



OUR  
FAVORITE  
**English**  
Styles

HISTORICAL  
ARCHITECTURE,  
HANDCRAFTED DETAILS,  
AND FINE FINISHES LEND  
A TIMELESS ENGLISH  
QUALITY TO THESE  
GRACEFUL HOMES.





# NEWFOUND *Splendor*

An abundance of millwork, plush furnishings, and a clear, sunny palette charm and cheer a formerly dark and bland house.

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*Open House* Small doses of pattern enliven the tranquil seating area in the great-room. A sisal rug contributes easy-care texture underfoot.





## FLAWLESS ATTENTION TO DETAIL GIVES THE HOME A REFINED PRESENCE AND STYLE.

If it's true the three most important factors to consider when buying a house are location, location, and location, then Nina and Greg Richter chose their Bridgehampton, New York, vacation home wisely. Nestled on three glorious acres, the house is bordered by a nature preserve that yields peaceful views, and the beach is just a quick ride away. The couple was smitten at first sight—with the location, that is. The house, however, was less appealing. That's when they sought the help of architect Stuart Disston.

Poorly designed and devoid of detail, the house resembled a dark and cavernous barn—not the welcoming home the Richters envisioned sharing with their four children and a parade of summertime guests. “It was a sow’s ear of a house,” Disston says. “But I knew we could make it into the metaphorical silk purse for entertaining and modern living.”

Looking to the area’s wealth of historical Shingle-style architecture for inspiration, Disston transformed the exterior with a double-gambrel roof and cedar shingles. Inside, he took a slightly less conventional approach, efficiently reorganizing rooms to embrace light and create an easy indoor-outdoor flow that’s perfect for entertaining. “It’s bright and breezy,” Disston says. “The spaces circulate really well.”

Moldings, wainscoting, paneling, and chair rails add casual elegance and distinction to the walls. Layered with restraint, the millwork supplies comforting texture and gives the newly remodeled home a sense of immediate history.

“The millwork adds density and scale along with a sense of intimacy,” Disston says. “It also makes the house a lot more gracious. Without all the millwork, these would just be tall walls—cold, tall walls.” The millwork defines areas for artwork—and often becomes the art itself.

*Elegant Ease* The formerly dark interiors of Nina and Greg Richter’s summer home in Bridgehampton, New York, now reflect light and personality thanks to white-painted moldings. Ebony floors provide delicious contrast in the entry (*opposite*). To achieve a classic coastal look, architect Stuart Disston clad the exterior with cedar shingles (*above right*). Tight-back chairs and sofas looks casual without being slouchy (*right*).







To enhance the cozy mood, interior designer Ken Gemes cocooned the home's spacious rooms in warm white paint and outfitted the public areas with a collection of put-your-feet-up furnishings cloaked in sandy, buttery hues. "We used a lot of pretty colors, but they're all pale tints," Gemes says. "Nothing is too jarring. We wanted the house to feel airy and soft."

Down-filled sofas and armchairs, sisal rugs, and natural linen fabrics extend an invitation to relax. Although it looks formal, there's nothing precious about it, Gemes points out. "There's not a lot of trim. Nothing is skirted," he says. "It's a more earthy approach to design that works very well in spaces intended for people to congregate and enjoy each other's company. The house can accommodate a lot of people, but it's still cozy." ❧

*Open Invitation* The kitchen's large range hood echoes the architectural detailing throughout the rest of the house (left). Traditional cane-back chairs surround a rustic table in the dining area off the great-room. The combination reflects the home's blend of formal and informal elements (above). Friends and family gravitate to the kitchen's mahogany-topped island during meal prep. A window treatment in sherbet hues adds a soft stroke of color (opposite).

