

SCENE CHANGE

Redecorating her Hamptons beach house gave this interiors expert the opportunity to refine her style

photography nicole franzen styling athena calderone words lindyl crabb



A new era Designs spanning continents and decades mingle in the family room, from a 1960s French walnut table to the 1970s Milo Baughman burl wood stool. The sofa is from Restoration Hardware, the Venetian rug is by Tali Roth for Empire Collection Rugs, the timber sideboard is vintage and the shelves are made from reclaimed wood. On the wall is a Marilina Marchica artwork. Homeowner Athena Calderone designed the sculptural sconce in collaboration with ceramicist Simone Bodmer-Turner. **Works of heart** Athena (opposite) stands in front of an artwork by Ethan Cook and alabaster Apparatus 'Median' sconces. She designed the console with Green River Project. The terracotta planter is from a Paris flea market. →



who lives here?

Athena Calderone, a designer, author and founder of lifestyle platform Eyeswoon, with her husband Victor, a DJ and music producer, son Jivan, 17, and their puppy Tuco Kismet.

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ATHENA CALDERONE IS A NATURAL STORYTELLER. Whether she's collecting vintage pieces for an interiors project, creating culinary alchemy in the kitchen or composing a new book, creativity is Athena's first language and the refresh of her home in Amagansett, a quiet seaside village in The Hamptons, is another example of her evolving style and tone.

STYLE SWAP Speaking of new books, the catalyst for redecorating this summer house was, in fact, the launch of her latest tome *Live Beautiful*. "I was about to release my interior design book and wanted to reveal an updated space that I designed," Athena says. Her other motivation, she adds, was aesthetic. "I initially designed the home in 2009 replete with sign-of-the-times reclaimed wood, dark materials and an eclectic style," Athena says. "I yearned for a space that felt brighter and a touch more refined in its decor with pieces and materials that felt timeless and elevated." The house is a single-level mid-century modern – not your typical Hamptons home – so rather than stripping away its architectural identity, she orchestrated a revamp that reflects her updated approach and a more intimate knowledge of each space.

LIGHT REFRESHMENT An interiors expert and all-round aesthete, Athena was more than equipped to take on the "100 percent decorative" three-month project. For Athena, design is a dance between balance and tension. She loves "a clash of materials and periods... from the warmth of a walnut side table to the sleek sexiness of travertine", and while she credits '50s French decor and Italian design from the '70s as her inspiration, the house itself informed the scheme. For example, "the incredible light from the clerestory windows" prompted her to use a warm, fossil-toned plaster finish for the walls, "as opposed to the classic white you often see in mid-century homes". The previously dark scheme has been replaced with what Athena calls "a sandy, earthy-toned palette that you would find at the beach, punctuated with the warmth of rich wood". As for the materials, she chose "marble for its elegance, rattan for its approachability, walnut for its warmth, travertine for its modern nod to the '70s and plaster for its movement and tactility".

BEAUTY MARKS One thing that hasn't changed is Athena's love of buying vintage, which she describes as "carrying on its legacy by bringing it into my home". Among her favourites are the Italian dining chairs, the Spanish kitchen stools and a French walnut table. "It was tossed into the garbage truck by the garbage man. I glued it back together and love its scars!" Indeed, Athena would rather see a few scuffs than achieve perfection. "A stain is a memory!" she laughs. ●

Elegant asymmetry A custom reclaimed oak table delineates the dining space. It's flanked by Sapporo chairs from the 1970s; above is a Rogan Gregory biomorphic light sculpture sourced from R & Company. **A new leaf** In the living room is a 1950s Scandinavian armchair from Norki Decoration, a woven vintage stool and wall shelves with plaster work by Kamp Studios. "The four compact compartments hold my extensive ceramics collection, add depth and dimension and provide opportunity to style ever-changing vignettes," Athena says. →



“For me, design is all about balance and tension. By pairing opposing



materials together, you create intrigue and something new.”

Decor degustation The kitchen underwent the biggest transformation during the redesign. “My husband and I completed much of the kitchen ourselves... we even installed the new cabinetry,” says Athena, who adds, “we were certainly hands-on – we always are!” They swapped the “dark” reclaimed wood and graphite basaltina stone in the previous kitchen design for beautiful Calacatta Monet marble and ever-so-pale green fluted plaster, which was inspired by the colour of the marble veining. Athena had the Ikea cabinets fitted with Semihandmade doors and drawer fronts, which she then finished in Ash Grey paint by Farrow & Ball. The oven and stove are JennAir and the tapware is from Brizo. The Spanish rattan bar stools and vintage bamboo lamp are from the 1970s. →







CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT **Shelf indulgent** Of the wall colour, Athena says, “The fossil-tone hue allows the home to feel more inviting, less austere and the perfect canvas for my collection of vintage vessels”. **In great shape** “Art, sculpture and tactility will always guide me,” Athena declares, and this angle of the living and dining spaces showcases these inspirations. On the Green River Project console are Jeremy Anderson ceramic sculptures. Athena found the Royère-style stools at an auction. Emerging from beneath the Caravane ‘Pacha’ sofa is a Restoration Hardware rug. **The magic fluting** The fluted plaster kitchen island is one of Athena’s most-loved transformations. “I wanted to re-clad the island as it was previously reclaimed wood,” she says. “The plaster fluting is delicate in its hand-crafted application, but the rough-hewn texture allows it to embrace scratches, making it less precious.” →



Light sleeper Athena designed the custom bedhead using an outdoor linen fabric, while the striped cushions on the bed are upholstered in Kravet fabric. The wall sconces are a French design from the '50s, and the beautiful bedside is a Drum occasional table by Apparatus Studio. A sculpture by Simone Bodmer-Turner is displayed on top. Like the rest of her home, the master bedroom is decorated with vintage pieces. **Rinse and repeat** The graphic texture of a rope ceiling in the bathroom informed the striped cushions and rugs in the bedroom. Athena says the rope also inspired her bedroom's earthy palette, "from terracotta to ochre". In the bathroom (opposite) is a tub from Signature Hardware with a Brizo faucet. The artwork is by Kate Zimmerman Turpin and the terracotta urn is vintage.





three of Athena's best style swaps

1

Her previous design featured industrial items, rustic finds and tough textures, which felt one-note. The new mix of styles and materials is more expressive.


2

"I love contrast, but the black and white felt too polarising for me," she says of the old scheme. Now, the warm neutrals calm and soften the space.

3

Re-doing your kitchen joinery on a budget? Athena revamped her Ikea cabinets with new Semihandmade fronts in a colour of her choice. →





Tasteful texture ABC Stone 'Calacatta Monet', Semihandmade doors and a fluted plaster island by Kamp Studios create visual harmony in the kitchen. "The pale green colour is so elegant and chic – it takes the morning light so beautifully," says Athena, who loves the fluted finish. "It dates back to Greco-Roman times but is also dominant in New York City neighbourhoods like Soho and Tribeca." Athena and her husband Victor painted and installed the cabinet fronts to save money. "They are beautiful, yet at an accessible price point," she says. He also fitted the Optimum Brasses hardware.

shop it! Channel Athena's refined take on Hamptons style



1 Gubi '9602' floor lamp, \$1649, Cult. **2** Median sconce, from about \$3471*, Apparatus Studio. **3** Limpet drawer knob, \$28, The Society Inc. **4** Beetle bowl in Light Horn, \$280 for large, Dinosaur Designs. **5** Castle Road Interiors 'Wyomia' seagrass bowl, \$57.95, Zanui. **6** Bronte 3 seat sofa in White Italian linen, \$2299, Lounge Lovers. **7** Drum occasional table, Apparatus Studio. **8** Neo vessel in Bianco Arabescato, about \$3331*, Apparatus Studio. **9** &Tradition 'Little Petra' chair, Cult. **10** Menu plinth in Rose Marble, \$2300 for tall, Designstuff. **11** Bence sculpture in Black, \$79.95, OZ Design Furniture. **12** Home Republic 'Maya' table lamp, \$89.99, Adairs. **13** Old terracotta pot, \$1800, Bisque Traders. **14** Sandridge feather fill cushion in Offwhite/Lead, \$119.95, OZ Design Furniture. **15** Sahara jute rug in Natural (1.7m x 2.4m), \$1460, Armadillo. **16** Round cushion in Ochre stripe, \$340, Lucy Montgomery. **17** Sika Design 'Lucas' dining table, \$2950, Domo.



Colours and finishes

FROM LEFT Wall paint in Grey Gum, \$130 for 4L, Porter's Paints. Architect floorboards in White Smoked, from \$85 per sq m, Royal Oak Floors. Calacatta Monet stone, ABC Stone. Low sheen paint in Bone with French Wash in Soapstone, Porter's Paints.