



Modern Wainscott Home Receives a Cottage Treatment

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by Pat Rogers

The Salty Dog is the answer to the question of how to design a new, modern home that conjures the quaint cottages that have dotted Wainscott in The Hamptons for centuries. Undertaking this challenge was interior designer - developer Jessie Della Femina. The home has been designed to be traditional and unassuming in style - both inside and out - but with modern amenities and technology.

Examples of this old/new juxtaposition are found throughout the house including the 18th century trunk that sits at the foot of the master bedroom, which was retrofitted with an electric lift to contain (and conceal) a television that pops out with the tap of an iPhone and a new (electric) version of the classic 1970s moke that they use as a beach buggy.

Architecture and design fans recently had the chance to see this home in person as part of the [East Hampton Historical Society's](#) 34th Annual House & Garden Tour, that took place on November 23, 2018. The tour featured five homes of differing styles of design and architecture, including The Salty Dog. For those who didn't get to see this Wainscott home, a virtual tour will have to do.



The exterior of The Salty Dog. Photo by Chris Foster. Courtesy of the East Hampton Historical Society.

The exterior design and floor plans of the house were a joint effort between Jessie Della Femina, her husband and Jessie's business partner, builder Cezary Kropiwnicki of IEM Construction in Southampton, NY. The house was designed to take on the appearance of a country cottage with the exterior and features classic proportions, according to Della Femina.



An interior in The Salty Dog, designed by Jessie Della Femina. Photo by Chris Foster. Courtesy of the East Hampton Historical Society.

The interior encompasses the owner's need to feel comfortable and intimate for times when the two owners and their dog are living in the home yet expansive enough to welcome numerous friends and family during the height of summer, according to Della Femina. To meet this goal, the house features four en suite bedrooms (two which are masters) and a bunk room that sleeps twelve.



One of the bedrooms designed by Jessie Della Femina in The Salty Dog. Photo by Chris Foster. Courtesy of the East Hampton Historical Society.



A unique view is created by objects, furnishings and window treatments in a bedroom in The Salty Dog, designed by Jessie Della Femina. Photo by Chris Foster. Courtesy of the East Hampton Historical Society.

Sited on a modest lot, the house makes the most of its exterior design by creating engaging spaces for the owners and their guests. Outdoor features include a small pool, an outdoor dining area and an outdoor sitting area with a fireplace. The "secret" spa area is Della Femina's answer to a pool house. Accessible by a flight of stairs adjacent to the pool, the spa features a steam room, sauna with a full bath. The floor is natural blue stone which was selected to welcome sandy or wet feet.



The pool area of The Salty Dog, designed by Jessie Della Femina. Photo by Chris Foster. Courtesy of the East Hampton Historical Society.

As an interior designer, Jessie Della Femina is an avid collector interesting objects with a history and frequently visits estate sales to find items that she can recover, repaint and restore. Objects that have "already lived someplace else" have a special kind of character, she explained. For The Salty Dog, over 75% of the furniture and decorative items were found at local estate sales with some remaining as found and others refurbished.

The Salty Dog was one of five homes featured on the East Hampton Historical Society's 34th Annual House & Garden Tour on November 23, 2018. Other homes showcasing interesting

architecture and design included the David Huntting House, circa 1800s; the William H. Babcock House: a timber frame house, circa 1720, that was renovated in 2016-17 by East End architect Kitty McCoy; a custom home inspired by an exclusive Adirondack resort and a sleek Modern home overlooking the Atlantic, infused with warmth by interior designer David Netto.

To see more, click "[SOCIAL SCENE: East Hampton Historical Society's House & Garden Tour.](#)"

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