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Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

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The Architecture Issue

New HOME, Old SOUL

A TALENTED DESIGN TEAM CREATES
A UNIQUE HOME TO FIT A
SLICE OF ROWAYTON WATERFRONT

BY ALEXA STEVENSON | PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICK HALES

AS SEEN IN
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By The Cove The great room floors are made of pre-Civil War Nova Scotia chestnut. The dining room table, commissioned by Cindy Smith of Circa Interiors in Charlotte, North Carolina, is surrounded by antique French chairs found at the Yellow Monkey and then upholstered in a white linen with nailhead trim. See Resources.



“**T**HEY ARE THE MASTERS: I HAVE NEVER KNOWN architects so creative and imaginative. They just get it right away,” says Susan Hurwitt of the architecture firm McAlpine. And she should know: She’s worked with them on four projects over the past 25 years. Hurwitt first came across the firm’s work when she relocated from Connecticut to South Carolina. “I ran across an article about Bobby McAlpine’s house, and everything he said made sense to me. He works from a cocktail napkin! I called him and asked him to do a house for me.”

Years later, with Hurwitt and her husband back in Connecticut, this time Rowayton, she called upon the architects once again. “Susan is a serial builder and is a lot of fun to work with,” says Alabama native Greg Tankersley. The couple purchased a teardown on a small cove and wanted a house as close to the water as permitted. The land, tiny and pie shaped, was a challenge from the get-go, warranting a quirky footprint. “The main house is square to the road and the garage splays out—almost like it was added on,” says Tankersley. “It has a very charming, rural feel to it.” The front door is tucked away, and visitors almost have to stumble upon it to find it. “The most charming people you meet are the people you have to work to get to know,” he continues. “All their goods aren’t given up front. We feel the same way about houses.”

Hidden Treasures (TOP) A lantern from Artistic Ironworks hangs above the garage. **Fancy Free** (RIGHT) Tankersley kept the interior trim work, such as the elegant curved railing, simple and understated. **Tidal Wave** (OPPOSITE PAGE) On the back porch, a copper mermaid from BB Abode rests atop a glass and iron coffee table from Circa Antiques. Chairs are from Crate & Barrel; garden stool is from Dovecote. *See Resources.*

