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Living on the
Water

RED SQUARE

Cedar Lined
With its red cedar siding from Landon Lumber and an intentional lack of detailing, the home of architect Julie Schaffer happily coexists with its incredible waterfront surroundings. See Resources.

This boxy beachfront getaway is packed with vivid color and panoramic views

BY MINDY PANTIEL
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL MORAN/OTTO



Up On The Roof
Configured to maximize views, the breezy roof level by Hydrotech includes a private deck for sunbathing. Poolside Pleasures Lounge chairs by Oasi line the patio. The pool was designed by Schaffer and fabricated by Meehan Flannoy Pools. See Resources.

EVERYONE DREAMS ABOUT HAVING a weekend house on the beach. What they don't dream about is sand-blasting bedrock to make way for a foundation or selecting materials that stand up to a constant assault of wind and moisture, or worrying about how to make it attractive enough that your teenage daughters will want to join you on the weekends. Architect Julie Schaffer thought about all that and then some when she decided to break ground on a 1.4-acre beachfront property in Guilford. But mostly she thought about those girls.

"As the parent of two teenagers, planning a weekend retreat for your family needs to be strategic," says Schaffer. "I mean, how do you compete with Instagram and all kinds of online distractions?"

For starters, you make it colorful and fun, and hopefully like nothing they've seen on YouTube. To Schaffer, that meant creating an unassuming cedar-wood box on the outside, and packing it with plenty of punch on the inside. "In an effort to keep the box simple, I ordered large windows and detailed a flush installation with the siding," she says. "And instead of a center hall that's so typical around here, there's a breezeway that frames the view and provides natural cooling. I call it the centerless hall Colonial."

Inside, she conjured rooms reminiscent of a cocktail parry circa 1958. "I wanted the colors to pop like the wild print pants that everyone wore back then," explains Schaffer. An array of hues gives every room distinction, starting with the den, where the orange- and blue rug was inspired by a Picasso painting. "I took those colors right out of a scene he painted in Vallauris, France," she adds.

In the dining room, a vintage Pico Fornasetti screen adds pizzazz; the patterned Kelly-green wall covering on the landing resembles those dazzling period Capri panes; and in the guest room, the blue painted wall takes its cue from the sea. "Here, and in the master bedroom, the paint folds onto the ceiling to create modern bed canopies," she says.

And when the girls suggested a red-and-orange scheme for their shared bathroom, Mom didn't hesitate to install glass backsplash and shower tiles in those vibrant tones, and to punctuate the space with bright red pulls.

