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# SEASIDE *Style*

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Dennis Duffy designed the dining table with twin pedestal bases and a milky-white resin top, as well as the twin buffet cabinets. The ethereal glass-drop chandelier is accented with patinated bronze.

# Well Done

An elegant seaside home takes a sophisticated, modern approach in its style.

By Jacqueline deMontravel  
Photography by Richard Mandelkorn  
Designed and styled by Dennis Duffy

A waterfront home does not have to be designed in seashells and starfish. For a sophisticated look that complements the coastal environment, there is subtlety in what's not overstated. Softer, natural shades allow quality pieces and furnishings to shine. A confident display is presented in this southern Maine home overlooking the rocky coast. Dennis Duffy, principal of the Duffy Design Group, met the homeowners' aesthetically modern, elegant sensibilities with an attention to classic detailing and quality and by preserving the basic foundation of the house.

A four-season room running the length of the house affords porch sitting year round. The focus is always on the view.



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## STYLE INSIGHT

To get the look, follow these Dennis Duffy design principles.

### ACCESSORIES

Accessories are the final layer of a design and should provide more of the ornamental character of the project—much like a great piece of jewelry that completes a fashionable outfit.

### PALETTE

A neutral palette allows the exterior environment to be more of a focal point.

### COHESION

Don't strive for a styled look; rather the goal is to create an environment that is balanced and harmonious, with enough elements of contrast to provide visual interest.

### FUNCTION WITH STYLE

Both the functional and aesthetic goals are gleaned from the client's goals and aspirations. The function is primary to achieve and the aesthetic direction is then paired with it.

### COLOR

Color, or even the absence of it, can be very effective.

### MAKING AN ENTRANCE

"We eliminated a small vestibule at the entrance of the house to allow for direct sight lines and in the process needed to demolish the stairs. In creating the new staircase, I chose to use antique glass for visual transparency and incorporated the teak framing and steel cables as a nod to nautical fittings," explains Dennis.

For more information on the Duffy Design Group: (617) 765-8175 or [duffydesigngroup.com](http://duffydesigngroup.com).

**(Above right)** A once awkward space now serves as a peaceful sitting room located near the front entry.

**(Right)** Formerly a series of cramped rooms, the now spacious entry way opens to a light-filled living space. An antique scale found at a Paris flea market graces the entry.





A renovated guest bath and shower take full advantage of the view of the shoreline and water beyond.



(Above) Many of the existing architectural details were preserved, such as the wood-beamed living area and the oak flooring, which was refinished with a rich coffee stain. New elements, like the contemporary limestone fireplace surround and the stair railing of seeded glass, teak and steel cabling, complement those details. Modern furnishings are sleek and stylish, paired with an eclectic mix of vintage items.



(Above) First floor powder room is highlighted with a custom teak vanity and wood veneer wallcovering.

(Above left) The second floor sitting room is furnished with comfortable leather wing chairs and an antique game table.