



Exterior (After, above) The transformed house is predominantly gray and white, with gambrel roof lines, simple columns and other elements of a classic Shingle-Style home. Once fully landscaped, the house will appear nestled into the setting, and from its copper weathervane and cupola to its stately front door, it will provide a welcoming presence, just as this architectural style has done since its inception in the 19th century.



Exterior (Before, left) The original house was a contemporary design, the exterior of which featured siding in a subtle green with stonework embellishments.

## Marilyn Rose Helps a Dream Home Come True

By Evelina Emmi Rector

It sounds like a vacation brochure: “Commanding views of the Great South Bay, picturesque wetlands, countless varieties of birds and marine life – and access by boat to Fire Island and the Atlantic Ocean...” For a client of Marilyn Rose who recently purchased a home in a thriving community on the south shore of Long Island, however, such de-

lights are now virtually available right in her own backyard. (Along with the opportunity to swim, fish and dock a boat.)

When Marilyn’s client found a house in this lovely area on the same street where extended family lives, it was immediately apparent that it could be the home of her dreams – except for one important fact. The house did not

look at all like the home of her dreams, inside or out.

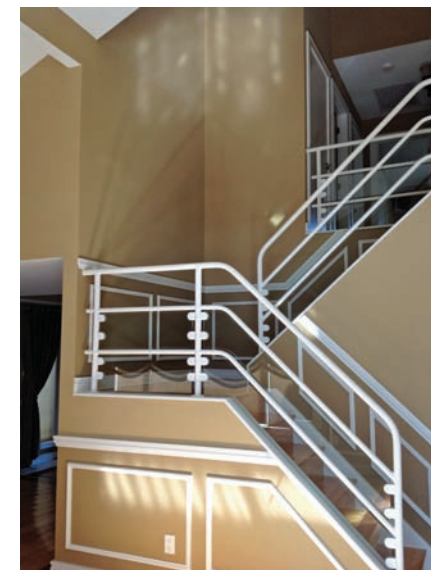
The existing residence had been built and tended to with care, but was primarily a contemporary design. It would be an enormous project to transform the house into one that expressed the prospective owner’s vision of “Home,” but she felt it was more than worth the effort and decided



Front Hall (Before, above) The previous front hall featured leaded glass doors, taupe walls, contrasting white moldings and a white marble floor that bordered hardwood floors.

Front Hall (After, left) In the newly designed front hall, elegant cream-and-beige striped wallpaper sets a tranquil tone. A custom gold leaf console, with marble top and Greek key motif on its apron, is flanked by antique bronze sconces. Gold accented porcelain urns with a pastoral landscape design stand on each side of a tall gilt mirror. The staircase combines white paint with a dark walnut stain, which continues on the flooring. It also features a small, gently curved balcony that looks over the first floor. An area rug in black and gold with touches of red coordinates with the carpeting on the stairs.

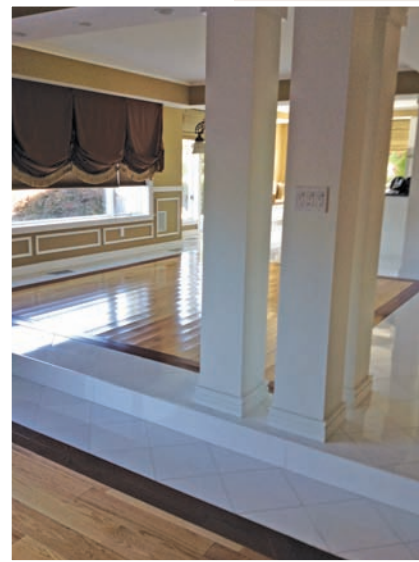
Staircase (Before, right) The former staircase employed angular lines and a white tubular metal railing, similar to ones associated with some contemporary and Art Deco structures.



Staircase (After, far right) The current staircase features graceful, sweeping lines which visually flow into the space, bringing a cordial and welcoming feeling to the front hall. A stunning antique Maria Theresa crystal chandelier hangs above, and a niche in the wall harbors a lovely bronze urn, with a Greek key design that echoes similar elements in the space, while its playful bas-relief cherubs add great charm.







Dining Room (Before, above inset) Columns, white marble, hardwood floors and taupe walls with white molding comprised the dining room space in the original house.

Dining Room (After, above) To unify the open plan kitchen and dining room design, the transformed space has dark walnut floors which echo those in the front hall and kitchen. In addition, a clever visual effect enhances and further unifies the two areas: The kitchen eating space is white with dark wood framed stools, while the dining table is also dark wood with white framed chairs. Other unifying details are the chandeliers over each eating area, and the soft green trellis design painted on the cane backs of the dining chairs, which recalls the trellis of the kitchen backsplash, while repeating the gentle green of the dining room walls.



to buy the property. Clearly she would need to find just the right person to help transform someone else's dream home into her own.

The search proved an easy one because the new homeowner had long admired the work of Marilyn Rose in the pages of *HOUSE* magazine and other publications. Marilyn's ability to translate and augment her clients' vision, lifestyle and residential

dreams has long been known by word of mouth from Manhattan to the Hamptons and beyond. With the capable staff at Marilyn H. Rose Interiors, her website and blog have also allowed Marilyn to share her work, ideas and knowledge through articles and photographs online.

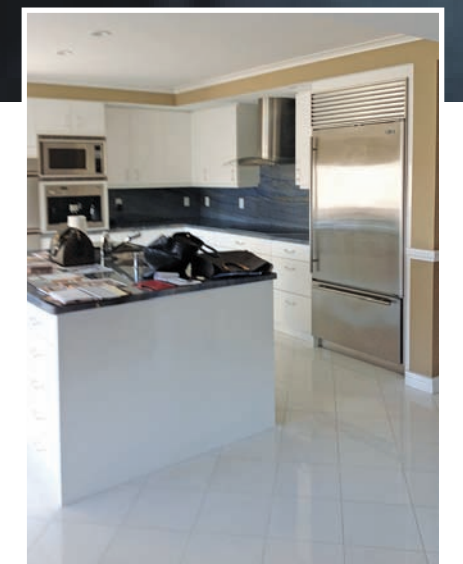
In addition to the creativity and expertise Marilyn brings to a project, there is another great benefit of working with an estab-

lished interior designer – the group of other capable, experienced professionals she can assemble. Together they can help bring to life a house that fulfills the homeowner's dream – in this case, a traditional, elegant and above all, welcoming home that befits its coastal setting.

Cold Spring Harbor architect Peter Nesfield did an artful job creating the plans used to transform the contemporary exterior

Kitchen (Before, right) White marble floors, black granite countertops, and gleaming stainless steel appliances made a contemporary statement in the original kitchen.

Kitchen (After, above) White also appears in the new kitchen, with vastly different results. Cabinetry with rich detail sets the tone. A backsplash of gray trellis tile picks up the gray veins on the white granite-topped island adorned with Corinthian pilasters. Comfortable black French stools and dark walnut floors, recalling those in the front hall, also contribute to the warm and luxurious feel of the functional space – and lend continuity to the open plan kitchen and dining room design. White porcelain artichokes sit in a silver trimmed bowl, while a porcelain rooster and hen hold court under matching crystal chandeliers.







Master Bath – Tub (After) A modern rendition of a ball and claw tub with gilded brass trim sits like an island of calm in the soothing sea of the white marble floor. A graceful gold painted étagère sits to the right of the tub and, for a touch of charming whimsy, a miniature chair sits on the left.



Master Bath – Vanities (After) The twin vanities of the regal master bathroom are inlaid with burl. Both have gilded oval mirrors with bronze and crystal sconces above them. Enriching the elegance of the space is a bronze and crystal chandelier, and beneath it, a white Calacatta marble floor with black cabochons lends a sense of serenity.



Den (After, above) The freshly imagined design of the new den features a fireplace with a French mantle and elegantly detailed flanking bookcases that replace the former windows. Above the mantle, on each side of the mirror, is a doré bronze antique sconce, while on the mantle sit two alabaster urns. A soft green textured plush sofa stands before a Louis XVI style walnut sofa table, accented with two hand-painted lamps bearing a vine and flower design. In front of the sofa is a walnut brown leather ottoman in a faux crocodile design with an inset tray. Comfortable soft taupe chairs complete the cozy seating arrangement, as does the discretely placed television.

Den (Before, left) The former incarnation of the den featured hardwood floors, and a window-flanked fireplace with a cherry mantle that included shelves and a recess for a television.



Guest Powder Room (After) Structural changes were made to provide room for a new, larger guest powder room. The opulent space features Sherle Wagner fixtures. A marble sink top is graced with a silver leaf and crystal faucet set. The striking, custom-colored silver leaf mirror, decorated with rose swags that hang over the glass itself, is flanked by rock crystal sconces.

into the Shingle-Style design which has long been a classic form of architecture in New England, the Hamptons and other seaside communities. Refinements Ltd, a talented and accomplished team of builder/remodelers known for the quality of their work and customer service, com-

pleted the exterior of the house and then moved on to execute Marilyn's design for the interior. With the before-and-after photos reflecting this ongoing project, it is easy to see what has been accomplished so far in bringing a homeowner's dream to life. Once the next phase of work is fin-

ished, new photos will be forthcoming, but even they cannot show a lovely bonus – the genuine friendship that has developed between Marilyn and her client, which will flourish long after the last picture is hung and the project is complete.

To be continued . . . 🏠