



READY for the WEEKEND

For an active, sports-loving family, John Kureck and Doug Jones conceive a retreat in East Hampton that reinvigorates and refines the idea of a simple house by the sea

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In the family room of a weekend home in East Hampton, New York, designed by John Kureck and Doug Jones, the sofa is by B&B Italia, the vintage Hans Wegner chair from Wyeth has cushions in a fabric by A&T for Living, the cocktail table is from C.J. Peters, and the floor lamp is from Joseph Starved Antiques; the curtains are of a Clarence House fabric, the rug is by Orvis Shabangang, and the steel casement windows are by Custom Windows. OPPOSITE: The bench in the foyer is by Custom Windows. OPPOSITE: The bench in the foyer is by Valeriu Loulaman, the circa-1950 chandelier is by MA&A Amsterdam, the vintage Persian rug is from Nestlé, the artwork is by Idris Khan, and the walls are painted in a hue by Farrow & Ball. For details, see Resources



says Kureck, “from a plot of dirt to a home.” The challenge? The family wanted to move in within a year. Kureck and Jones’s experience with interiors, combined with their years working at architectural firms prior to launching their own business, allowed them to take a more holistic approach to the project, Jones says. “As designers, we would always come in after construction was done, at a point where we couldn’t do much about a lot—where there might already be in place, say, a grid of lights that would shine on your head and make you look like a monster. This job afforded us the opportunity to use what we’ve learned.” One of those lessons is to create rooms “based on the way people really live in them,” he continues, adding that too often, “architects start with volumes of space and say, ‘This is going to be the living room, that’s going to be the dining room.’” On this project, the designers conferred with the clients on every detail: Would the wife be able to keep her eye on the kids playing in the yard while she worked in the kitchen? Did the children have a place to toss wet towels upon returning from the beach? The husband and wife’s varying tastes were satisfied evenhandedly. “The materials and form are traditional, which appealed to him,” says Kureck. Indeed, the house pays a subtle tribute to the quiet Shingle Style aesthetic of the original structure, whose wide oak wall panels were reproduced and finished to look “soft and old and waxed,” he says. At the same time,

the dormers were given a more streamlined shape that pleased the wife. The formal living room has a stone fireplace based on an early-18th-century design—the living space suggests the parlor of a Colonial inn—while in the nearby dining area, the table’s plaster base evokes Calderesque sculpture. Throughout the house, rich blues and autumnal rusts mix with mellow woods and busy patterns (including a neon-bright tropical-leaf wallpaper in a guest room). The interior doors were blackened using shou-sugi-ban, the Japanese technique of charring wood. Materials nod to the industrial history of the American Northeast: The family room fireplace is topped with an 11-foot granite mantel that was once a foundation stone of a Maine train station, while the chimney bricks come from the demolished Columbia Bicycle factory in Massachusetts. And each room has at least one showstopper, such as the 1960s chandelier in the entry, which was salvaged from a Belgian theater, or an antique urinal in the surf bath, a room for changing into and out of wet gear. “Doug and John are good at finding out-of-the-box ideas,” says the wife. “They don’t fall into the trap of just using what’s super trendy right now.” With the help of the Studio Marchetti architecture firm and the skilled workers of John Hummel and Associates contractor, the house was, as requested, completed within a year—just in time for summer. Says Jones, “We have photos of the entire lawn being rolled out four days before they moved in.” ■



The tub in the master bath is by Appaloosa, the wall sconce design, the chair, chandelier, the sconces are by Eric Schmitt, and the dining table and chairs are by Vitale works. OPPOSITE: In the master bedroom, the F&A Rocophone chandelier (inset) is from Abate 2000, and Tapio Wirkkala floor lamp from White. The dining table is sold by A&V, the curtains are of a Zak+Fox linen, the rug is by Haris and the walls are painted in Ammonite by Farrow & Ball. For details, see Resources.