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HOLIDAY ISSUE 2011



ROOM AT THE INN



*NEW ENGLAND
DESIGNER **RACHEL
REIDER** PUTS HER
SIGNATURE TOUCH ON
AN 1813 FEDERALIST
MANSION-TURNED-B&B.*

PHOTOGRAPHY: EMILY JOHNSTON ANDERSON
INTERIOR DESIGN: RACHEL REIDER
COPY: SHOKO WANGER

As is the case at many bed and breakfasts, each of the nine guestrooms at the Captain Fairfield Inn in Kennebunkport, Maine has a name. And why not, considering that the rooms are distinct, not only in terms of location, but personality as well. Among them, there's the polished Sweet Liberty, wallpapered in cream; the plush Parsons, with silvery accents and a zebra-print headboard; and stately James, outfitted with a regal four-poster bed and a cornflower blue chaise.





THESE MODERN TOUCHES,

which help set the Captain Fairfield apart from other bed and breakfasts in the coastal town, reflect its recent renovations. Nearly two-hundred years old—and in operation as a bed and breakfast for thirty years—the Inn was in need of a facelift by the time it was purchased by its current owners, Rob and Leigh Blood, in 2004. Hoping to establish their inn as “Kennebunkport’s boutique choice,” there was much work to be done.

Enter Boston-based interior designer, Rachel Reider.

“For my 30th birthday, my husband surprised me with a weekend away at what turned out to be the Captain Fairfield Inn,” she remembers. “It was



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soon after the owners had bought it, and it was in need of modernization. I started talking to the inn keepers, and it was clear from the start that we had a shared vision for what the inn could be.”

“I loved that they wanted to keep the unique and highly personalized elements of a bed and breakfast but rid themselves of the outdated lace and doily décor. Now, guests will find all the amenities a modern-day traveler looks for, along with sophisticated color palettes, a diverse array of patterns, and rich textures. It’s a chic mix of old meets new.”

Most important to Rob, Leigh, and Rachel was ensuring that one didn’t overpower the other: ‘old’ details, including wide-plank pine floors, period moldings, and the glass-framed front door remained; ‘new’ additions, such as eye-catching wallpaper and unexpected paint colors, provided needed updates.

Not that the changes were always easy to take. “To me, ‘boutique’ means unique, highly customized, and inventive,” Rachel says. “I felt we really needed to push the design envelope. Rob and Leigh trusted my vision, but some of the selections were still a bit of a shock.”

The navy paint in the lounge, for example, was a hard sell that ultimately proved worthwhile. “The dark color creates the perfect cozy atmosphere,” says Rachel. In addition, she continues, “We only wallpapered the headboard walls in the bedrooms. This allowed us to select some bolder patterns I might have had a hard time convincing my clients to use everywhere!”

Her favorite room in the house? That's easy. "My namesake, the Rachel," she says. "I love the subtle blue-gray of the textured grasscloth walls, juxtaposed with the vibrant green velvet headboard and the fuchsia and plum drapes. It's an unusual color combination, and it was definitely a leap of faith for Rob and Leigh."

However, as always, their trust paid off. "It turns out it's everyone's favorite room, including theirs!"

