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vacation at home

On the river in Little Silver

Cool cabanas

Make the most of
your landscape

Choosing stone & tile flooring

A year-round VACATION



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A Little Silver designer creates a home that feels like a vacation destination



Opposite and top: Two nineteenth-century antiques — a grandfather clock and a Jacobean armchair — give the airy foyer character. Clean-lined molding and recessed paneled walls, typical of a shingle-style home, are painted a semigloss white for rich contrast with the Brazilian cherry floor. Floral arrangements by Bill Hazley of Foggia Florist in Oceanport. **Above:** The home is modeled after coastal structures built in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The architect gave it a spacious feel by providing an ample flow between spaces and using numerous windows and French doors that open to views of the Shrewsbury River.

FOR ONE GROWING FAMILY a move from Oceanport to Little Silver was an opportunity to create a home that would make them feel like they are on vacation — all the time.

“The wife wanted that relaxed, island vacation sort of feeling” for the new five-bedroom home, says designer Patricia Turchyn of Patricia Turchyn Interiors in Little Silver. Turchyn designed the home’s interiors with assistance from Joan Norkus, a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers and a state certified interior designer whose firm is Boxwood LLC of Colts Neck. Located on the “prettiest

street in Little Silver,” Turchyn says, the house is a shingle colonial style modeled after regional coastal homes built during the latter half of the nineteenth century. It was designed by Anderson Campanella Architects in Rumson.

“The house backs up to the Shrewsbury River, and all the rooms except for the dining room have gorgeous views of the river,” Turchyn says. Given that stunning natural feature — as well as the architect’s plan for ample flow between spaces and generous use of windows and French doors — the designers guarded against overdecorating.

“In other homes I’ve done, the clients wanted it much more decorated,” Turchyn says. “This couple wanted it less decorated and more relaxed, sophisticated but beachy. I wanted the architecture and the furniture to speak for itself.”

Her clients had two children when they moved into the new home seven years ago. Their family has since grown to five chil-



Opposite top: A sofa and chairs compose an intimate seating group before the fireplace in the living room. Silk drapes with a large blue and cream check frame the windows. The look is a simple, clean version of traditional. Floral arrangements in these rooms by Bill Hazley of Foggia Florist in Oceanport. **Opposite bottom:** The formal dining room, dominated by a banquet-size mahogany double-pedestal table, mixes traditional and contemporary design. Patricia Turchyn introduced a contemporary note by customizing the table and chairs, which are cream linen with bronze nail heads, and covering the walls in grass cloth with a hand-printed formal design in a subtle light green tone. “The grass cloth plays down the formal design,” she says. **This page:** To make the very long family room multifunctional, Turchyn backed a chenille sofa with a table that acts as a room divider for a casual dining area with a mahogany pedestal table and chairs. A large antique mirror over the table reflects the other side of the room and adds depth. Built-ins adjacent to the mirror house stereo equipment. In addition to the sofa, seating options include two cream upholstered chairs, a frame chair with cane back and sides, and a bamboo bench with a batik cover in a blue that’s picked up in throw pillows. The cream Oriental rug has touches of blue and chocolate. Raw silk drapes dress the windows. For the painting over the fireplace Patricia Turchyn commissioned local artist Judy Stach to depict a scene that can be viewed from the deck of the house. The painting serves a practical as well as an artistic purpose. Painted on canvas, it rests on a board that hides a flat-screen television. Using a remote, the homeowners can raise the painting (behind the wall) to reveal the television.



dren. “With five kids, how relaxed are you going to be?” Turchyn asks. “If you can’t be relaxed in your everyday life, you must surround yourself with things that are relaxing and soothing to look at.”

Stress-Free

To accomplish that, the designer opted for “clean lines, light colors, and soft furnishings,” the kind of environment that promotes a stress-free, being-on-vacation atmos-

phere. “There isn’t a lot of embellishment on the fabrics, for example; no fringe, no bullion,” says Turchyn, who used linens, cottons, and silks and a color scheme predominated by shades of blue along with soft greens and tans.

The furniture is mostly traditional, but Turchyn mixed styles in some rooms where she felt that was in order. She introduced a contemporary bent to the dining room and master bedroom, for instance.

“I wanted a chunky dining room table so I had an

Opposite top: A walnut pedestal table anchors a light-filled informal dining area off the kitchen. The chairs have cane backs to lighten their look, while an antique nickel chandelier provides a weighty touch to balance the table, designer Patricia Turchyn says. Window treatments — a blue and camel floral print on linen — provide a dash of color. In the kitchen, transom windows over the sink, bead board under the recessed paneled white cabinets, and a white subway tile backsplash above the range create a relaxed look. **Opposite bottom:** The master bedroom “feels like a resort in the islands,” Turchyn says. There’s a view of a neighbor’s dock from the king-size four-poster bed, which has a cane head and footboard. Cream drapes with a band of blue adorn windows with arched transoms. A comfy cream chaise lounge nestles in one corner. **Above:** There’s a warm, cozy feel to the office/library, whose focal point is a large mahogany desk surrounded by mahogany shelves filled with antique books. The chairs, drapes, and rug lighten the space. The chairs are a butterscotch, green, and rust stripe; the Oushak rug is cream and light rust; and the drapes are butterscotch, pale green, and brown windowpane check. “They look like a gentleman’s blazer,” Turchyn says.

apron put on it,” she says of the double pedestal table. She also customized the dining table chairs, which are cream linen with bronze nail heads but feature turned legs for a more traditional feel. The light fixtures are huge simple bell jars that hold their own in the room without creating a heavy look.

The living room, on the other hand, is traditional, though it’s a clean-lined, soft version of traditional. The intimate seating area in front of the fireplace includes a cream-colored chenille sofa and cushy, patterned easy chairs separated by a lacquered coffee table. An antique drop-leaf table sits beside the sofa.

Turchyn replaced the original sisal rug in the living room — as well as one in the family room — with Orientals in shades of blue. The sisals formed a neutral background and imparted a simple look, while traditional Orientals “often scream heavy and are a little bit more contrived,” she says. In this case, however, the Orientals ground the rooms and provide more of a punch, she adds.

Unique & Antique

Turchyn likes to find “special and unique” things to incorporate into her designs, and she travels all over the U.S. and abroad to find them. A trip to New Orleans netted a grand old grandfather clock the clients had requested for the foyer.

The designer, who managed an antiques store in Little Silver for many years before launching her interior design business, likes to decorate with antiques. “They are truly unique and they usually hold their value,” she notes. Finding the grandfather clock proved to be a challenge. “I looked everywhere and I just couldn’t find anything,” Turchyn says. “I showed them a lot of things but I knew in my heart they weren’t for them.” She finally found the right clock. A Scottish piece made by Byron of Edinburgh in the 1830s, the clock features a round top that mimics a ship’s porthole, she says. “I like to use nautical accessories without them being obvious,” Turchyn adds, a particularly apt move for these clients because they own a boat. The designer also used bulls-eye mirrors over two matching antique chinoiserie chests in the master bedroom sitting room. The circles of the mirrors are reminiscent of ships’ portholes.

Turchyn’s clients wanted all of their furniture in place and the lion’s share of the design completed by the time they moved into their new home. That left the designer eight months to do the job — another challenge and one perhaps bigger than finding a grandfather clock.

“That is almost impossible for one person to accomplish in a timely fashion,” she says, adding that’s where colleague Joan Norkus’ assistance was essential. Her clients helped, as well, in terms of taste and attitude. “It was a pleasure working with the homeowners as they both have very good taste,” she says. “They trusted my judgment when it came to important design decisions, and the project proved to be a pleasant, unstressful process.” Nearly as unstressful as the soothing, vacation-feel home Turchyn designed.



Above left: Cream and green striped wallpaper covers the walls of the seven-year-old daughter's bedroom. The antique bed, painted white, is dressed in a pale green matelassé coverlet and pink floral duvet. **Above right:** The nine-year-old son's love of sports is reflected in his bedroom, designed to grow with him. The twin beds with navy blue wood headboards wear duvets covered with depictions of "every sports piece of equipment you can think of," Patricia Turchyn says. Built-ins hold the boy's collection of sports memorabilia. **Right:** A greenish aqua toile covers the custom headboards of twin beds for the homeowner's four- and two-year-old daughters' bedroom. Bright, but soothing, the room has white and tan pinstriped wallpaper and plaid drapes. For "something different and special," Patricia Turchyn placed milk glass plates with cutwork above the beds.



Far left: A white iron crib holds pride of place in the nursery. The pale green toile linens, bed skirt, and canopy are complemented by cream and green striped drapes. A pale green wall unit serves as a utility and accent piece. **Left:** Crowning the play - room is a whimsical light fixture depicting a hot-air balloon in an antique rust finish. Images of hot-air balloons adorn the red and cream sofa, while the box-pleated valance sports a complementary red plaid. The checked wool rug is red, white, and cream.

SOURCES Overall: interior design, Patricia Turchyn Interiors in Little Silver with assistance from Joan Norkus of Boxwood LLC in Colts Neck; architect, Anderson Campanella Architects in Rumson; builder, Stuart MacGregor in Red Bank; custom window treatment fabric, duvets, shams, pillows, cushions, Peary Upholstery in Atlantic Highlands; flowers, Foggia Florist in Oceanport. **Foyer:** rug, Nazmiyal in Red Bank; stair runner, F. Schumacher & Co. in New York City; light fixtures, Charles Edwards in London; grandfather clock, Curzon Hall Antiques in New Orleans; chair, Antique Center of Red Bank in Red Bank. **Living Room:** sofa, Wesley Hall in Hickory, North Carolina; chairs, coffee table, and window treatment fabric, Lee Jofa in Bethpage, New York; rug, Nazmiyal. **Dining Room:** table, Agostino Antiques in Red Bank, customized by Patricia Turchyn Interiors; chairs, Artistic Frame Co. in New York City, customized by Patricia Turchyn Interiors; light fixtures, Ann Morris Antiques in New York City; wallpaper, First Editions Wallpaper in New York City; window treatment fabric, Duralee Fabrics in Bayshore, New York. **Family Room:** sofa, Wesley Hall with fabric by Lee Jofa; upholstered chairs, Lee Industries in Newton, North Carolina with fabric by Lee Jofa; cane chair, Edward Ferrell in High Point, North Carolina; bench, Vizzini & Co. in Red Bank; coffee table, Hinson & Co. in New York City; window treatment fabric, Hines & Co. in New York City; rug, Orica in Secaucus; painting over the fireplace, Judy Stach in Little Silver. **Dining Area Off Kitchen:** table, Bausman &

Co. in Ontario, California; chairs, Artistic Frame Co., customized by Patricia Turchyn Interiors; rug, Weinstein Flooring in Little Silver; chandelier, Watkins & Fonthill in New York City; window treatment fabric, Brunschwig & Fils in North White Plains, New York. **Kitchen:** design and custom cabinetry, David Chiarella of Creative Kitchens in Red Bank; countertops, Bedrock Granite in Edison; backsplash, Country Floors in Los Angeles; light fixture, Ann Morris Antiques. **Master Bedroom:** bed, British Khaki in New York City; chaise, Baker Knapp & Tubbs (T) with fabric by Donghia; rug, Weinstein Flooring; window treatment fabric, Cowtan & Tout in New York City. **Office:** desk, Mill House Antiques in Little Silver; chairs and fabric, Lee Jofa; rug, Nazmiyal; shutters, Monmouth Beach Plantation Shutters in Monmouth Beach. **Pink Girls Bedroom:** bed, T. Berry Square in Red Bank; wallpaper and window treatment fabric, Hinson & Co. **Boy's Bedroom:** beds, Pottery Barn Kids; duvet fabric, Duralee Fabrics; built-in shelves and cabinetry, Shrewsbury Craftsman in Shrewsbury. **Green Girls Bedroom:** custom headboards, Patricia Turchyn Interiors with fabric by Greef, a division of F. Schumacher & Co.; window treatment fabric, Duralee; chest, Ark Antiques in Moonachie. **Nursery:** fabric for crib and bookshelf, Kidegories in Shrewsbury; window treatment fabric, Cowtan & Tout. **Playroom:** chandelier, Lighting New York in New York City; sofa, Ashley Manor in High Point, North Carolina with fabric from Wesley Hall; rug, Karastan in Dalton, Georgia; valance, Duralee. T=To the Trade.