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BEST OF STYLE

The Ultimate Guide to Luxury
Living in Philadelphia

As far as the eye can sea, ocean views abound at this contemporary Longport property. *by* MADISON DUDDY

Beachy Keen



From top: The great room's ocean views immediately pull you in; a nook in the primary suite.

As spring flowers fade to green, Philadelphians begin the great Shore migration. And if you thought their city penthouses were magnificent, wait until you see the coastal estates. One local couple created the ultimate seaside oasis in Longport, New Jersey, thanks to Bergman Vass' (bergmanvass.com) full-service design team. The project began in July 2020 with the help of builder John Hale and SOSH Architects. Two years later, the clients' modern, bright Malibu-style home came to life, featuring ›



Clockwise from top left: A quartzite backsplash and countertops from Stonetech elevate the kitchen; the dining room features a Gregorious Pineo table; chocolate brown marble in the powder room resembles the petrified wood one might find on the beach.



◀ inspirations from their favorite beach destinations. “Our client’s typical aesthetic is more collected, but when designing this home, they wanted to create a truly peaceful and serene space,” says principal Dana Bergman Falcione. “They had spent a summer in the Hamptons and loved the sophistication of less is more, and wanted to take the opportunity to explore minimalism at the Jersey Shore.” Inside the 8,000-square-foot property, neutral tones and natural materials complement serene ocean views. Blue, white and sandy vistas take center stage in the great room through clerestory and wall-to-wall windows, while white oak details add architectural interest—think three-foot-tall sconces and a modern console. The home embraces a casual ambiance, yet there is an elegance to every detail. “While the home was, for the most

part, minimal and serene, allowing the ocean to be the focal point, we explored ways to add in subtle stripes, soft textures such as fringe in the textiles and patterns that give the sentiment of a beach escape,” notes creative partner Erica Vassalotti. Further into the five-bed, six-bath escape awaits a sleek kitchen with Japandi-style influences. Walnut cabinetry and quartzite countertops create a tranquil ambiance that doubles as a hostess’ dream. “Our ▶



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“client loves to entertain, so we got creative while designing the kitchen,” shares Bergman Falcione. “We created a double island: one was designed at counter height for cooking and another bar height island for entertaining.” Likewise, there is varied seating at the breakfast and bar islands, and a path that flows effortlessly between the working bar and dining area. Here, bronze-trimmed

windows frame the ocean vistas and evening cotton candy skies. To maximize the effect, Bergman Vass opted out of an overhead fixture, and the space doesn’t miss one. Three ceramic wall sconces from Ralph Pucci offer an artistic touch and ambient lighting as the sun kisses the horizon. Upstairs, the primary bedroom’s tranquil details flirt with the ocean views, such as relaxed linens in whites,

creams and taupes, soft lines and reeded wood. Every detail, from the bed to the horizontally proportioned night table, ensures the eyes glide freely across the room and into the ocean. One can enjoy coffee on the attached balcony or the bedroom’s cozy reading nook. This serene sanctuary continues into the organic, spalike en suite. Marble slabs with a horizontal grain, a bespoke bleached ›

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—ERICA VASSALOTTI



The team chose colors for the primary suite to complement the landscape.



◀ walnut vanity with integrated hardware and a polished nickel faucet from Waterworks complete the haven. These eye-catching details, as well as bay and sunset views, elevate routine moments like a shower. Outside, an integrated pool sits tucked beside the dunes, offering a refreshing reprieve from the hot summer sun.

Even the primary bath features views in the shower.