

OCEAN HOUSE

Fall 2023 / Winter 2024

Classic Elegance

Make memories of a lifetime

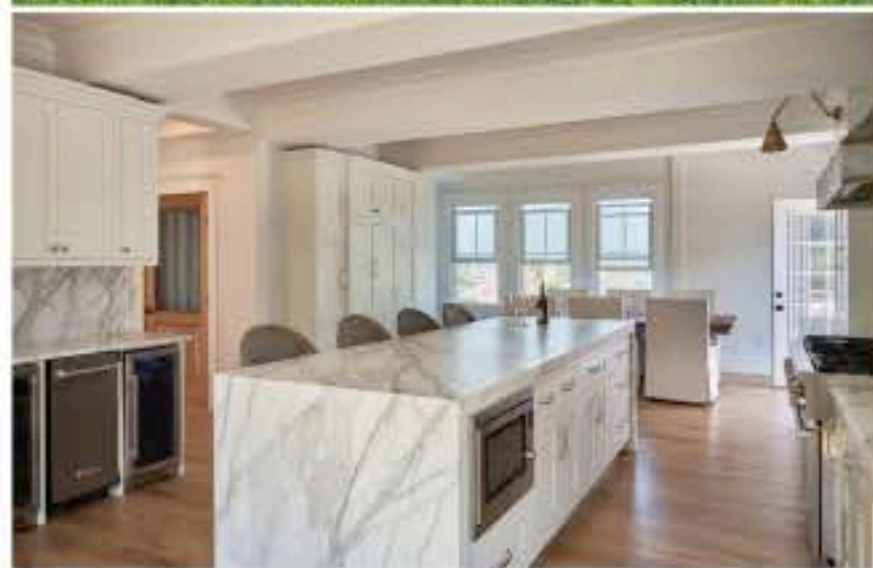


THE INN TURNS 125
Taking a look back and embracing the future

CULTURAL HUB
The United Theatre opens doors to community

DOWN TO BUSINESS
Corporate retreats get a unique spin

CHILDHOOD DREAMS
Beautiful wedding visions come to life



Top three photos: The Oceanic's luxurious pool, screened-in porch and living room are popular spaces for family events.

Bottom photos: Interest, which means "between the waves," has seven bedrooms, a gourmet kitchen and can sleep 14-16 guests.

OCEAN HOUSE

The Cottage Collection

Two historic homes are added to the Ocean House rental program

Family cottage. There are no more beautiful words in the vacation vernacular. Celebrating holidays, milestones, or just getting away, in a cottage by the shore. Gathering everyone together to enjoy life.

Now update that image into five-star luxury, in newly rebuilt historic architecture, with modern amenities and exclusive views of the New England Coast. And within walking distance to the premier Ocean House, with the privileges of resort membership, a gorgeous stretch of private beach on the Atlantic Ocean, restaurants, and indoor and outdoor activities for all ages, from cooking classes to boating excursions.

The Oceanic and Interest—these newest additions to the Ocean House Cottage Collection, sit on the highest points of Watch Hill, with an abundance of porches and decks whose views of the Atlantic Ocean and Little Narragansett Bay get better with each floor. (Yes, the houses have elevators.) Oceanic and Interest were designed for multigeneration

families. The owners wanted to build legacy, heritage homes where their large families could gather. They wanted spaces for people to come together and spaces where they could find private moments. Since the busy owners can't use these houses often, they've opened them up to the rentals through the Cottage Collection. Now you and yours can indulge and enjoy these very special, newly rebuilt and designed properties, too.

THE OCEANIC
The Owners

Locals called the old shingle-style place "The Rock Pile" because it sits on a steep, boulder-rich lot. Originally constructed in 1890, it was rebuilt in the 1990s after catching fire. When Daniel Rosenthal and Courtney Granville bought it in 2020, they brought fresh ideas about how to use the space. Returning to the United States after living in Europe, they wanted to find a house their extended families could gather. And since Granville's brothers were a Rhode Island-based builder and a master electrician, family was involved from the start.

After living in the house for six months at the start of the pandemic, Rosenthal and Granville and their three children, and Carson Granville, who visited on weekends, had a good idea of "how the house best flows and how it's best used by family," says Courtney Granville.

"The main floor is designed to allow generations of families or large groups of friends or business associates to gather and be connected without feeling like they're on top of one another," says Rosenthal. Many of the nine bedrooms (the 10,400 square-foot house sleeps up to 18), open onto screened porches or decks.

The Architect

The owners brought in architect Meg Lyons to re-imagine the structure. Chuck Royce, Ocean House's owner, recommended Lyons; she was the Project Manager and Lead Architect of the five-and-a-half-year rebuild of the historic 1868 hotel while an associate at Centerbrook Architects. Oceanic's guests particularly love its references to Ocean House—the fireplace, in the first floor Quiet Room, has a curved wood mantel and textured pebble tile, inspired by one

in a suite at the hotel.

Lyons was well-versed in updating and enhancing the original 1890 features, while re-orienting the house and increasing square footage. The kitchen was moved from the north to an addition on the west side. On the east side, she extended the stumpy turret that housed an awkward spiral staircase and short windows, and installed eight-foot windows that sweep around the turret to create a light-filled, second-floor landing with ocean views. A separate staircase, with built-in bookcases, connects to the third floor. Here a circular office boasts dreamy views of the ocean and bay. It is one of Oceanic's "many beautiful moments," Lyons says.

The architect also uses the ceiling plane to create special spaces. A coffered ceiling defines the first floor living area. The expansive kitchen draws the eye through the 14-foot-wide entry, past the 14-foot-long marble island, to a copper-accented hood flanked by a row of three windows that extends the views to Sandy Point. The room opens up to a vaulted ceiling that takes advantage of the hip roof above. Thoughtful details abound in the house, such as Lyons' fondness for well-proportioned round windows. They bring charm to the primary bath—there's even a (strategically placed for privacy) round window in the shower.

The original arched stone porch was rebuilt and enclosed with custom arched windows, which Lyons describes as "an elegant expression of what was originally there." Now it's a mud room, an evocative, transitional space on the first floor, with easy access to and from the pool, with storage and a bathroom.

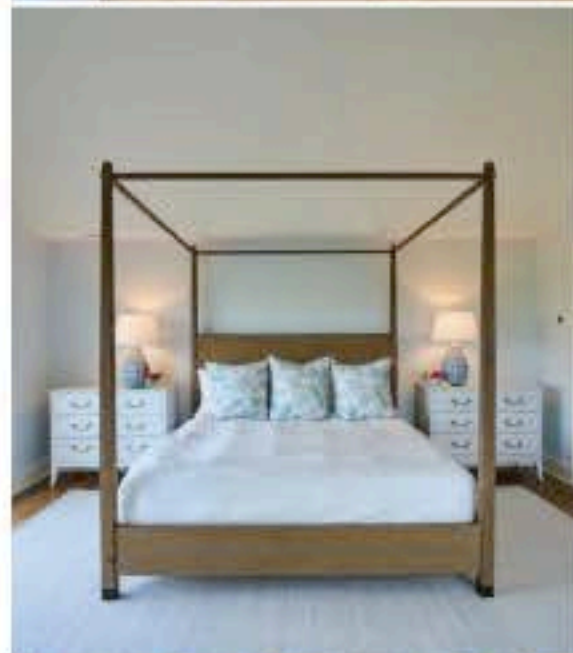
Beyond its views, beauty and luxury, Oceanic is eminently practical. The entry floor is lined with lockers, benches, hooks and closets. A large room can be adapted for a range of activities, including corporate events (it fits 20 for a meeting). Also on the entry floor are a gym, screening room and two bedroom suites. An elevator goes up one level to the first floor, which also has two bedroom suites and a laundry room.

The Builder

Craftsmanship was at the heart of the original shingle style cottages, and it's evident throughout Oceanic. Curved wood is a theme,



The OCEANIC Cottage



Top row: The Oceanic's kitchen has a 14-foot-long island and high-end appliances.

Middle, left: All nine bedrooms include en-suite baths, and many open up to porches.

Middle, right: A third-floor turret office is enchanting with Atlantic Ocean views.

Bottom row: Guests can relax in the private pool and spa.

and Granville Builders, a boutique residential construction firm based in Wakefield, RI, with its team of master carpenters helmed by J. Carson Granville, owner, and Courtney's brother, took on the task. "We are particularly proud of the curved structures, moldings and cabinetry, which were all designed and fabricated in-house," says Carson Granville.

The house was taken down to the studs, and the challenge his team faced was "to blend the historic elements of the house into an expansion and renovation with all the modern amenities to achieve timeless results," he adds. He takes a lot of pride in the circular turret office, replete with a built-in curved desk for two and a banquette. Curved moldings frame windows and doors.

Elliot Granville, Carson's brother and owner of Rhode Island Energy services, did all the electrical work and was involved in the lighting design as well. "It was very fulfilling to work with family on a house that we'll all spend time in together for years to come," Carson Granville says.

The Interior Designer

Oceanic's owners met Lindsey Harper when she had a shop in Watch Hill. "We became friendly and I saw the house, and how they lived with kids and dogs. It's so great when you can get to know the owners before the renovation process." She worked for two-and-a-half years on the project, meeting with the architect and contractor to go over the plans and creating schematics for the rooms.

The kitchen's mosaic backsplash, with its hues of blue, white and a touch of gold, was the starting off-point for the interior design. She created a relaxed, comfortable, livable design, expressing a love of natural textures, a variety of blues, and brass lighting fixtures that she likens to "a touch of jewelry."

In the dining room, she mirrored the shallow dome architect Lyons designed in the center of the ceiling. Beneath it, Harper added a round table, and chairs with upholstered curved backs. Grass wallpaper gives texture to the walls, and a wet bar includes a wine fridge. Wallpaper is a signature for Harper, and she uses it to give the bathrooms personality. (There are nine en-suite bathrooms, and three additional bathrooms, a total of 11.)

"I like to make smaller spaces special, and I adore working with wallpaper," says Harper. "We made each bathroom unique and fun." One is based on local nautical maps, another of colorful fish, and on the third floor, a "cheeky siren luring sailors."

INTERCREST

The Owner

Christopher Abreu had his eye on the property since 2004, and was just waiting for the historic house, built in 1898 across the street from Ocean House, to come on the market. The reinsurance executive had a passion for design and began investing in properties and building homes. After building nine new houses over 10 years, Abreu's interest narrowed upon restoring historical properties. In 2019, he got his chance: the house on Plimpton Road was for sale. The project married Abreu's love of design, historic architecture and luxurious vacation homes.

It began with a complete reimagining of the property, adding a driveway and parking lot, and thinking about placement of windows, decks and porches to maximize views of both the ocean and bay (hence the name Interest, "between the waves"). The interior floors were warrens of small rooms. To create the welcoming spaces and amenities of a high-end luxury vacation property, the house needed a complete rebuild. They took it down to the studs, rebuilt and reinforced.

The kitchen is always the focal point in homes Abreu develops, "because that's where everyone gathers." Four small rooms were opened to create an expansive kitchen with a massive 10-foot island with a waterfall edge, and state-of-the-art appliances. Seven bedrooms, with en-suite bathrooms, sleep up to 18 people, in the 5,100 square-foot house. Porches abound (a total of 1,500 feet). "When you think about having a great vacation, you want to be together and you want your own private spaces. The porch areas allow for that little bit of privacy, while enjoying an unbelievable view."

Abreu's favorite porch is off the second floor back bedroom. "It's one of the neatest porches I have ever designed or envisioned. It's like a secret pathway to a secret porch." He likes to have his morning coffee there, overlooking the water. "You're having a moment with this



Above: Cottage guests can book spa treatments and enjoy an array of activities.

RESORT PERKS

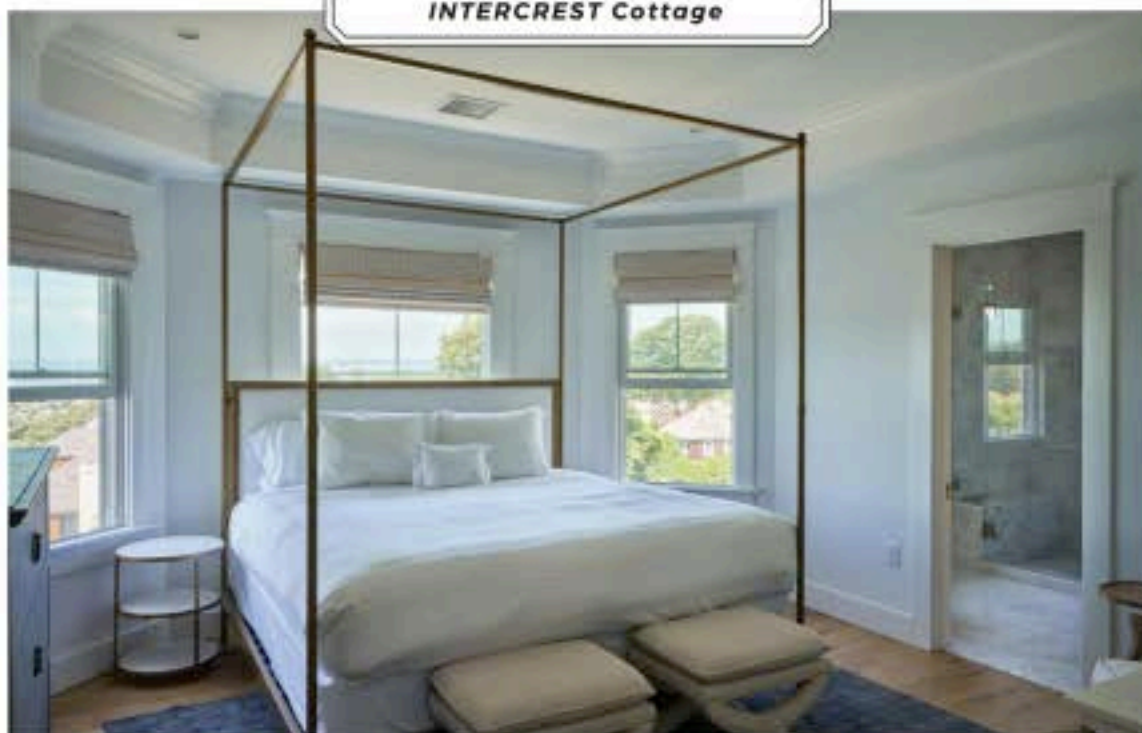
Each cottage has a dedicated concierge, and guests of the **Oceanic** and **Interest** enjoy the privileges of an Ocean House resort member. "They have phenomenal restaurants, a fitness center with a wide variety of spa treatments, and classes and activities for all ages," says Courtney Granville, owner of Oceanic. "One of the things we love is the Ocean House Beach Club. The amenities, including chairs, umbrellas and towels, mean you don't have to lug everything. You can show up with nothing but a book and sunglasses and enjoy a glorious day, where you feel pampered with food and beverage service while enjoying all the beach has to offer."

Ocean House provides Cottage Collection guests with an option for a private chef and/or wine tasting with an Ocean House sommelier. The OH team works with guests to tailor events. "When I hosted my executive team at Oceanic in June, we had Ocean House run a cooking competition and it was festive and fun," says Daniel Rosenthal. A private photographer is available to take pictures of families or corporate teams.



Above: During their stay, guests can enjoy meals at the resort restaurants or arrange for a private chef.

INTERCREST Cottage



Top row: One of seven luxurious bedrooms at the cottage

Middle row: Just across from Ocean House, the cottage features water views.

Bottom row: With ornate columns, the home's original fireplace sets the tone for a cozy, elegant seating area in the living room.

beautiful scenery."

Another special gathering space is the top floor "Crow's Nest," where a once-cramped attic has been transformed into a charming room with bay windows that give a panoramic view of the bay. The wet bar features a kegerator. There's a screen and cable for watching games. Even better—a porch wraps around the front and side, giving expansive views of the bay and ocean. "It's a floating porch that's tied into the walls," Abreu says. "It was very hard to construct."

Abreu has worked with building contractor Jose Hernandez for 10 years, and also brought in local contractor Ken Sorensen. The team restored many of the original architectural details. All the interior doors were stripped of layers of old paint, their hardware dipped to remove decades of tarnish. Finding just the right tone for the finish and hardware was a labor of love for Abreu's wife Christine.

"She was a real driver of the doors and picking out the finish that would bring out natural warm tones of the wood," Abreu says.

Christine Abreu also chose the white paints throughout the house, decorated in a soothing, natural palette of white, grey and warm wood tones. The formal area of the living room, by the original fireplace with ornate columns, is furnished with a velvet couch and camel hair chairs around an oval marble coffee table, a cozy yet elegant seating area that references the 1920s, Abreu's favorite era of design.

Almost all the furniture (save the large buffet in the foyer) is Restoration Hardware, a brand Abreu loves and uses in all his homes. A window-filled sun porch has a burl wood table, ready for a game of backgammon or cards. It also has a full-on view of the grand Ocean House. You can imagine the family returning to the sun porch for games and conversation, after dinner at Ocean House.

Aligning with Ocean House was a natural. "I love the brand," Abreu says, expressing admiration for what Chuck Royce created: "It's a marquee resort that's all about hospitality. That's what we wanted to create at Interest—that same rich experience." It starts with Ocean House's dedicated director of residences preparing the cottages for guests. "You don't feel you're in a rental," says Abreu. "You feel like you're home."