

# modern marvel

## INSIDE A STUNNING CONTEMPORARY RESIDENCE ON LONG BEACH ISLAND

Award last year from the venerable American Institute of Architects in New Jersey. The 2,600-square-foot home's progressive, postmodern style stands out in the upscale neighborhood of Loveladies.

"We selected Loveladies because of its seclusion," says Marlene Nissenblatt, who along with her husband, Michael, a practicing doctor and founder of the Central Jersey Oncology Center, purchased the property in 1983. They demolished the former residence in 2007 and turned to respected local architect Stephen Midouhas to create a year-round dream home for their extended family of children and grandchildren. Midouhas certainly knew the landscape—he'd spent nearly every summer on Long Beach Island, and the foundation of his career was built designing oceanfront homes along the Jersey Shore. "The beach house lends itself to architectural exploration and risk taking," says Midouhas. "I was just always around this architecture and, to me, it is the norm."

Many beach cottages are casual, whitewashed affairs filled with comfy furniture, pastel hues and durable carpets that can camouflage a few errant grains of sand. Not so for the spectacular Nissenblatt residence on Long Beach Island. This sophisticated cantilevered structure, which shows off an exterior that's an innovative mix of cedar shingles and painted panels (made from recycled newspaper and cement), received a Design Honor

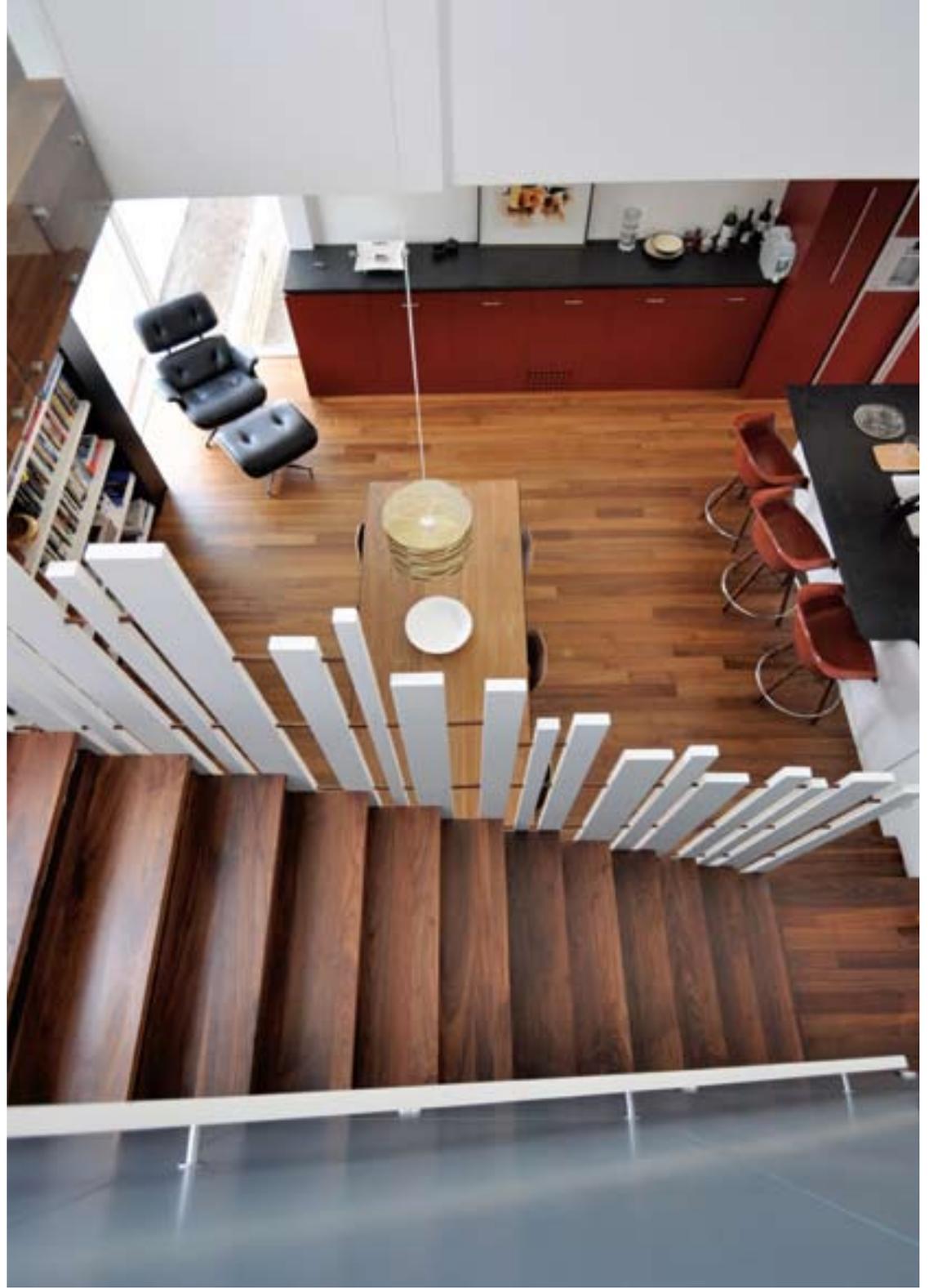
BY SUE HOSTETLER



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROMAN TORRES

The Nissenblatts' home is made up of two shingled, barn-like forms connected with horizontal spaces that serve to break down the scale of the structure, making it feel more residential. The barn-red cement board panels add a jolt of color into the beachside landscape. Located just 300 feet from the water, the residence boasts ocean views from its second level.





**ABOVE:** A view from the stairs provides a more extensive look at the dining room and kitchen. In the far left corner are a classic black leather Eames chair and matching ottoman. To the right is an informal snack bar paired with Modernica fiberglass-shell stools with walnut trestle legs. "The Nissenblatts made clear from day one that the house would be lived in," says Midouhas. "It stays open all year long and is used by three generations. The materials are made to hold up." **TOP LEFT:** The lofty A-frame living room features a knotty cedar ceiling and a spectacular glass wall facing east. Midouhas Architecture was responsible for not only the design and construction of the home but also furnishing the interiors (although the clients were heavily involved in every aspect of the process). The furniture is an eclectic mix of pieces from the Nissenblatts' former home and new additions Midouhas selected or had custom made. Matching Le Corbusier white leather Grand Confort sofas in the living room are paired with a coffee table crafted of reclaimed teak, custom-fabricated by a woodworker in North Carolina. "Windows help blur the boundaries between interior and exterior environments," says Marlene. "At every point there is a sense of being in an open, yet private, space." **BOTTOM LEFT:** Elegant and comfortable, the entertaining room features steamed walnut floors and a black brick fireplace. "To us, entertaining means casual time with family and a few close friends," Marlene says. "This home allows us to enjoy weekend getaways year-round, a pleasure we were denied in our first Shore home, which was not winterized."

The dining room-cum-library is both the architect's and the clients' favorite place in the home. A farm table with a rough-sawn reclaimed teak top and blackened steel frame sits in the center of the room, surrounded by Eames molded-plywood dining chairs by Herman Miller. Behind the table are an open slatted wall and walnut stairs. "The design of the stairs gives a nod to the 'old backyard fence,'" explains Midouhas. To the right, bookshelves extend back beyond the door and into the master suite.





A set of stairs leads to the main deck, where the family enjoys some of its favorite summer pastimes: grilling, bird-watching and yoga.



**ABOVE, TOP:** The cedar-wrapped screen porch houses a teak and stainless-steel dining table and matching chairs with mesh seats. **ABOVE, BOTTOM:** Upstairs, the family room features a Ligne Roset sectional sofa and teak coffee table. **LEFT:** Sliding glass doors provide direct access to the second-floor terrace, overlooking the Atlantic.