

# A Sense of Place

**From traditional to sleekly contemporary, 15 spaces that are stylish, striking—and sure to make a lasting impression**

Edited by Jen DeRose

**W**hen we asked the designers on the following pages to tell us about their philosophies, what came up, time and time again, was how their clients inspire them. “No two spaces should be the same,” says designer Gretchen Boulos, whose focus is on office spaces, “because no two clients or sites are the same.” That ability to hone in on what exactly it is that each client uniquely needs, deserves, and desires is perhaps what made these projects in particular rise to the top of the submission pile. (Speaking of unique, don’t miss the croquet-mallet-inspired balustrade designed by Margo Moore Interiors’ Megan van der Kieft.) After weeks spent working with—and listening to—their clients, these designers have all created intuitive and inspirational spaces. But what really sets their projects apart is that they have more than a passion for their work and an eye for beauty: they also have an open ear.





## A Waterfront Home with Warmth & Ease

**Brady-Anne Cushing & Elena Duralde**  
**Knickerbocker Group**  
[knickerbockergroup.com](http://knickerbockergroup.com)

**T**his new home replaced an existing, grandfathered cottage within the 75-foot setback from the shoreline. “The interior combines the warmth and ease of Scandinavian design with an elevated coastal aesthetic drawn from its island surroundings,” says designer Brady-Anne Cushing, who worked with designer Elena Duralde, both of Knickerbocker Group, on the project. The solid surfaces within the home are a study of restraint in color. The pair implemented a uniform, soft warm gray for the walls throughout and whites, blues, and wood tones for the cabinetry. “This becomes the canvas for a juxtaposition with the textiles, which feature bright colors of citron, blue, and turquoise,” says Duralde.

Notable are the designers’ use of natural finishes that allow the materials’ characteristic beauty to shine through. “It was important to us to maintain the aesthetic and integrity throughout—unaffected finishes such as the concrete parging on the fireplace surround, the raw steelwork of the diamond-lattice wood box, and the natural brass of light fixtures, for example,” says Cushing. The pair also designed a winding open stair that creates a visual connection between the home’s three floors; with its unique handrail and baluster system, it seems to float in the space. In addition, Cushing and Duralde incorporated thoughtful function at every turn: a quirky loft space at the top of the stairs was made into a cozy reading nook by incorporating two large custom benches, and a dresser inset into the wall of the second-floor bedroom adds storage without taking away valuable floor space.

The designers transformed the lower level—formerly a dirt-floored storage area—into an elegant, open-air entertainment room with a cedar-coffered ceiling, porcelain-tiled floors, a stone fireplace, teak cabinetry, and mahogany-framed screen panels between shingle-clad columns, selecting materials for warmth and aesthetic value as well as weather resistance. “Every inch of space was treated with significance and attention to detail,” says Duralde, “which resulted in a home that is carefully designed and beautifully decorated. The design challenges gave us an exceptional opportunity for creative and uncommon solutions, making this space sing with individuality.”

