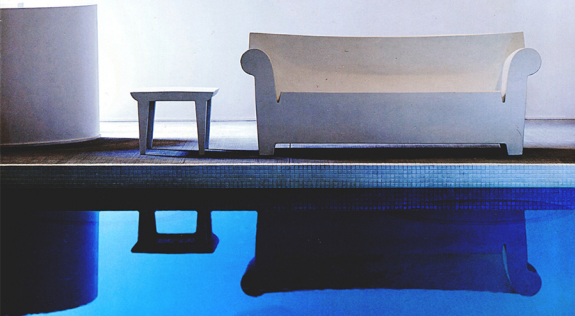


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COASTAL VIBE Opposite: Architect Bobby Han added 450 square feet to the rear living spaces as well as a 70-square-foot deck that overlooks and leads down to the garden. Left: In the dining room, Hamilton enlisted artist Emma Tapley to create a layered wall treatment that evokes the feeling of being below the sea. An abstract, coral-patterned silk-and-wool rug from Stephanie Odegard Collection keeps to theme. Above the mantel, which was original to the space, Maison Charles bronze coral lamps keep company with a Venetian goldfish the couple found on their travels. "Everything you see is deeply personal—in the Ochre chandelier above the 9-foot-long dining table, the client added turquoise crystals left over from a previous Christmas party," says Hamilton. Below: A Jun Ho credenza from Dennis Miller and a lamp from Rico are paired with a sentimental painting and dried-out leis from a trip to Hawaii. "A lot of the objets d'art remind the client of an overwhelmingly happy place to be," says Hamilton. And as for the mai tai glasses, "It's always cocktail time."

INTERIOR DESIGN HAMILTON DESIGN ASSOCIATES
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THE LIFE AQUATIC

INTERIOR DESIGNER ELLEN HAMILTON CREATES A YEAR-ROUND BEACH HOUSE IN ONE OF NEW YORK'S MOST PICTURESQUE NEIGHBORHOODS

THE HISTORY OF A NEIGHBORHOOD AND THE ARCHITECTURAL STYLE OF A HOUSE often tend to predicate the décor. In the case of this c. 1870 Federal Style house located in one of New York's most picturesque, tree-lined neighborhoods, though, things took a turn for the unexpected. When interior designer Ellen Hamilton began working again with this couple with three young children, it quickly became apparent that they wanted to transform their Brooklyn Heights home into a year-round beach house—seasons, history, styles, and conformity be damned.

"I cannot emphasize enough," says Hamilton, "that every detail in this house expresses a strong personal narrative, specifically the wife's." Having grown up between Coral Gables, FL, and Nova Scotia, CAN, she had strong ties to the sights, sounds, and allure of maritime living. The couple wanted their home to reflect this.

To help create the more atmospheric, unfurled feel of a house on the beach, architect Bobby Han added 450 square feet to the rear of the house, expanding the living areas and opening them up to the garden. Han also excavated a basement level that became a billiards room and connected the first-floor/garden-level family and play rooms to the garden, enlivening the space. The top two levels were kept for the private rooms.

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