

ELLE DECOR

THE A-LIST ISSUE

101 PAGES

GORGEOUS ROOMS

BRIGHT IDEAS &

GREAT FINDS

*decorating
demystified*

**WHAT IT'S
REALLY LIKE TO
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A waterfront garden designed by Edmund Hollander on the North Shore of Long Island.

WATERSIDE RETREATS: IT'S ELEMENTAL

Edmund Hollander shares his strategies for designing waterfront landscapes

Q: What's your starting point for creating an outdoor scheme for a house by the water?

A: We try to take advantage of views but also respect salt winds, tides, and water tables. In terms of the design, I like to give a family a diversity of areas for gathering, dining, and relaxing. Pools and terraces overlooking the water are lovely, but don't forget to provide spaces that offer protection from sun, wind, and glare.

Q: Are you seeing any trends?

A: There is a greater desire to simplify life. Elaborate, high-maintenance schemes are being replaced by landscapes that are easier to care for and more ecologically appropriate.

Q: How do you mitigate for powerful seaside weather patterns?

A: We try to design in ways that are structurally sound and to select plant materials that are tolerant of saline environments. We are using smaller trees and plantings to allow them to become better acclimated to the environmental stresses found in these habitats. But you are never immune to the force of Mother Nature's most powerful storms. "Respect" and "resilience" are the watchwords today.

Q: What type of swimming pool do you prefer?

A: Saltwater. There is no chlorine smell and your skin feels like silk.

Q: Which architectural materials hold up best in a waterside location?

A: Several types of limestone are tolerant of frost but may break down in a seaside environment due to wind-blown salt. I frequently use sandstone. It feels great near the beach and the colors blend well. For decks and boardwalks, we often use sustainably grown ipe, which weathers to a beautiful silver-gray and never rots, warps, or breaks.

Q: Which plants thrive by the water?

A: I recommend doing a careful study of what is growing in the immediate vicinity. We do this whether we're working along the coast of Long Island, in the Bahamas, or even in China.

WHAT THE PROS KNOW

Expert solutions for living by the water—whether near a mountain lake or in an oceanside cottage



BRIAN GLUCKSTEIN / INTERIOR DESIGNER

"I love adding a screened-in porch with a fireplace to lakeside country homes. It's the perfect place to enjoy the breeze off the water—minus the insects! And a fireplace means you can enjoy it well past the summer season. We always reference the interior decor of the cottage in these outdoor living spaces." Laura Kirar lounge furniture, left; mcguirefurniture.com.



ALISON SPEAR / ARCHITECT

"I spent much of my life in Florida, where I learned to think 'boatlike' when designing waterfront spaces. I use marine materials like teak, canvas, sailcloth, and brass. I shop nautical supply stores for stainless-encased lighting and hardware. I love Mad Mats rugs—they're made of recycled plastic and come in great colors." Mad Mats Serape rug, left; madmats.com.



GIL SCHAFER / ARCHITECT

"For houses by the water, floors should feel relaxed. I have two strategies: Use an unfinished, scrubbed wood that's neutral or light in color, or paint an inexpensive wood in high-gloss floor paint in a fun color. Both options are perfectly suited to bare feet and carefree living." Left, a Connecticut cottage porch with a painted floor designed by Schafer.

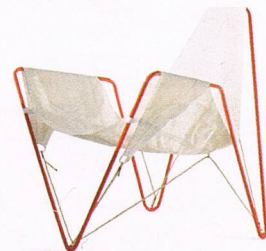


ISABELLE DUVIVIER / ARCHITECT

"My favorite place to swim is my uncle's pool in Belgium. It's like swimming in a pond, without the 'yuck' factor. He grows plants in it, and when you swim there are fish swimming around too, so you know there are no toxins or chemicals. The fish eat the plants while their waste feeds the plants." Left, Duvivier's uncle's pool.

SAIL AWAY

Spain's Dvelas recycles used boat sails into an eye-catching line of outdoor furnishings. The collection includes the Trimmer chair, right, which incorporates recovered sail cloth and boat rope, and the Géois armchair pouf, a beanbag-like seat covered in recycled sail fabric (mondocollection.com).



SUMMER SHOWERS

An outdoor shower keeps sand out of the house—and in balmy weather it's just plain fun. Massachusetts-based Oborain's latest model is the Cove, left, a prefab outdoor shower in untreated cedar clapboard that will weather to a seaside-worthy gray (oborain.com). From Holland, JEE-O offers minimalist-chic stainless-steel outdoor showers that would look perfect poolside (purificare-us.com).



BY INGRID ABRAMOVITCH