

Home[®]



The Remodeling and Decorating Resource

EASY SUMMER LIVING

6 OPEN-AIR DREAM HOUSES

FIND YOUR STYLE
A ROOM-BY-ROOM GUIDE

JUNE 2002

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CLEAN

LIGHT

Sets and chair upholstery: J.M. Uphostery. Sofa: J.W.A. Furniture. Carpet: Stark Carpet Corporation. Photographs: William Secord Gallery. Lamp: Wyeth. Throw (on ottoman): Jeffrey Aranoff. Custom-made butterfly chair covers and bench cushion (left side): M. Uphostery. Umbrella and vases (outside): Carmine DiPietra (outside). Said Powell Designs. Plaques (outside): Calvin Klein Home.

A photograph of a modern house with a large white patio umbrella and a hammock on the deck. The house has a flat roof and large windows. The deck is made of wood and is surrounded by greenery. A white hammock is strung across the deck, and a large white patio umbrella is open. The house is set against a clear blue sky.

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Design: John Krill. Custom-made low stools and slipcovers on: Cathie Martin. Plants: The Garden Company. Dining area: J.M. Lapidary. Round table: John Krill.

Expansive outdoor decks off the living area and bedrooms and a rooftop deck, almost double the house's square footage and blur the line between indoor and outdoor living. It's a perfect formula for casual days at the beach. Meals are taken as often on the outdoor deck as at the table in the kitchen; Bierman finds himself sitting in whichever butterfly chair offers the proper sun or shade at the moment.

White cotton duck slipcovers on furniture throughout function a bit like the sheets that covered everything during the off season in summerhouses of old. Their easy-care style means this retreat is ready whenever the owners arrive from New York City. No thought has to go into preparing the house beyond adding a few flowers or stopping for some local produce. Those seasonal elements, arranged in

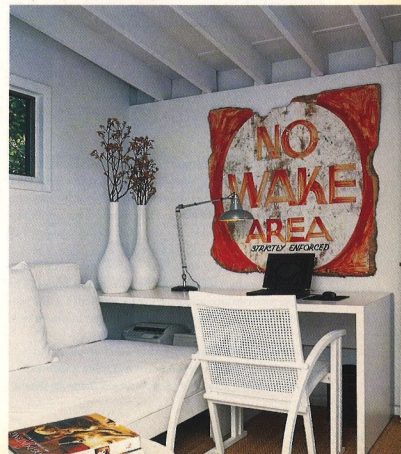
vases and on trays, provide splashes of color in an otherwise monochrome palette. Bierman decided early on to dress the house in white to keep the attention focused on the view.

"Although soothing and serene, you have to be very careful with white," Bierman cautions. "It can be very cold, very sterile. But we have the sea grass on the floor to anchor it." The sea grass floor covering is matched by the casual nature of the slipcovered upholstery. Wash-and-wear slipcovers take some of the fear out of living with an all-white setting.

The house wasn't always so light and ethereal. When Bierman first saw the home 20 years ago, the interior was done in shades of avocado and gold, with dark brown cabinetry in the kitchen and bathroom. He gradually worked on renovations that involved mainly painting, refinishing, and lightening up the rooms. The kitchen was outfitted in simple white laminate cabinets and set with laminate furniture.

Several mirrored panels added to one master bedroom wall make the rather small space feel more expansive. Bierman designed the custom-upholstered headboard that runs from wall to wall. With one long pillow instead of two, the headboard also helps to visually expand the room. In fact, Bierman liked the results so much that he copied the

THE ALL-WHITE SETTING ACTS AS A BACKDROP FOR COLORFUL DISPLAYS OF FLOWERS.



These pages The kitchen is outfitted with white laminate cabinets and furniture, to keep the focus on the view. **Right** The guest room/office space (furnished with a laminate desk) has a daybed that's perfect for napping. The desk chair is a Paris flea-market find while the colorful sign is a local relic, found discarded on the beach.



SINCE THE OWNERS TRAVEL OFTEN FOR BUSINESS, IT'S RELAXING TO ESCAPE ANONYMOUS HOTEL ROOMS FOR FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS.

headboard for the bedroom of his Palm Beach carriage house. He explains that since he and Secord travel so much for business, it is relaxing to escape anonymous hotel rooms for recognizable surroundings. "It's nice to have something familiar and comfortable. I just took it to the next level by duplicating the room," Bierman says.

Brand new touches are added every summer in order to perfect the spalike serenity of the Fire Island house. The bathroom was redone about two years ago with a white vanity, porcelain vessel basin, and a few simple hooks to hold

Above An expanse of mirrored panels and white-painted beams brighten the master bedroom and make it look and feel bigger than it actually is. See Resource Guide for details.

plush white towels and robes. A print propped on the counter is from Secord's gallery and reflects his specialty of 19th-century dog paintings and prints.

The whole atmosphere is easy care, requiring little thought beyond how to enjoy the beach setting. Even the guest room/office space offers a comfortable environment where one can stretch out for a nap on the daybed or do some reading or paperwork while sitting at the desk.

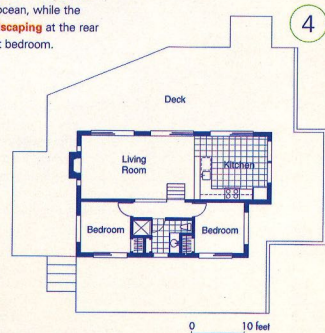
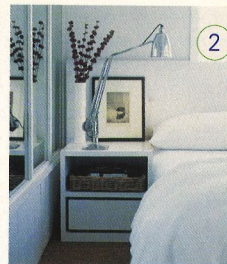
Entertaining tends to involve neighbors and friends dropping in for meals or drinks. "When people come over, it's casual and never a big deal," says Bierman. "You wave at people on the beach, they come over and pull up a chair and a plate and join us in whatever we're having. It's a beach house. It's all about relaxing."



Custom-made furniture (in bedroom): J.W.A. Furniture. Custom-made upholstered bed headboard: J.M. Lightbulbs. Long bed pillow: Calvin Klein Home. Lamp in bedroom: Wyeth. Framed art (in bedroom and in sink area): William Secord Gallery. Mirror: The Terrace Cover Shop.



1. In the living room, a combination of pictures, greenery, and carpeting keep white furnishings from looking too sterile. Monochrome flowers add a soothing note of color. **2. A print on the bedside table** in the bedroom is from Secord's gallery. The white linens make for a cool, clean, and airy atmosphere. **3. A porcelain vessel basin** and simple towel hooks add spalike touches to the master bath. **4. The beach house** has a horizontal layout. Living areas are located at the front facing the ocean, while the private deck areas are located at the rear. **5. Lush landscaping** at the rear of the house adds to the private-oasis feel of the guest bedroom.



design details