

Overlooking France's Bay of Arcachon, this family holiday home, decorated in the traditional style of the neighboring oyster farmers' huts, allows for a dream retreat . . . and feet in the water!

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FRENCH VIEWS. Past the bay and its salt marshes, Arcachon and the Dune du Pilat stand out in the distance.

Seashells by the *Seashore*

SAND SPECIES. The landscaper, Eddy Herriau, imagined the sandy garden, with its local plant species and wooden palisades, as a continuation of the beach.



ABOVE | HEART OF STONE. The former stone house was completely redesigned and covered in painted cladding.

RIGHT | SEASIDE GARDEN. The garden opens onto the beach and the natural salt marsh reserves, which are covered by the ocean at high tide.

The bay's landscape takes us on a constant journey according to the ocean's fluctuations and between the verdant scene of the natural salt marsh reserves and the beautiful marine composition. The owners, expatriated abroad, were looking to create a family home in France.

"Finding this idyllic place was a dream come true for the sea-loving boaters. They bought it more for its location than for the building itself—a house with 1970s ochre plaster," explains architect Sandrine Mercurio, who oversaw the property's transformation, along with Sylvie Langaud, the interior designer from Agence Paule M. "The clients really liked Sylvie's house that we built in Cap Ferret, France, several years ago. They gave us *carte blanche*," she confides.





STYLISH STORAGE. The impressively large island is not only a statement piece, it also serves as storage via its enclosed cabinets and drawers on one side and open shelving on the other.



BEACH GLASS BEAUTY. The kitchen, designed by Paule M, was made to measure. In addition, the floor tiles were encrusted with polished beach glass ["Piastrelle" in bordeaux].

RAISE THE ROOF

The idea was to give a local maritime color to the future beach cabin's architecture and to crown it with the bay's typical ridgepoles. Because the former walls could not legally be destroyed, the stonework was covered in wood.

The challenge was to accommodate three bedrooms and a dormitory in the house's initial footprint.



UNITED BORDERS. The dining area was enhanced by a blue band to recall the tones of the kitchen.



TERRIFIC TERRACE.
Breakfast is enjoyed
opposite the bay and
its perpetually moving
landscapes.

“When the gate is
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huge garden.”



ABOVE | TURNKEY DESIGN. The interior designer, Agence Paule M’s Sylvie Langaud, worked together with Sandrine Mercurio’s architectural agency to deliver a turnkey project to the owners. “There was nothing left to do when they arrived,” they both noted.

BELOW | SEASIDE SPIRIT. The interior was given a fresh and laid-back seaside spirit—in perfect harmony with the surrounding landscape.





ABOVE | DREAMY PANORAMA. Thanks to its wide window, the primary bedroom overlooks the enchanting seaside panorama.

LEFT | HALF AND HALF. To accommodate as many rooms as possible within the limited footprint, half-levels were created.

"We were not allowed to extend it. We therefore raised the roof to create an upper floor and arranged staggered levels. Getting all the rooms in was a bit like playing a game of Tetris!" admits architect Sandrine.

This rearrangement added 323 square feet to the original 1,108 square feet. The bedrooms were moved to the rear of the house to leave the exposed framework and a high ceiling in the living room, thus increasing the feeling of volume.

RELAXED AND EASYGOING

The interior, harmoniously paneled to coordinate with the façade, combines the blue-and-white seaside spirit.

"The owners had no particular style requirements," Sylvie recalls. They just wanted to give it a relaxed and easygoing atmosphere. This is a beach house where everyone is in and out the whole time."

The designer limited herself to just two shades for the walls and the joinery: "Lichen de Granit" and "Mid Medici Blue" by Ressource.

ABOVE | BLENDED BATHROOM. The maritime colors in the bathroom blend in perfectly with the rest of the house.

RIGHT | CHILD'S PLAY. The owner wanted to recall the atmosphere of his childhood holidays by creating a dormitory where the children could have fun together late into the evening.

"This is a beach house
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in and out the whole time."

"I created a unity of color and style throughout the house. The color in the dining room recalls the kitchen's tones and is further reflected in the bedrooms and bathrooms."

These subtle blues, tinged with greens and grays, blend in with the natural surroundings—as does the sandy garden, with its local plant species.

"When the gate is opened onto the beach, it feels as if it's all just one huge garden." **CM**

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SANDRINE MERCURIO ARCHITECTURE, VISIT WWW.SANDRINEMERCURIO.COM. FOR MORE ABOUT INTERIOR DESIGNER SYLVIE LANGAUD, VISIT PAULE-M.FR.

