freshly brewed coffee accompanied our two desserts: Five Spice Flourless Chocolate Cake and Crème Brûlée. The chocolate cake was rather pudding-like, with hints of ginger. The crème brûlée was magnificent, with the caramelized glass of sugar on top to shatter with your spoon, just as you would expect.

In addressing the vagaries of the dishes, Peterson explains that the kitchen is going through a transition. There are changes in the works for the restaurant; we look forward to what he has in store for the future. **AH**



Photo courtesy O'Learys Seafood

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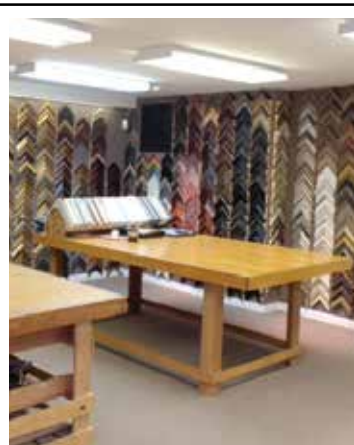


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