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# Home Suite Home

*Celebrating beach living in a Connecticut hotel*

By Joy Gettis

For the renovation of the Westport Inn, New York designer Alicia Cannon didn't have to look far for inspiration: she took cues from the hotel's quaint, coastal namesake Connecticut town. "We wanted to make the guest feel that the public space was an extension of their living room and the guestroom experience was a night at a beach house—relaxed, inviting, warm, and most of all, at home," says Cannon, founder of AJC Design, pointing to "sandy beaches, organic materials, and understated, clean lines" as her inspiration.

Above: The Westport Inn's homey reception area.



Right: Sand-inspired tones and brass touches contribute to the hotel's beach house atmosphere. Below: The hotel's restaurant.



*“It feels like a breath of fresh air—like someone's living room. You want to nestle on the sofa with a glass of wine and a great book.”*

Alicia Cannon  
Founder, AJC Design

Textural, beige wallcoverings throughout the 117 guestrooms, the lobby (here, there's a Venetian plaster look), and the corridors and ballroom, “feel like soft sand to the touch.” A weathered feel is added thanks to an antique brass finish found on the casegood and drapery hardware, lamp finishes, and lobby accessories and finishings. Pops of color come in the form of turquoise and salmon, and distressed wood floors are done in a white wash finish, reminiscent of those found on a pier.

“Overall we wanted a timeless environment with a modern and organic aesthetic,” she says, adding that her favorite space is the lobby. “It feels like a breath of fresh air—like someone's living room. You want to nestle on the sofa with a glass of wine and a great book.”

As for the solarium ballroom, it was a chance for Cannon to create a colorful function space. “It was a pronounced contrast to the other spaces, but we were able to imitate the striking color palette of the sunset over the ocean in the carpet—bold in pattern and more modern in aesthetic yet playful in respects to the exterior landscaped backdrop,” she says.

The biggest challenge? “The existing building had some odd and very small room configurations that we couldn't change because we didn't have enough money in the construction budget to gut renovate.” )))