



THE HOUSE THAT ROARED

A compact Westport home blends coastal luxury with practicality.

conversation with PETER CADOUX ♦ *written by* MERYL SIEGMAN ♦ *images by* KIRT WASHINGTON



The backyard, featuring a pool with porcelain pavers, playful water features and an outdoor shower, is remarkably private and secluded, unusual for homes in the Compo Historic District.

A Historic Setting for Modern Design

The oceanside community of Compo-Owenoke Historic District in Westport, CT, is a fabulous place to visit if you're interested in early 20th-century resort architecture. Developed between 1910 and 1940, the community is a treasure trove of Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival and bungalow-style homes. Covering 154 acres, its grid-like road layout has resulted in mostly small lots, but its fantastic ocean views make up for the lack of palatial grounds.

Blending Tradition with Innovation

It is in this charming historic setting that Westport's Peter Cadoux Architects recently built a sophisticated coastal Shingle-style home with a modern classic aesthetic that is totally in sync with the region's architectural heritage. Founded in the early 1990s, the company has established itself as one of the most prestigious architectural firms in New England. Its principal, Peter Cadoux, is known for his signature aesthetic that encompasses many styles and scales that consistently blend design integrity with present-day practicality and modern technology. His background in both architecture and fine arts have equipped him with a design sensibility that transcends all aspects of his projects.

Armed with a background in designing coastal homes and a complete fluency in the regulatory process required for oceanfront properties, Peter took the diminutive lot size in stride, knowing that the zoning regulations would dictate the building parameters. "All the regulatory influences on these projects are included in every design we do, maximizing the

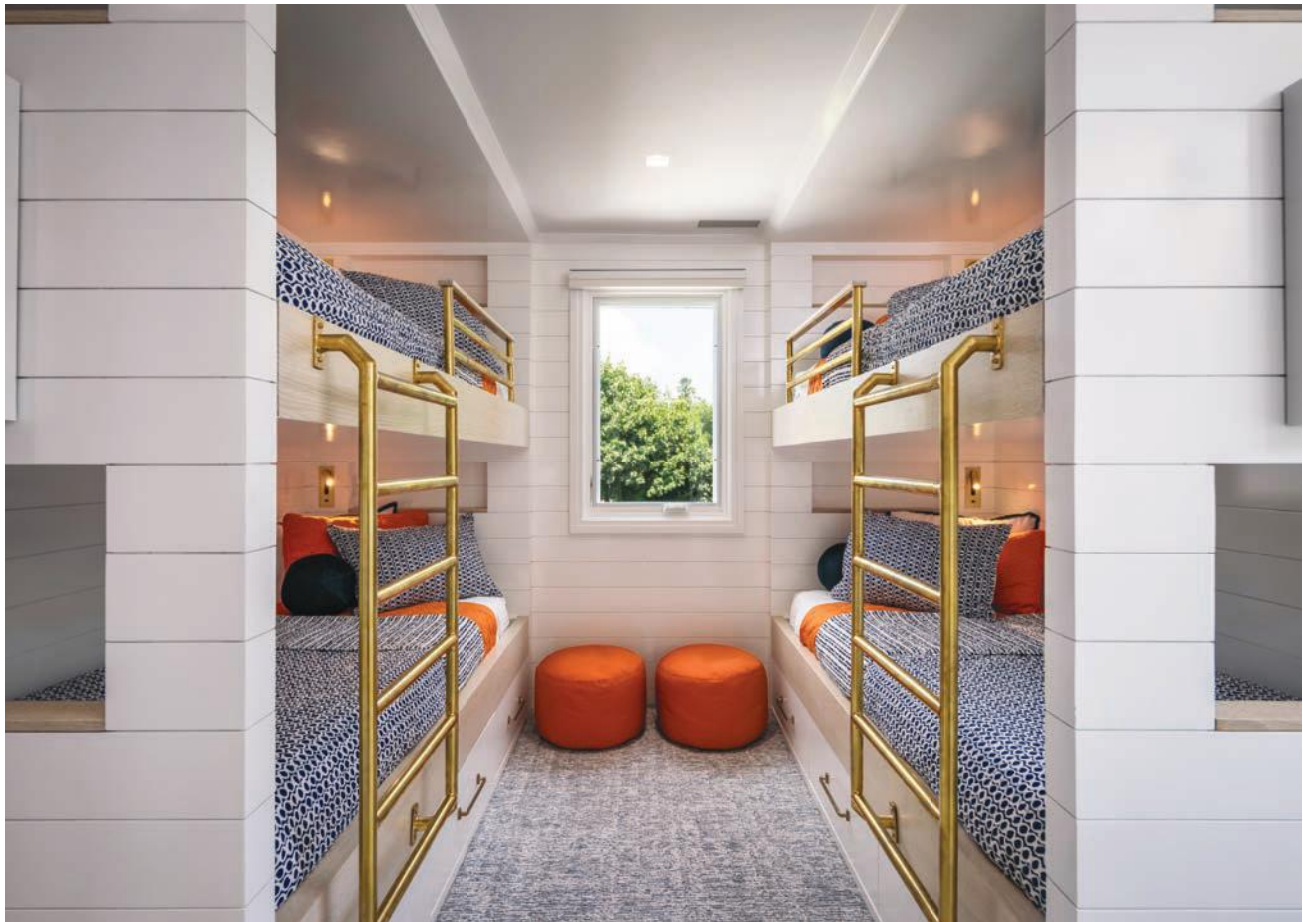




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PETER CADOUX, PETER CADOUX ARCHITECTS





sun, light and views, while remaining in compliance with local codes,” he says. “This house is no exception.” Peter set out to build a modern-day masterpiece that meets all the requirements of sophisticated, luxurious living, while keeping it scaled down to the necessary size.

Maximizing Space, Minimizing Waste

“I love practical design that nurtures my architectural spirit,” Peter remarks. “I try to be efficient in everything I do—I don’t like wasted space. I’ve been designing homes for a long time, and I continue to learn every single day from my clients and projects, bringing that knowledge to every subsequent project I work on.” It is easy to see how this cleverly designed house is the very incarnation of everything Peter has learned from the past, taking his experience and expertise another step forward into the future. It is an energy-efficient, built-to-last home, equipped with the most advanced smart technology available.

Peter understands that evolving lifestyles and advancements in technology have reshaped the way we live and our relationship with our homes. He tailors the size of each house to meet the unique needs and preferences of his clients, with a focus on maximizing functional spaces and minimizing underused areas. Through intentional design and careful planning, Peter creates homes that seamlessly blend indoor and outdoor environments.

When clients approach Peter Cadoux Architects for a new design, they should not be surprised if the result is either a home that meets all their requirements but is smaller than initially envisioned, or a design that fulfills their space needs while offering additional features they hadn’t expected. The homeowners are inevitably thrilled with all that the bespoke but practical design brings with it, including an

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improved quality of life and a home that is both elegant and functional.

Having it Both Ways: Ocean Views and Backyard Bliss

This 3,000-square-foot home, sited on a mere .17 acre, certainly packs a punch. Its three levels featuring a gourmet kitchen, four bedrooms and three bathrooms are conveniently serviced by an elevator. All this splendor is topped off by a grand roof deck equipped with a lounge area and a spot for exercise or yoga. “This particular location has very dramatic views that we incorporated into the design of the house, as you can see in the roof deck and the floor-to-ceiling glass we used on the lower levels,” says Peter.

While many homes in the Compo District boast those fabulous views, this one features a very private backyard as well. “We designed the house to have both private spaces and open views.

It’s very unique for the area,” Peter explains. “You can look out at the water and enjoy the view, or escape to the backyard oasis, which completely secluded.” This sliver of heaven features a swimming pool, barbeque and lounging area, and small yard, all meticulously landscaped by Peter’s wife, Sally.

Built to Last: Practical Materials for a Coastal Environment

“Practicality is not just about being efficient in how you design a house,” Peter says. “You have to be sensitive to how the particular home is used.” He explains that he designs sustainable houses based on

The indoor/outdoor space on the first floor opens the home to a secluded pool area and acts as an informal pool house.

The outdoor surfaces are a mixture of ceramic and marble, chosen for their elegance as well as their durability. The ceramic pool terracing never feels hot to the touch and is completely stain resistant.



the project's location and on the needs and lifestyle of his clients. "The ocean environment can be harsh so, in this case, we used materials that will last and cutting-edge technology that will withstand the coastal elements," he says. What looks like natural wood, for example, is a composite material that will not rot over time. If the house floods as the result of a major storm, he explains, it will release the floodwaters, causing minimal damage.

Outdoors, the design team chose composite materials that can withstand harsh elements but are nevertheless stunning, such as the ceramic pool terracing, which doesn't stain or ever feel hot to the touch. The house itself is constructed from wood and steel, but its entire first level has full-height poured concrete walls that extend to the floor of the second level. As Peter says, "It can be hit with a bulldozer, and it won't go anywhere."

"We designed a house that offers the livability of a four-bedroom home with incredible views of the ocean and an extremely private backyard," Peter continues. "This entire package is sited on a small piece of property and requires little or no upkeep. It was built for longevity without the fuss of the maintenance required for larger homes. This is an important factor, considering that people are often away from home for long periods of time."

Multifunctional Spaces for All Seasons

An outstanding example of Cadoux Architects' ingenious design for





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supremely comfortable yet efficient living is the “Grotto” room directly off the pool and yard. This multipurpose room features a bifold glass door and windows with large-format screens that can be opened during the summer to create a covered pool lounge. During the colder months, Peter explains, the windows covering the openings convert the room into an area that can be used during the winter as well. “These multifunctional spaces are a key element that we like to include in our designs when appropriate,” he says.

“We design in the spirit of livability and lifestyle, because how people live and use the rooms are such important considerations,” Peter says. While an open plan in which one room opens up to another may make the space appear larger, it often does not provide for privacy or an escape room.

Living Large in a Small Footprint

“While I’ve been fortunate to design many magnificent, larger homes, efficient designs should always be prioritized. For instance, consolidating a 6,000-square-foot home into 5,000 square feet, or a 5,000-square-foot home into 4,000 square feet, and so on, allows for thoughtful use of space,” says Peter. “The size of my designs is always relative to my clients’ needs, but with efficient planning, they can include features they might not have thought possible.” ♦



Resource: Architectural and Interior Design: Peter Cadoux Architects; Peter Cadoux, Principal; Westport, CT; 203.2274304 ; cadouxaia.com. **General Contracting:** HSL Building Company; Norwalk, CT; 203.5574433; hslbuilding.com .