

FEATURED IN



ARCHITECTURE

HIGH-OCTANE
GLAMOUR GOES DOWN
EAST IN A COASTAL
MAINE RETREAT

JULIA AMORY
FOLLOWS THE SUN TO
SOUTHAMPTON AND
WEST PALM BEACH

INSIDE A MODERN
MOUNTAIN HIDEAWAY
IN NORTH CAROLINA

A SEA-INSPIRED
NEWPORT BEACH
HOUSE BY THE LATE
SUZANNE REINSTEIN

A NATURE LOVER'S
PARADISE ON A
CONNECTICUT LAKE



Jubilant star-patterned
walls, a striped ester runner,
and checkerboard-stained
floors greet guests in a
Maine entry hall. Design,
Matthew Carter. Floors,
Kim Comstock

PHOTOGRAPH BY
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& DE



VERANDA 81

Publication: Veranda

Date: July/August 2023

Article: Architecture & Decoration | p80

Dressed Up Down East | p84

Product Shown:



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Jazz – Tremolo



LEMS71-54
City Stitch – Malachite

It was the quintessential Maine summer house,

recalls Matthew Carter: "Pea gravel driveway, hawwoods, and ferns. Green shutters and beautifully proportioned rooms," explains the Lexington, Kentucky, decorator who smartly didn't touch any of that stuff.

For many families the interiors were nearly move-in ready: white plaster walls, cotton rugs, some tole-covered furnishings. "Simple and lovely," he reports.

That undecorated feel is the norm in much of coastal Maine, where many cottages change hands generationally and without much aesthetic fuss. A combination of Yankee ingenuity and the vestiges of Puritanism makes for homes that feel more

"put together" than decorated. And near the water especially, there's an accepted shabbiness. The salt air lends a gracious patina to whale-motif weather vanes but also flays the undercarriages of Volvos.

There's a real vernacular here, and as Carter's first project in Maine, he could have enjoyed months of drinking in the source material, but he had to stay true to his clients. As he is, they're southerners. Shabby wasn't going to fly for the new homeowners, a Kentucky couple with adult children and grandchildren beginning to accumulate. "They wanted to vamp it up a bit," says Carter. "They have traditional

