

Connecticut COTTAGES & GARDENS

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IDEAL FOR ENTERTAINING
JENNIFER GARRIGUES, INTERIOR DESIGNER

Was there an existing pool house on the property? How did the homeowners originally plan to use the structure?

The pool house was not in existence. It was designed and built by John B. Murray Architect, LLC. The structure was planned to be used as a guesthouse and for entertaining—summer luncheons, plus drinks and dinner under the stars. It has a full kitchen with plenty of room for all the table settings, glassware and china. It is also used as a peaceful escape for the owners—such a great place to swim, have tea, read a book, and maybe even spend the night!

Did the homeowners have any restrictions or special requests regarding the design?

Our clients did not want it to look like a typical pool house. It started off by being an English “tea

house.” But, as senior designer Diana El-Daher and I began decorating, it became more of a living space with a great table to play games, a comfy sofa and large TV to watch in between swimming, sunning and eating.

Since this is an indoor/outdoor space, were any special considerations taken with the fabric selection?

All of the fabrics are durable. The sofa is an outdoor fabric, and all of the rest are light linens. The carpet is hemp with a little wool.

Does the overall style of the pool house reflect the style of the main house?

The style of the furniture is in keeping with the main house, but it’s a little less serious. We were asked to make it comfortable, but with an old

English feel. The mix is that of a well-traveled couple with a very smart and eclectic eye.

Among all of these inviting areas, which is your favorite?

My favorite place is the beautiful outdoor fireplace, which is so cozy on a chilly evening. The outdoor furniture is extremely comfortable so one can sit and chat for hours.

What are the three most important elements to consider when designing interiors for a pool house?

1. Comfortable and durable fabrics.
2. Good-sized changing rooms, a wonderful outdoor shower and large fluffy towels.
3. A bedroom to take a nap in after you have had enough sun and good food!

