



For a waterfront home on the Jersey Shore, designer Joe Lucas chose a quiet hue for the walls, Pratt & Lambert's Zephyr Hills, and pale blue upholstery to echo the home's bayside views. The cocktail table and Gambrel mirror are from Harbinger, Lucas's Los Angeles showroom. **OPPOSITE:** Lucas's family yacht.

Sea Change

A Jersey Shore house ravaged by Hurricane Sandy is reborn with nautical flair and shipshape élan, thanks to hometown boy Joe Lucas.



Interior Design **JOE LUCAS** *Interview* **CAITLIN KELLY**
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This is one of those classic Jersey Shore homes, isn't it?

JOE LUCAS: It's actually brand-new—an updated version of the 1926 Shingle Style home that was here when the current owner bought the property in 2009. It's down at the shore where I grew up, in Mantoloking, New Jersey, a family-oriented, multi-generational town where you ride your bike to the beach. My parents still live two houses over. As a kid, I played with the former owners' grandchildren, who visited every summer from Chicago. I remember scarfing down chocolate cake in their pink Formica kitchen.

CAITLIN KELLY: What prompted the teardown?

At first, the client planned to partially renovate the original house. But then Hurricane Sandy hit. This town was flattened by the storm—many homes were completely washed away. We had to start over and re-create the house in a new and modern way. It is now situated higher up to avoid flooding, allowing for an eight-foot basement. The siting was reoriented so that several rooms now have a view of the bay. The rooms are slightly

larger, and we added spaces that are useful today, such as a media room and a mudroom for dropping off flip-flops, beach towels, and sailing gear.

Did anything make it through the storm?

We salvaged the dining chairs, two armchairs, and a sofa, which we reupholstered. We also saved my favorite furnishings from the old house—the living room's consoles, which we found under three feet of water. Their brass legs took on a kind of patina because of the water damage, but somehow the effect looks beautiful.

Who is the client? He clearly enjoys the water.

He's an avid sailor who loves knowing where the wind is coming from. So, hand-painted on the dining room ceiling is a compass rose with eight points and a brass arrow connected to the roof's weather vane that lets you see the wind shift from east to west. On a windy night, it's like a Ouija board! Nautical references are very much a part of my aesthetic. I use seafaring materials like rope, sisal, jute, sea grass, and teak. The family—he has



three adult daughters—is often out sailing, so we added metal storm shutters to the porch. They're controlled by an app that can be activated as soon as the clouds roll in, even from miles away.

The aqua palette also seems fitting.

I've always been a sucker for cooler colors, for greens and blues. Growing up in an East Coast beach town was a huge influence on the way I see color, and it continues to be, although I've been based in California for the last 20 years. It's in my blood. Maybe that's why I still get hired to do beach houses back east.

And that kitchen! That's a powerful hue.

"No white kitchens" is a rule for me. When you're in a house with other colors going on, a white kitchen looks unfinished, like it's just been primed. Color in a kitchen is grounding, especially since most people spend a lot of time in that space. These walls are a really punchy indigo, and the backsplash tiles were custom-colored to our specifications in Morocco.

You used several of your own designs as well.

Yes, from the master bed to the cocktail table in

the living room. My showroom, Harbinger, in Los Angeles, carries fabric, furniture, wallpaper, and art. It's very eclectic, with a lot of color and items made by artisans, including ceramics.

For a home that is the essence of summer, why a dark-walled, moody library?

It's the client's full-time residence, and the library is where he gets cozy in the winter months. The fabrics—the sofa's linen-cotton velvet, the wool plaid on the tufted chairs—add warmth. The paint color was inspired by the room's artworks—the painting over the fireplace and the watercolor over the bar. It's a silvery platinum that changes in the light. The bar is mahogany, with a copper insert for ice; the shape is like the hull of a boat.

Was the project smooth sailing?

It's the fourth house I've done for him, so we have a very trusting relationship. Even though it's a waterfront home in a beach town, it's a great fit for him year-round. In the winter, thanks to the new deep basement, he can now store his dinghy and rowboat beneath the house. So he's surrounded by all of his favorite toys.

The house, built in 2015, replaced a 1926 home damaged five years ago during Hurricane Sandy. **ABOVE:** The dining chairs, reeditions by Hollywood at Home of vintage ones from New York's Downtown Athletic Club, were re-covered in a Peter Dunham Textiles fabric. Kilim, Mansour Modern. Chandelier, Lucca Home. **OPPOSITE:** The living room's consoles survived the storm. The custom Harbinger sofa is in an Arjmand's World fabric. Rug, Holland & Sherry.



ABOVE: Designer Joe Lucas. **RIGHT:** A hemp wallcovering by Kneeder Fauchère adds texture to the master bedroom; the custom bed is from Harbinger. Roman shade in Ferrick Mason's Lexington. **BELOW:** Tongue-and-groove paneling creates a classic look in a guest room. "I used an old-school trick—incorporating closets into the rooflines—for a vintage feel," Lucas says. The Noir four-poster bed has a headboard covered in Suzani linen by Arjumand's World. Window shades in a Kufri stripe.



TOP: The kitchen's custom handmade Moroccan tiles by Mosaic House "don't feel too beachy," Lucas says. The cabinets, island, and doorframe are in Pratt & Lambert's Indigo. Ann-Morris stools, Harbinger. Pendants, Circa Lighting. **LEFT:** A moody, deep blue-gray, Sherwin-Williams's Slate Tile, envelops the intimate study; the client's own chair, re-covered in a Holland & Sherry plaid, is topped with a pillow by Zak+Fox. **ABOVE:** The Bayhead serving bar is from Harbinger.



The shingled home, which faces New Jersey's Barnegat Bay, has a screened porch with app-controlled emergency storm shutters, easily activated from across the bay. The roof's custom-designed copper weather vane is a replica of the client's beloved yacht, a 28-foot E-Scow. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES

