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[this page] Samantha Fleming, niece of Stewart Manger, who redesigned the house, stands on top of a 1960s coffee table in the upstairs sitting room. The old wicker furniture was re-covered in a blue ikat fabric from Bernard Thorp. **[facing page]** One of the oldest remaining Shingle-style houses on the ocean in the Hamptons, the Manger house weathered the hurricane of 1938. The outer walls have been reshingled, the roof and chimney rebuilt.

{In the 1938 hurricane, the ocean

[facing page] A Regency table in the octagonal living room gives the space its focal point. Four benches around it were copied from designs by David Easton, Stewart Manger's boss. The fireplace and mantel are original. **[this page]** The living room entrance is flanked by overscaled Redouté reproductions. An 1880s mantel in the family room **[below]** was restored. On the mantel shelf: a collection of blue-and-white Chinese export porcelain.

WHO, OTHER THAN PARENTS, CAN GIVE A YOUNG architect or designer the first big break? Such leaps of faith are something of a tradition, especially in the architectural world. Le Corbusier designed a house for his parents, as did Robert Venturi and Charles Gwathmey, and all were well received, privately and publicly.

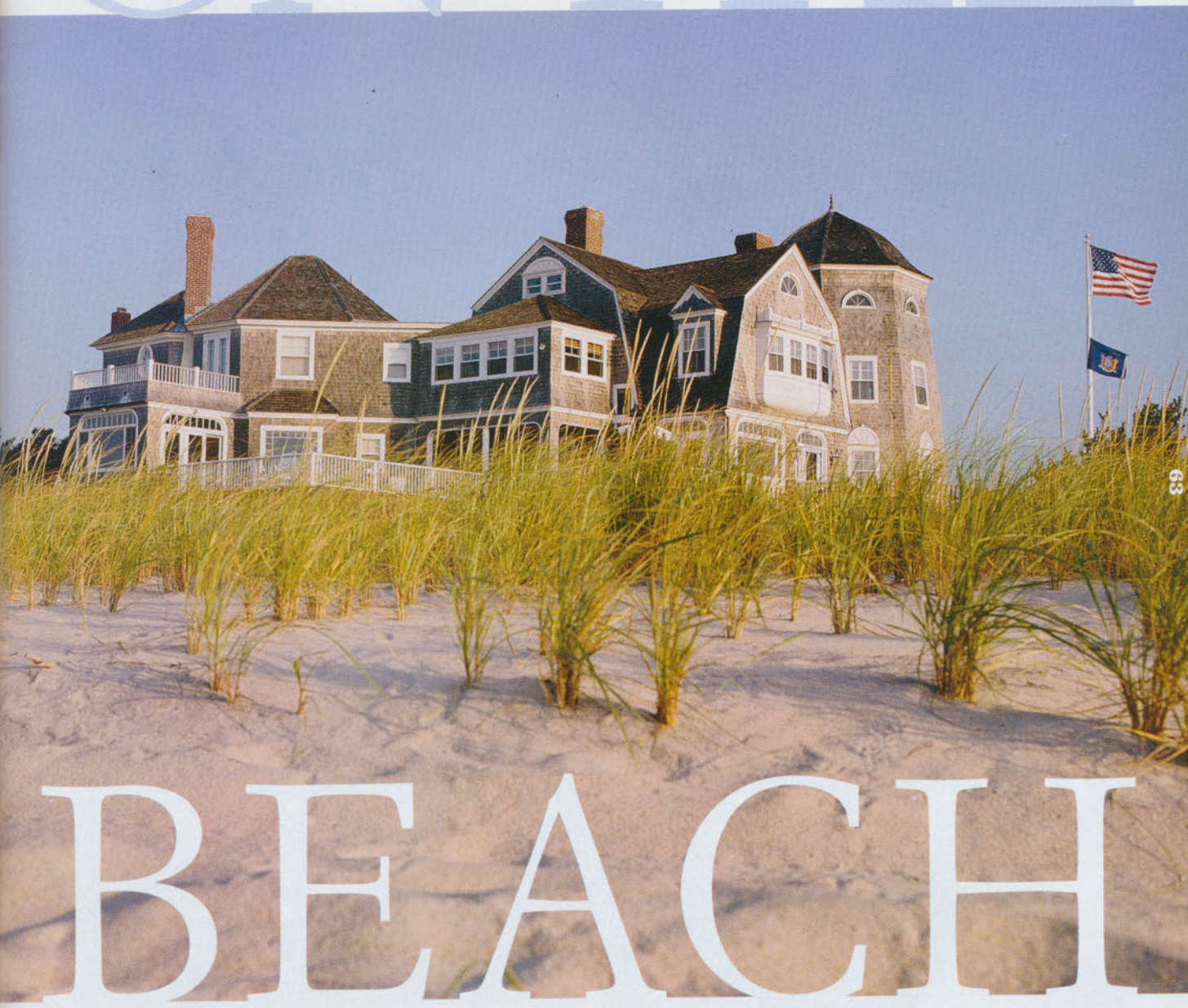
But renovating an existing family house for parents with four grown children and three grandchildren could be a designer's domestic nightmare. Mom and Dad are not the only clients; nosy brothers and sisters give their opinions freely on everything from door handles to countertops. "They did want to approve every decision," admits Stewart Manger, 33, an associate at Easton-Moss, the Manhattan decorating and design firm.

Manger's task was to renovate an 1880s Shingle-style house in the Hamptons where Manger's parents have spent every summer since the early 1960s. It is believed to be the oldest example of the genre still standing on the beach. "It survived the hurricane of 1938 despite the fact that the ocean swept through the lower floor," Manger says.

Manger asked Brian Covington and Susan O'Brien, architects who were then working in his office, to help with the project. Manger's older

swept through the lower floor}

ON THE BEACH



Major remodeling makes a family house stylish and comfortable for three generations

{The rooms have to survive kids troopi

[facing page] Stewart Manger restored the 1880s red oak staircase and covered the walls with grass cloth to create a backdrop for a set of turn-of-the-last-century fish prints. **[this page]** Manger and his niece, Samantha, like to play backgammon in the sunny entry hall.

g in with sandy feet and wet swimsuits}

[this page] The pale yellow and white communal kitchen on the completely remodeled ground floor was designed to look as though it had always been there, with tongue-and-groove paneling and hemlock floors. In the doorway, Stewart Manger enjoys his handiwork.

[this page, clockwise from left] White paint with blue detailing revived a French Provincial armoire in the guest room; flanking it are a pair of 1920s wheelback chairs, also freshly painted. Although they are renovated, the old bathrooms keep their period feeling with traditional wood beadboard for the tub and walls. Stewart Manger's own bedroom is neutral in color and natural in materials, such as the grass-cloth wallcovering, bamboo bench, and sisal floor matting.

brother, Bill, found a 1910 glass negative of the house in a local shop and had a print made as a starting point. "From there we could copy the authentic architectural details," Manger recalls. The house had been altered in the 1950s and no longer possessed all of its original windows, moldings, or balustrades.

The ground level of the three-story building consisted of seven maid's rooms and a breezeway for carriages. Manger and the architects decided to gut the entire level and make small apartments with a communal kitchen for Manger and his two brothers. They copied moldings from upstairs for all the new rooms so that they would harmonize.

The designer kept the furnishings simple and found much of it in local shops and tag sales. "Many of the decisions were made in response to the original architecture," Manger says. The blue walls in a guest room, for example, echo the blue tiles in the room's existing fireplace. Few of the windows have proper curtains; rattan blinds were used instead to fit in with the honest, 19th-century American quality of this building style. ●

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