

RELAXED RETREAT

The lake setting of this bungalow informed designer Valerie Grant's serene blue schemes

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SITTING ROOM
Central artwork flanked by wall lights creates a pleasing symmetry behind the sofa. Sofa, The Tac Room. Wallpaper, Holland & Sherry. Coffee table, Bernhardt. Brompton swing arm wall lights, Visual Comfort & Co

SITTING ROOM
A textured chair with footstool creates the perfect summer reading nook by the balcony.
Chair with ottoman, Verellen. Side table, Palecek. Curtains, Telafina



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY A 1950s waterfront bungalow

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen, breakfast area, basement family room, four bedrooms, three bathrooms

LOCATION New Jersey, USA

KITCHEN

The existing cabinetry was repainted and given new handles, while a new tiled splashback and plaster facade for the vent hood give it a fresh new look. Similar London bar stools, Where Saints Go. Pendant lights, Hudson Valley Lighting



WHY DID YOUR CLIENTS BUY THIS HOUSE? Our clients, a couple in their late 50s with three adult sons, bought the property in 2008 as a second home. They loved the lake views, private location and boathouse with potential to renovate. The proximity to New York City allows guests to visit for the day. As avid outdoor enthusiasts, they love watersports and enjoying the outside patios and sundeck above the boathouse.

HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED AND WHAT WAS YOUR BRIEF? I had worked with this couple to update their primary home in 2018, so they were very trusting in allowing my firm to take the lead on the design decisions. My clients' style is sophisticated but liveable. They wanted a home that was modern and updated, but would be a comfortable place for their family to enjoy and also to entertain friends.

WHAT WERE THEIR BIGGEST PRIORITIES? Updating the home to create an aesthetic that was more in keeping with their modern sensibility and optimising both the interior and exterior living spaces to emphasise the lake views. The most important room, other than the four incredible outdoor spaces, was the main sitting room. It has an open and airy flow from the kitchen and is very versatile. Also the lower level living space, where they often gather around the bar and catch up with friends and family.

WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR THE SCHEME? I drew inspiration from the architecture of the home – particularly in the redesign of

DINING AREA
Combining an upholstered bench with natural woven dining chairs creates a laid-back, eclectic feel. Table, Old Biscayne Designs. Bench, Ballard Designs. London dining chairs, Where Saints Go, have this style



FAMILY ROOM
A rustic beam and whitewashed bricks have given the fireplace a new lease of life.

Tartan Natural wallpaper, Graham & Brown, is similar. Jackson pub table, Belle Meade Signature. Sofa, Lazar



MAIN BEDROOM
Floor-to-ceiling curtains create a luxurious feel. Curtains in Piccha Indigo/Oyster fabric, Peter Fasano. Gallery Interiors Sandon Rope bench in Natural, Olivia's, is an alternative

'THE MAIN BEDROOM OFFERS SOMETHING EXTRA SPECIAL - ITS OWN PRIVATE BALCONY WITH UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS OF THE WATER'



BATHROOM

Tall mirrors, which reflect the lake view, have been lined up with the panelling to create visual balance. Fuji Weave wallpaper, Phillip Jeffries



BEDROOM

Vintage oars tie in with the lakeside setting. Bed, Four Hands. Try Batela Giftware for similar decorative oars. Wobster table lamp in natural, Pooky, has this look



the sitting room. Here, I accentuated the slanted ceiling by adding reclaimed rustic beams as a focal point and resurfacing the full-height fireplace to create a design feature.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE?

The lower level family room presented the biggest challenge as the built-in cabinetry and bar were an integral part of the space but needed to be updated to be consistent with the rest of the house. To avoid replacing them, we brought in a speciality finisher who skilfully transformed the outdated finish by sanding it down and adding a blackened glaze, providing a completely new look. Finishing touches like the new cabinet hardware tied it all together seamlessly.

WHAT WAS THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT OF THIS PROJECT? The challenge of renovating within the existing structure pushed us to find innovative design solutions. Making the most of the smaller individual spaces was particularly rewarding, finding unique ways to maximise the available space and implement distinctive solutions.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME? When designing a new project, I always draw inspiration from the geographical location of the home. I look to incorporate a design thread that is carried throughout. It is a feeling, a vibe, a colour palette or blend of patterns and textures that make the overall scheme cohesive. I aim for a unified design perspective while allowing each room to feel unique.  [valeriegrantinteriors.com](https://www.valeriegrantinteriors.com)

BOATHOUSE

The restored boathouse features a sun terrace. Try Teak stackable sun lounger, Chic Teak. Neptune has similar garden parasols

