


The built-in window seat with cubbyhole storage offers a comfy perch for gazing out at the ocean. At the two-seat desk area, kids can use the whiteboard wall as a canvas on rainy days.

Navigating the Nautical

BUNKING IT UP AT THE BEACH

DESIGNED BY LORI LEVINE, ASSOCIATE ASID
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY ROSENBLATT



Designer Lori Levine channeled sleeping quarters one might find at sea. She designed a bunk-bed system with a window that suggests a porthole, deep bunks, aged shiplap-covered walls and efficient storage.

When you need to sleep a crowd, there is nothing more fun or efficient than bunk beds. In this Long Beach Island summer getaway, designer Lori Levine was asked to incorporate two full beds and two twin beds for extended cousins and friends. “I wanted to create a bunk room that looked like it could be a sleeping berth on a vintage sailboat,” says Levine, an associate member of the American Society of Interior Designers and principal of Lori Levine Interiors in Basking Ridge.

With one large uninterrupted wall to work with, Levine centered the

bunk bed system on the large oval window to create a “porthole effect.” She then designed a center staircase, which is “much safer than climbing up and down ladders and much easier to access the beds to change sheets,” she says.

To keep the design shipshape for construction, Levine worked with an illustrator — Abby Jochnowitz of DesignAnts LLC in Bernardsville — on the initial concept so every detail and measurement was in place. A custom cabinet shop, Distinctive Woodwork Inc. in Lumberton, then made the design into a reality. “I think they hit it out of the park,” she says.

The floors and stair treads are reclaimed barn wood stained to match

the shiplap walls. Tucked into the stairs are small step lights for safety at night. For an authentic look, Levine used real hemp rope for the handrails and incorporated actual boat cleaves — painted blue — as drawer pulls in the storage areas at the head of every bed. Sconces in aged brass and copper finishes illuminate every bunk so kids can stay up or snooze as they please.

In the small desk area, Levine incorporated space for two with a whiteboard that can be drawn on along with a built-in window seat that has ocean views. Shiplap — used for contrast in the bunk and desk areas — “adds an aged patina, which is what I was going for,” Levine says. Just like the sleeping berths she imagined on an old sailing vessel.

Her clients are thrilled with the outcome. “I hear it’s the adults that would like to sleep in the room,” she says.

SOURCES interior design, Lori Levine Interiors in Basking Ridge; design illustrator, Abby Jochnowitz of DesignAnts LLC in Bernardsville; builder, Ted Fluehr Jr. Inc. in Surf City; built-ins, Distinctive Woodwork Inc. in Lumberton; woodwork color, Super White by Benjamin Moore; wall color, Perfect Greige by Sherwin-Williams; stacked dresser with octopus motif, Steven Shell in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina; leather chairs, GJ Styles in High Point, North Carolina; pillow fabrics, Duralee and Kravet; area rug, Woven Floors Inc. in Mendham.

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