

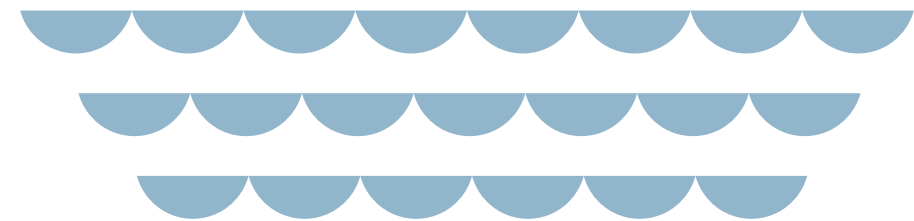


# SALT *and* SUN



IN COASTAL NEW JERSEY, CHRISTINA KIM INTERIOR DESIGN CREATES A “FOREVER BEACH HOUSE” TO BE ENJOYED GENERATION AFTER GENERATION.

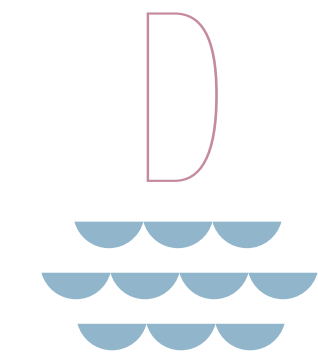
INTERIOR DESIGN BY CHRISTINA KIM INTERIOR DESIGN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RAQUEL LANGWORTHY • BUILDER: DAVE KINSEL OF NORTH END BUILDERS  
ARCHITECT: MB HEARN





**WARM UP**  
In the kitchen and living spaces, wood beams add warmth to the new construction. “We sourced them locally from Real Antique Wood Mill here in New Jersey,” Christina shares. “The wood coincidentally came from an old farm a few towns over.” The kitchen stools are by Brownstone Furniture and the dining chairs were sourced from Palecek. In the piano room, a sky-blue paint splatter wallpaper, a sky-blue paint splatter wallpaper by Cuff Studio adds soft color.

**MEALTIME, MEET PLAYTIME**  
Christina admits that the dining room is her favorite. Here, the first selection was the vintage Italian chandeliers. “They remind me of feathers, which is a fun, light touch,” she shares. “The table is custom and made by the brilliant Aronson Woodworks. We collaborated on a ping pong-inspired dining table and wrapped the legs in mirrored nickel.” The specialty CLAIZE finish is a unique touch—it’s quite light but emphasizes the natural grain of the wood.



Designer Christina Kim recalls that the creative vision for this new-construction New Jersey home started with a sentimental memory. “The client shared a story with me about going to the beach with her giant group of family and friends every Sunday growing up,” she says. “They would all head back to her grandmother’s tiny house where she would cook for everyone, still in her

bathing suit fresh from the beach. I pictured our client as the new matriarch of her family, cooking for everyone in her bathing suit! I kept this little story in my head throughout the entire design process.” Her own children were grown, so this property was selected to serve as a gathering space, a home where their family and a large group of extended family and friends could gather for generations.

Christina aimed to create a warm and welcoming space that would feel on trend, yet timeless. “While we wanted to bring a coastal feel, we also wanted to

convey a sense of permanence, hence the classic Arabescato Corchia marble fireplace, arches, and ceiling beams,” she says. “To keep the design fresh, we layered in chic vintage photography, whitewashed pine ceilings, mixed in vintage Italian chandeliers, and even a custom ping pong-inspired dining table by Aronson Woodworks.”

It was a 16-month build and ended in a TV-worthy dramatic reveal. “Not a dry eye in the house,” Christina laughs. “My team and the builder, Dave Kinsel from North End Builders, greeted the clients at the door, and all I remember hearing was, ‘This is my house! Is this really my house?’ We laughed, we cried, we drank champagne...I remember it as a perfect night.”



**SUBTLE SURF**

"The entire home is intentionally very light in both mood and color," Christina says. "When designing a coastal home, I find it's more effective to reference a mood rather than the beach or the water. For example, I love using fun vintage photography that captures some moment of leisure, whether it's a Slim Aarons photo or an unknown black and white beach babe. It's all about setting a cool, casual vibe." The house is stocked with striped Weezy towels for guests. In the stairwell is a statement chandelier from Hudson Valley Lighting. Right, a custom cerused-oak hutch holds the clients' milk glass collection.



#### EMBRACE THE WAVES

"We broke ground shortly before Covid hit and designed and furnished this home in the thick of the pandemic," Christina recalls. "While the world was beginning to go on lockdown, we were planning and in full design. We faced delays, supply chain issues, and the stress of not knowing what was going to happen with the world. We still don't, but I do love that we all had this house to focus on. Everyone involved—the builder's team, my team, and the clients—were in this together."

