

# SO Rhode Island

Your December Must-Do's • This Month's Rhody Gem

SoRhodeIsland.com

DECEMBER 2021

## Merry & Bright

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS  
SOUTH COUNTY'S TIME TO SHINE



FREE

NYE SPARKLING COCKTAILS • SMALL BIZ GIFT IDEAS • DECKING THE DOCKS



## The New Coastal

A Great Island cottage earns its stripes by skipping them for natural textures and a neutral palette

Michael Mosca and husband David Melançon live between Manhattan and Narragansett with their six-year-old Parsons Russell Terrier, Lorenzo. Mosca is a realtor with Sotheby's Mott & Chace International Realty, specializing in luxury coastal properties, and Melançon is the founder and managing partner of a brand strategy consultancy and serves on the board of Providence-based Social Enterprise Greenhouse. Through the years the industrious pair have designed and decorated a Manhattan loft, a Colorado timber home, a California marina bungalow, and an 1890 sea cottage in Ogunquit, which they "restored and loved for more than 10 years until the commute from Manhattan for weekend visits became too much to handle," Mosca explains. They sold the Maine property and began looking for a home on the North Fork of Long Island until a summer trip to Narragansett, where Mosca "discovered" Great Island.



Even though Mosca spent his childhood summers at Narragansett beaches - "I even learned to swim at Sand Hill Cove!" - he wasn't aware of the small island accessed by Galilee Escape Road in Narragansett. He recalls the freezing cold February day he visited a handful of properties with his sister, including the one that would become home. "It fell squarely into the category of 'worst house in the best neighborhood,' and my husband was on board sight unseen. Having undertaken several renovation projects over the past 20+ years, we knew we could turn it into something we'd love," says Mosca with a knowing smile.



Photos by George Grey, courtesy of Laura Krekorian



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Barely-there window treatments allow for unobstructed views year-round



The pair purchased the property thinking they'd modify/expand the existing 600-square-foot home. "That became impossible due to zoning and building restrictions," says Mosca, who explains that they decided to raze it and start from scratch, embarking on a three-year project between design, permits, and construction. Although they had experience renovating older homes, they'd never built one, and enlisted architect Laura Krekorian, who helped them realize their vision of a charming Great Island escape of their own.

Inside decor is based on a pleasing neutral palette of creams, linens, and soft grays that connect with the natural colors outside. "These are comfortable hues for us, and they complement any style of furnishings and art. They also allow the architectural details like the stone wall around the fireplace, soaring ceiling, and wonderful water views to shine," says Mosca. "We decidedly did not want a coastal home that was traditional blue and white or shouted 'nautical' in any way."



Photos by George Grey, courtesy of Laura Krekorian



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to learn more

“South County is an amazing place – the best of the land and the sea,” muses Mosca. “We walk or bike down the street to our local fish market (Ferry Wharf) nearly every day, and we eat local produce pretty much exclusively. We paddleboard, kayak, and quahog (yes, it’s a verb!) from our backyard. We love the beach in all seasons, even winter when we can go with our dog, Lorenzo.”

## GET RHODY STYLE

Great Island homeowner Michael Mosca shares ideas and tips for making the most of living in the Ocean State.

### ISLAND VIEWS

“Since we live on the water, the entire house is oriented in that direction and we consider it an extension of the physical space. From the beginning, I’d imagined warm breezes blowing through gauzy white curtains on both levels of the house. Those window treatments were probably the first things I purchased, even before the house was built,” says Mosca.

### LOCAL ACCENT

“My father gifted me a Haven Brothers print as a thank you for nursing him through a serious surgery many years ago. That hangs in our living room here now, but it’s always been with us across the country reminding me of RI and my dad. We have pieces from other local artists and artisans sprinkled throughout.”

### SHOP SMALL

“Fill your kitchen with local food and your home with local flowers. Hang art on your walls from local artists. Plant a garden if you have even the tiniest yard,” says Mosca, an aspiring potter who serves on the board of the South County Art Association. Favorite businesses include Brandon Family Farm, The Farmer’s Daughter, Ferry Wharf Fish Market, Petals Farm Flowers, South County Art Association Gift Shop, and Stedman’s Bike Shop. *Learn more about Mosca at [CoastalRIHome.com](http://CoastalRIHome.com)*

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