

# Shelter

A modern, minimalist pool house at night. The structure features large glass doors and a covered outdoor dining area with a table and chairs. The interior is visible through the glass, showing a kitchen area with a bar stool. The scene is illuminated by warm interior lights and cool exterior lighting, creating a sophisticated atmosphere.

## POOLING TALENTS

TAKING CUES FROM THEIR CLIENTS, A TEAM OF DESIGNERS CREATES A PERFECT POOL HOUSE

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This pool house designed for a family in Rye, New York is a jewel box on the edge of their property that overlooks Long Island Sound.



Sometimes, collaboration can lead to a solution that's greater than the sum of its parts.

That's certainly the case with a new 1,530-square-foot pool house overlooking Long Island Sound in Rye, N.Y. Its owners assembled a team of architects, interior designers, and landscape architects to create a jewel box of a building that takes full advantage of every square inch, including a rooftop deck with expansive views across Long Island Sound.

"You don't get a great project unless there's a strong client," says landscape architect Janice Parker. "A leader is needed, and that's what they were—the collaboration was wonderful."

The clients—a couple with three young children—moved out of New York's Tribeca neighborhood to a large Shingle-style home on the sound, simultaneously selling their Miami apartment. They wanted something new, something more akin to their poolside experiences in Florida. So they demolished a traditional pool house on the 2.68-acre site and called in McKee Patterson of Austin Patterson Disston Architects for design help.

#### THE ARCHITECT

"They wanted a small pavilion-like building to entertain in and a sleeping component like a guest house," Patterson says. "They wanted it oriented to the swimming pool, with changing room and bathroom, and



A stone's throw from the main residence, the pool house is an entertainment destination (above). The dining pavilion is sheltered by a trellis and Long Island's "Gold Coast" is off in the distance across the Sound.







The bar doubles as an entertainment center and kitchenette (top). The guest bedroom overlooks a stone patio and manicured lawn (bottom).

to use the roof to get a more distant view to the south and the sound.”

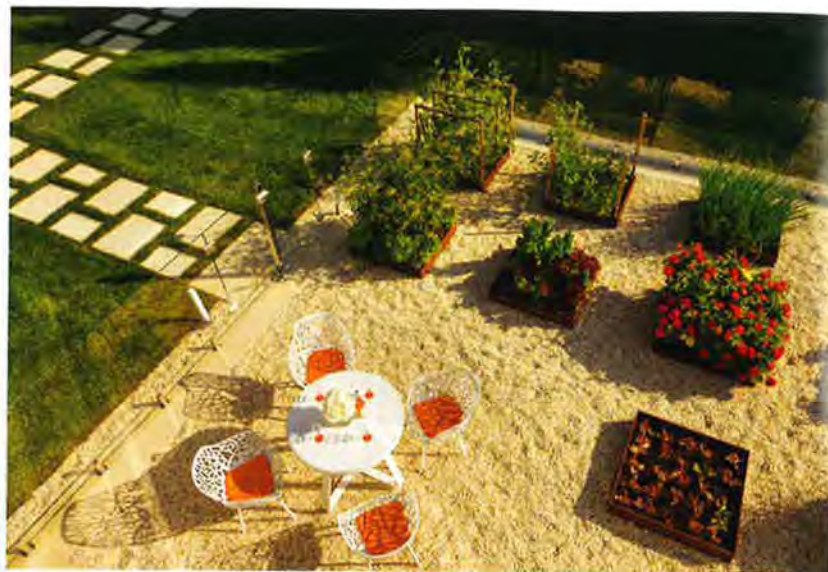
Patterson designed the bones of the structure, orienting it around the swimming pool on one side and the sound from above. There’s a central bar and kitchenette facing the pool, flanked on one side by a bedroom, bath, and shower, and on the opposite by an open-air dining area. Above is the rooftop deck with comfortable seating, minimalist landscaping (a shock of green grass by Parker), glass railings, and fantastic vistas. A louvered overhang with projected sunshade cantilevers out over the bar and seating below.

The clients envisioned that it would function like the ones they knew in Miami: as a destination for music, cocktails, and watching football on TV by the pool. “We were trying to orient everything around the swimming pool,” Patterson says. “There’s seating at the bar, and the big awning is all about outside living meeting inside living, and a strong center there.”

Zoning restrictions limited the pavilion to one level,







as well as the size of its footprint. That inspired the rooftop deck, the louvered windows for the bar, and the poolside canopy. In essence, the entire pavilion is a series of boxes with the main component centered on the pool and windows to open it all up.

“Take the smallest box you’ve ever seen and try to put everything in it to satisfy the clients’ needs,” says Patterson. “We were using all these tricks to make it look like there’s much more there.”

#### THE INTERIOR DESIGNERS

Design director Francis Nicdao and associates from Pembroke & Ives brought their own bag of tricks. They deftly handled the interior design and added the alfresco dining area under the trellis to the left. “I suggested that the building was not balanced—they wanted a dining area between the pool and the building,” he says. “So we added the trellis.”

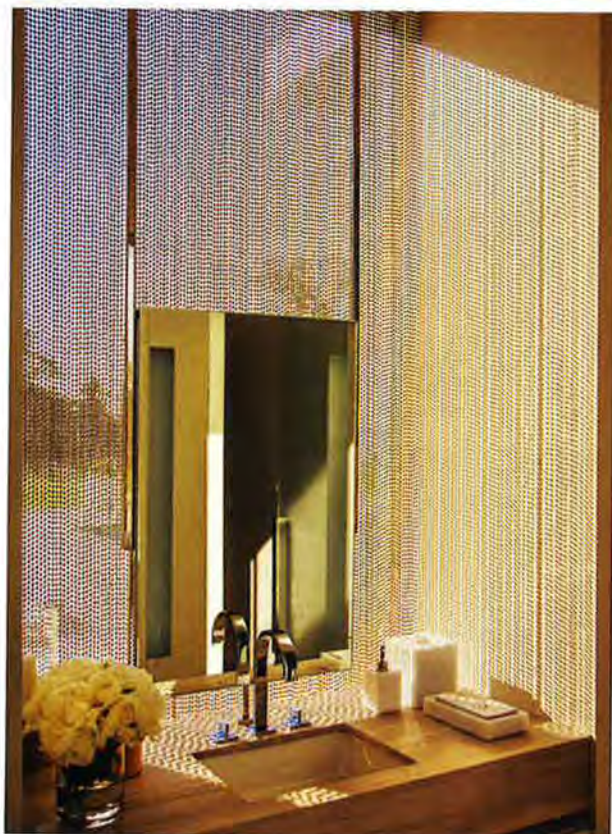
The overall palette of white and warm gray softens the angles of the pared-down modern architecture. “The clients wanted something soft and Caribbean, so we used pool colors like turquoise blue and green to pop from the neutral environment.”

The designers helped create an environment that beckons their clients from the main house. “It’s a destination for the family—almost an escape from where they live,” Nicdao says. “It’s their way of introducing something more like them, younger and more modern.”

#### THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Parker, of Janice Parker Landscape Architects in Greenwich, Conn., was already working with the

The designers helped create an environment that beckons their clients from the main house (above). A changing room and a separate shower are located off the guest bedroom.







clients when the pool house was initiated. She'd helped develop the light-colored limestone pavers surrounding the main house. "It's a hybrid, with contemporary touches like glass rails and the roofline, but the siding is shingle," she says. "A lot of limestone makes it different from a Shingle style; that was a modern upgrade all around the house."

She extended the limestone pavers into the pool house landscape, matching the structure's cladding that Patterson had already established—so that it all reads as one component. Then she got to work on vegetation. "There are steel boxes set in gravel for a vegetable garden," she says.

Elsewhere around the pavilion, she added robust plantings like limelight hydrangeas, fountain grass, purple geraniums, and white carpet roses to the open environment, one saturated with mist and spray from the sound. "It's white with purple and blue accents, a very soft and beachy palette that moves in the wind, which is nice," Parker says. "The real lines of the

landscape—the bones—are very strong, and the plants soften them."

#### THE END RESULT

Taken all together, the architecture, interior, and landscape design work hand-in-glove, despite the site's restrictive size. "It's not very big, and there were a lot of limitations on the property," says Nicdao. "We worked to keep it light, and worked with the landscape architect for a lush feel. It's a modern box softened by the garden."

Perhaps the most surprising element is how quickly it all came together. "We had the better part of four months," Patterson says. "It was a mad dash, including the landscaping."

**THE DETAILS**  
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But the end result, collaboratively conceived and carefully executed, is a true gem. "It sparkles and twinkles at night; it's a focal point that glows," says Nicdao. **OH**

The rooftop deck features a fire pit for chilly evenings and a glorious view across Long Island Sound.