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New York Cottages and Gardens

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ARTFUL LIVING

Soaring To New Heights
(THIS PAGE) In the foyer, a Country Carpet rug puddles from the stairway risers to the floor. The custom chandelier is by Caravane. (OPPOSITE) In the living room, matching sofas from ModShop flank a Madrid cocktail table from Robert James Collection. The Taco lounge chairs from Roberta Schilling are covered in a Kravet fabric. See Resources.

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LIGHT AND EASY

In this family-friendly East Hampton retreat, the design aesthetic is peaceful, playful, and provocative all at once

BY ALYSSA BIRD | PHOTOGRAPHS BY REGAN WOOD

A

trusting client who gives you carte blanche is about as good as it gets for a decorator. So it's no surprise that Manhattan- and Hamptons-based interior designer Amy Kalikow leapt at the opportunity to work for a second time with a past client, Gabrielle Longobardi, having renovated her traditional shingle-style getaway on the East End several years ago. After spending more time than expected in the house during the pandemic, Longobardi and her husband decided that they and their daughter needed more space, and that's when the call went out to Kalikow once again.

"We considered building something from scratch, but as we looked into that possibility further, it proved to be a much bigger task than we were up for," recounts Longobardi. The solution? She and her husband snapped up a 7,000-square-foot home in the final stages of construction instead. "This house ended up being perfect because the builder allowed us to select some of the finishes, such as tile, countertops, hardware, and lighting."

With much of the anchor materials already in place, Kalikow stepped in to lend her expert eye to the furnishings and accessories. "They didn't have any specific mandates for me," says Kalikow, a former



Dining In

The ceiling fixture above the kitchen island is by Andrew Neyer. An M2C chandelier hovers above a Ben Soleimani Rives table in the dining nook. See [Resources](#).

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advertising account director who pivoted to decorating 11 years ago after taking a break to start a family. “We’re very much in line aesthetically, so Gabrielle told me to design it as if it were my own house.”

Given that the residence is more contemporary in style than her clients’ previous abode, Kalikow started from square one, incorporating many custom pieces to lend a “creative, original touch,” she says. “I don’t want the houses I do to look like anyone else’s.” The same approach held true for all paint colors, ambient lighting, and wallpaper. “The running joke is that the only thing my husband got to choose is the powder room wallpaper,” Longobardi says with a laugh. “Amy found the pattern, and then we let him select the colorway.”

During the first project, client and decorator engaged in a good deal of back and forth about design specifics, but not this time. “Our style is perhaps a bit less modern than what Amy’s can be, and I sometimes have trouble visualizing things initially, but I know what I like when I see it,” says Longobardi. “And Amy has gotten to know us really well.” As it happens, aside from the boldly patterned wallpapers



Flavorful Fun

Angela Simeone's Limitless wall covering amplifies the dining room, which includes a Palo Samko table, Tom Dixon pendants, and a sideboard from RH. See Resources.



Personality Plus
 (OPPOSITE) In the primary bedroom, a chandelier from Cuff Studio hangs above a pair of daybeds from Article. The rug is from Sybelle Carpet and the window treatments are from the Shade Store. (THIS PAGE ABOVE) The headboard in the daughter's bedroom is covered in a Kravet fabric. The wall covering is from Thibaut. (RIGHT) Milton & King's Cranes wallpaper enlivens the powder room. See *Resources*.



in the powder room, dining room, and daughter's bedroom, the overall palette is quite pared back. "They wanted everything neutral, calming, and spa-like, but they are also fun people at the same time, so we added some playful lighting and wallpaper," Kalikow says of the project. "There's a lot of layered texture, with shades of white, beige, taupe, and gray." And despite the white that prevails throughout—from shiplap walls in the entry to virtually all the area rugs—the house is one that's designed for chilling out. "Gabrielle and her husband have a child, a dog, and guests around all the time, and these are things to be mindful of as a decorator. My job was to design a chic, beachy home that's not untouchable. This is a vacation property, and I want them to have a peaceful place to relax, where wet bathing suits, dirty feet, and sand everywhere aren't an issue. The Hamptons is all about easy living." 🌿