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A midsummer dream



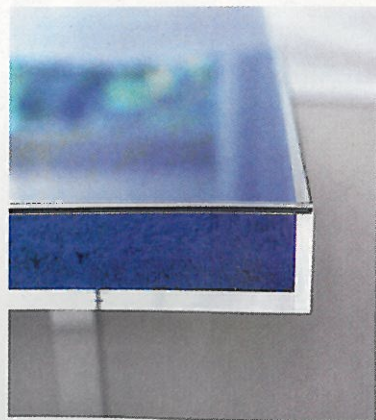
From its welcoming patio to its soothing interior, this ocean cottage shows off a sunny side

Woven plastic and waterproof fabric mean these outdoor sofas can handle any weather.



The top of this unique coffee table is filled with a deep-blue powdered pigment.

this Long Island, New York, beach house was headed for the wrecking ball, unless designers Mary Foley and Michael Cox could rescue it. The New York City pair were hired by the home's new owner, who loved the location and the grounds but hated the look of the decades-old residence. "The walls were all very dark with lots of carved wood," Foley says. "Our client wanted a clean space where she could display her art collection—almost like a gallery." Although the owner felt like she might want ►





to rebuild the house, she wanted to enjoy a first summer in it with her husband and two children before making that decision.

Foley and Cox, who started a design firm together three years ago, had only four months to get the home shipshape. They got to work—painting everything white, renovating the bathrooms, and bringing in spare, modern furniture. “We pared it down to the basic architecture of the space,” Foley says. It was a big job (there are five bedrooms), and they finished just in time.

The designers thought the new owner would like it, but they didn’t realize how much: By the time September rolled around, she had fallen in love with her sleek beach house. The ideas of demolition were forgotten, and she and her family settled in for good.

A lot of the furniture is slipcovered, which eases cleaning up after the kids and dog.



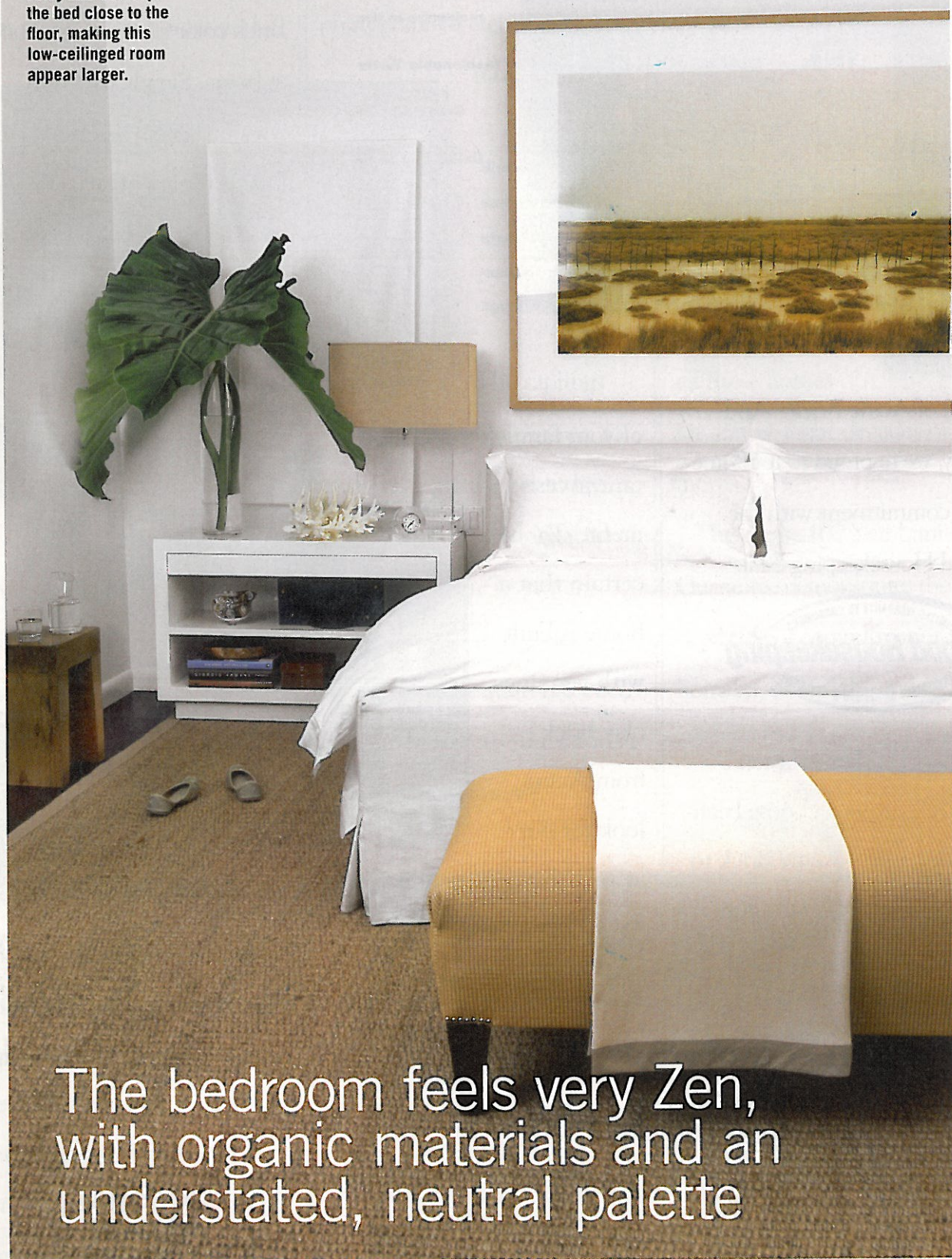
A huge built-in bookcase creates an open doorway to the dining room.

High ceilings and many windows give the impression of living outdoors



The banana tree in the corner is a lively counterpoint to the black-and-white room.

Foley and Cox kept the bed close to the floor, making this low-ceilinged room appear larger.

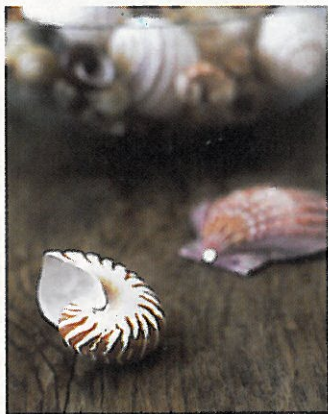


The bedroom feels very Zen, with organic materials and an understated, neutral palette



Scattered stepping stones lead the way for visitors.

A love for nature shows itself in details both large and small



A collection of seashells connects the decor to the waterfront setting.