



Clockwise from top left: A cozy bedroom in the Amagansett home; the designer often sources from Long Island estate sales; the mantel is "very urban for the space," says Amalia Graziani, "but I love the contrast of rough natural materials alongside dressed up pieces"; in the neutral kitchen, the perpendicular beams and white beadboard add texture and dimension; Graziani. Opposite page: Beams, molding and paneling contrasted with understated furnishings are a calling card of the designer.

# Hidden Treasures

AMALIA GRAZIANI GIFTS QUIRKY, OFT-OVERLOOKED STRUCTURES A SECOND LIFE. BY ELIZABETH HARPER

Amalia Graziani (noorpropertygroup.com) fell into real estate development accidentally. Or was it, in fact, fate—a master plan set in motion long before she was cognizant. "I grew up refinishing furniture with my dad and doing home DIY projects," she recalls. "Today, construction still evokes that childhood joy." Regardless of the origins of her foray into residential renovation and expansion projects, the Hamptons is all the better for it, especially Amagansett, where Graziani's most recent completion stands proud. "To me," she says, "the area felt magical and reminiscent of a past

time." After searching the quaint Amagansett lanes, Graziani found this hidden gem of a property. "The house had many problems," she says, "but it was well situated on the lot and could support a large hedge for privacy." Ideal given her blueprints for abundant windows and French doors. The four-bed, 3 ½-bath home is an ode to neutral decor and thoughtful design elements. "I aim to create spaces that inspire a sense of calm," she adds. "With each project, you have to adjust based on the feeling of the home." No matter the project, though, that always includes millwork—beams, molding, paneling—and understated, neutral

furniture to let the structure's character remain the focus. In fact, Graziani explains: "Homes that are a little quirky and overlooked are the most interesting in my opinion. I find the challenge of maintaining the character of the original space amid a gut renovation exciting." In the Amagansett home, she played with design details such as perpendicular lines, with vertical beams intersecting horizontal beadboard; French doors rather than glass panes to add warmth and make the space feel more open; and paneling that casts complex shadows as the light moves throughout the house. "It keeps the space feeling dynamic," she says.

"My aim," Graziani says, "was to add as much depth and dimension to the actual structure and let the furniture be a backdrop alongside these design details." Such furnishings include a heavy gray marble mantel in the dining room—a favorite of the designer—new pieces sourced from Restoration Hardware and JanGeorge in Sag Harbor, custom cabinetry from Riverhead Building Supply, and vintage and antique finds from estate sales across Long Island. The result is a simplistic palette, yet there is still abundant visual interest. It's warm and inviting while showcasing Graziani's unique design point of view. ■

PHOTOS BY RYAN LAHFF