



INSPIRED ISLAND STYLE

*Refreshing a waterfront retreat
in Washington's San Juan Islands by
celebrating casual comfort*

photography by MATTHEW MULLMAN text by AMANDA DAMERON



Seattle designer Steven Hensel gave the interiors of a house in the San Juan Islands, off the coast of Washington, a casual, beachy feel with an eclectic East Coast influence.

opposite The house, by architect Thomas Bosworth of Bosworth Hoedemakear, is clad in Bosworth's signature white. **this page** A Krüss low table and an Elizabeth Eakins cotton rug define a sitting area in the great room. The Ralph Lauren chaise is upholstered with Zimmer + Rohde fabric, and the sofa is from Kravet.



opposite Benton Peugh's *Moonrise*, 2005, hangs above the great room's fireplace. The rattan armchair is from Baker. **right** The entry hall displays a grid of Art Hansen color etchings. An Indonesian bench is upholstered with Giant fabric. **below right** A. Rudin chairs covered with Greeff plaid create a second sitting area near a window seat and built-in bookcases in the great room.



THE ARCHITECTURE WAS SO CLEAN AND crisp—everything we needed seemed already in place and waiting for us,” says Seattle designer Steven Hensel, who recently over-

hauled the interiors of a San Juan Islands seaside compound by architect Thomas Bosworth of Bosworth Hoedemaker. “The original owners’ furniture and art fought with the style of the house,” says the designer. “My clients were interested in pursuing a more symbiotic relationship.”

The Washington property, a hilly six acres, holds a series of tidy structures clad inside and out in luminous white clapboard siding. In the main house, natural light, channeled through elongated dormers and clerestories, bathes the interior spaces, setting a sparkling backdrop for the kind of beachy weekend retreat Hensel’s clients wanted. “We were after a kind of Hampsons look but without the seriousness or formality,” says the designer.

Bosworth’s precise symmetry and towering volumes reveal a soaring openness within the structure. In the great room, varying ceiling heights create distinct areas for gathering and entertaining. Hensel followed the architectural cues and fashioned two sitting areas, each anchored by a large handwoven cotton rug by Elizabeth Eakins. At the room’s center, near a slate fireplace, Hensel established a traditional living area by stationing a Ralph Lauren chaise and two rattan armchairs from Baker around a Kreiss low table with an embedded fossil top. Encircling a leather-covered ottoman in the other sitting area is a quartet of A. Rudin armchairs upholstered with Greeff plaid.

Hensel selected textiles with restrained pattern and texture in a palette of sage green, butter yellow and blue-grey pulled





opposite For the dining area, Hensel chose a custom table and chairs from Fauld, and he upholstered the chairs with Rodolph fabric. The glass pendants are antique, and the handblown colorful glass vessels are by artist Richard S. Jones. Conrad shades add texture to the windows.
above Twin beds on wheels can be joined to create a king-size bed in the guest bedroom. The painted English side chairs and oak desk are antique.



directly from the water hues and madrona trees outside. "There were only two colors to begin with," Hensel recalls. "Caramel, from the pine floors, and of course the Bosworth White." (This eponymous color is a special mixture of paint that appears in all of the Seattle architect's projects.)

Just off the living area is the kitchen, which Hensel transformed from a restrictive Pullman style layout to a spacious open plan. In the adjacent dining area, Hensel grouped sturdy chairs around an oak trestle table from Fauld and added a pop of color with handblown glass vessels. Tall windows, hung with simple shades from Conran, line the room and inspire an immediate connection to the outdoors.

Toward the front of the house is the master bedroom. A slender iron four-

poster takes center stage and is dressed with a coverlet and canopy draperies made with fabric from Pindler & Pindler. Hensel playfully referenced the house's seaside setting by placing urchin sculptures on the side table. Comfortable Palecek club chairs covered with fabric from Calvin Fabrics are situated at the base of the bed.

For the clients, who can reach the property in forty five minutes from Seattle by seaplane, Hensel has designed a breezy escape that is at once suggestive of their East Coast roots and celebratory in its own Pacific Northwest setting. By ridding the house of "inappropriate, incongruous furniture and artwork," Hensel realigned the architecture and the interior design, an effort, he says, that puts "everything as it should be." +



left "We achieved a beachy feel by using breezy lightweight fabrics," Hensei says of the master bedroom. A four-poster from Ironware International is adorned with canopy draperies, a coverlet and bed skirt, all made with Pindler & Pindler fabrics. Pillows covered with Schumacher fabric offer a layer of pattern. The cushions of two Palacek chairs are covered with textiles from Calvin Fabrics. An Elizabeth Eakins cotton rug grounds the room.



above The west-facing porch frames water views. Roger Hill & Associates landscaped the six-acre property. **opposite** A peaceful sitting area by the shore overlooks the steel-and-wood dock.

