

Wood Drift

A couple embark on a thorough—but highly respectful—renovation of their longtime dream house with architect Page Goolrick.

TEXT BY
Arlene Hirst
PHOTOS BY
Pia Ulin

PROJECT
Dune House
ARCHITECT
Gene Futterman
RENOVATION ARCHITECT
Page Goolrick Architect
LOCATION
Amagansett, New York



The cypress-clad Amagansett home designed by architect Gene Futterman in the 1970s sports an unusual profile with triangular peaks and valleys above beachfront dunes (opposite). A renovation by Page Goolrick includes the addition of a deck with a chlorine-free pool (above) and triangular guesthouse.

For several years, a group of young New Yorkers banded together to spend summer weekends in the town of Amagansett, a charming village on the South Fork of Long Island. Over time, two of them fell in love. In 1999, he proposed to her on the beach, near an imposing, cypress-clad house that they fantasized about owning. Soon, they decamped to London for work, but they missed their Long Island summers and often came back for vacations.

On one trip, they discovered that their special house was for sale. Their first impulse was to buy it. But they knew it was a wildly impractical idea and decided against it. When they returned the following summer, the house was still on the market. “It was falling down; it was a wreck,” she says. “But we always felt we would love it to be our house, and we found ourselves in a better position to take it on.”

The house needed lots of repairs, but they bought it anyway. The couple weren’t interested in something

bigger or grand; they wanted what was already there, only in better shape. A friend recommended Page Goolrick. “She seemed to get it immediately,” says the wife, who formed a close bond with the Manhattan-based architect. “We were on the same wavelength.”

The 1,700-square-foot house—which Gene Futterman designed in the 1970s and, from the outside, looks like a series of irregular triangles—is sited on a dune just a few hundred yards from the Atlantic Ocean. Honoring the owners’ wishes, Goolrick cleaned up the wood-filled interior spaces and added more usable space on the exterior in the form of a two-story mahogany deck with a swimming pool, pool house, and outdoor shower. Goolrick reworked the entry, a meandering stairway that seems to float over the landscape. “Steps leading to the main house were designed to hover above the sand so one is aware of the dune while ascending, and the structure treads lightly on the ground,” she says. >



The shelving surrounding the fireplace in the double-height living room (above left) has eight different depths to accommodate a chimney, two closets, a television, stereo equipment, and an attached desk on the second floor. A Dean sectional sofa from Room & Board is paired with an antique Boomerang chair.

Sons Owen and Walker strike a pose in the stairwell, one of the few places in the house that are clad in wallboard (above right). To illuminate the space, Goolrick installed large windows and a skylight.

The adjacent dining room and kitchen (left) sport a six-bulb Branching Bubble chandelier by Lindsey Adelman Studio. Custom cabinetry is faced in Douglas fir plywood for the cooking zone and cypress for the cleanup zone. Durable, tactile bluestone tile is used throughout the first floor.

She made no grand interventions but used subtle tweaks to great effect throughout the house, transforming it in the process. The double-height living room still dominates the first floor, but she added cypress-clad casework to frame and define the space. “When designing homes near the beach,” Goolrick says, “I minimize the amount of Sheetrock, opting for materials that allow for expansion and contraction to celebrate the effect salt air has on a structure.”

The house is basically “just one big room with a bunch of places to sleep,” says the wife. To maximize the space, the architect adjusted the existing master bedroom and guest room—both sited on the second floor, overlooking the main living space—and added a scant 150 square feet to the back of the house. The family and their many guests congregate in the south-facing, open-plan living area. A simple galley kitchen runs the length of one wall, where a workstation across from the galley is constructed from rough-

hewn Douglas fir plywood, which Goolrick compares to “art packing crates.” Bluestone covers the public floors throughout the ground floor.

With solar panels on the roof, a geothermal heating system, and operable skylights for ventilation and natural cooling, the house is designed to be green. “It’s a second home, and we fly a long distance to get here,” says the wife, “so we wanted to be as sensitive to the environment as possible.” Another Goolrick touch is a wood-and-steel screen that runs the length of the south glass facade, inviting in low winter sun while shielding the space from hot summer rays.

Much like a ship, where every corner is used, the house features myriad nooks, crannies, and built-ins, from trundle bunk beds for the couple’s two boys to a laundry center tucked under the stair and wall-mounted toilets in the bathrooms. Goolrick also installed pocket doors throughout—a space saver that underscores the idea of the house as one big room. □



Sconces by David Weeks illuminate the custom marine plywood storage wall—built by Ciuffo Carpentry—that divides the master bedroom from the open bathroom (far left).

All of the ceilings and floors in the upstairs bedrooms are clad in wide-plank walnut, because, says Goolrick, “it’s soft and warm.” The boys’ bunk room (left) is decked out with animal-printed bed linens from Dwell Studio. Blue Jieldé sconces enable reading at bedtime.



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Dune House Floor Plan

- A Pool
- B Deck
- C Kitchen
- D Living Room
- E Bedroom
- F Bathroom
- G Master Bedroom
- H Master Bedroom
- I Pool House
- J Outdoor Shower