

MODERN LUXURY

HAMPTONS





From top: A small shed boothhouse with an outdoor shower on the side is one of the property's charming original features; in the entry, a Raymond light by Moooi and mid-century teak console table add to the modern vibe; the showstopping main living area includes a custom slab dining table designed by Babcock in collaboration with Rolten Studio, handblown glass bubble pendants by John Pomp Studios and a collection of vases by Gilles Caffier from Sag Harbor's MONC XII.



As seasoned interior designer renovating her own home sounds like it would be a breeze—or, shall we say, an ocean breeze in the case of Allison Babcock (allisonbabcockdesign.com), whose home is tucked away on a quiet, waterfront street just outside Sag Harbor's historic district. But creating the perfect Hamptons haven for herself, her husband and their two daughters posed some challenges. "As a designer I am sometimes my most difficult client," admits Babcock, known for blending natural beauty and casual sophistication in her spaces. "However, since I have been designing residential interiors for 25-plus years, I have really honed in on how I envision living, how our family truly lives and what we wanted in our dream home."

The family previously resided in Sag Harbor village "in a sweet, historic house," says Babcock, "but really felt the pull to live on the water." Their search led them to a home on Bluff Point Road, which instantly checked all their boxes. "As year-rounders, we specifically wanted a west-facing village property so we could take advantage of the cooling winds in

the summer and the sunsets year-round and be able to walk into town," she explains. Once they settled on the property, Babcock plunged head-first into adapting it for her family's day-to-day life. She and her husband, Luke, knew that in order to make the home work all year round, they'd need to find a way to balance a sense of openness with warm, comforting elements. They also agreed that the layout required a modern update to maximize the views—but they had different ideas about what exactly that would look like. "The tricky part was that my husband favored traditional architecture and could only imagine the sterile, '80s-modern-architectural white box," the designer says. "The compromise was finding a modern architect that would work with traditional rooflines and materials. And we found that architect literally right in our backyard: our neighbor, Blaze Makoid."

The Babcocks enlisted Makoid to design the house, drawing up an extensive list of must-haves "as well as loftier ambitions," says Babcock. "Taking advantage of the views, as well as indoor-outdoor living, was paramount." The couple also turned to Greg D'Angelo



Construction and the late landscape architect Jack deLashmet to help transform their vision for a contemporary yet cozy oasis into a reality.

And the team delivered. As you enter the home and step down into the main living area, the view of the water unfolds before your eyes, creating “a major wow effect,” Babcock describes. The space is truly the home’s pièce de résistance, with Arcadia glass doors that slide all the way open on two sides to reveal unobstructed panoramas and easy access to the interior courtyard and covered porch. “In the summertime, the footprint of the main living space is doubled by opening these sliders. This allows us to fully enjoy the summer breezes flowing through the downstairs,” Babcock says. She adds that “the covered porch protects us from the sun and rain so we really can use this space regardless of the weather. ... We spend every day and night out there either lounging around while the kids and their friends swim in the nearby pool or grilling and eating dinner in the outdoor dining area.” The soaring views continue upstairs, where all four en-suite bedrooms also look out onto the water thanks to Makoid’s thoughtful design.

A soothing neutral palette of beiges, grays, whites and blacks paired with warm walnut and teak accents complements the home’s natural setting that’s so effortlessly integrated into the interiors. Ultimately, Babcock’s choice of materials solves the seasonal dilemma. “Bleached white oak cabinetry and flooring throughout gives the house a warmth in the winter, yet still feels light and airy in the summer,” she says. And in the open-format kitchen, she continues, “wood cabinets contrasted with Jet Mist honed granite counters help ground the space and make it feel warmer and less utilitarian.”

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From top: “I did not want a white kitchen,” Babcock says of the open-format space that’s part of the main living area. Instead, she opted for wood textures—like these Bunga stools by Thomas Hayes Studio—and Jet Mist honed granite countertops that are in keeping with the home’s neutral, earthy palette; the covered porch features an exterior sectional that Babcock custom-designed using Perennials upholstery fabric in Rough ‘n Rowdy. “It is our absolute favorite area of our home,” she says; a vintage Falcon chair by Sigurd Ressel and petrified wood side table by The Phillips Collection create a cozy corner in the master bedroom for taking in the property’s spectacular water views.



Personal touches abound, from art and travel mementos layered in each room to an outdoor stucco chimney facade that doubles as a movie screen—perfect for viewing classic films like *Jaws* from the saltwater pool—to an original shed boathouse by the water that Luke claimed as his “man cave”—little reminders that the home is, above all, designed with family in mind. In the end, the Bluff Point residence feels like a sweet escape—like you’re on a vacation that never has to end. “This home evokes a peaceful, relaxed feeling the moment you walk in the door. The sweeping water views are endless. The indoor-outdoor feel is intentionally blurred,” shares Babcock. “We have always felt beyond fortunate that we are able to live year-round in a place that is a dream getaway for many people. This year more than ever, I have really felt the full sense of beauty and peace in this home. Having my family in our house that we built here on the water is truly a dream come true.” ■

