

Cuddled Up on the North Fork

RENEE'S OWNER AND INTERIOR
DESIGNER DEBRA GILDERSLEEVE IS
ALL ABOUT COMFORT.

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When interior designer Debra Gildersleeve isn't taking her Sea Ray out to Claudio's or grabbing pizza and wine at Macari Vineyards, she's hosting her family at home in Mattituck. With four generations living out East, it's always a party.

A native of Long Island, Gildersleeve is firmly rooted in the North Fork. As owner of Renee's (reneesmattituck.com), the beloved fashion and furniture boutique, she's an integral force to the interior design of homes on the East End. Her own five-bedroom house, which she built more than

25 years ago, is no exception.

It just feels inviting. With an open floor plan and the kitchen as the default hangout, one can see why, at any given time, dozens of family members are swarming the space for a casual feast. Gildersleeve's husband of 32 years, Bill, is the king of marinades and

is often found at the grill. Her children stop in from time to time, too, like for a college graduation party for her youngest, Will, or to foster their creative energy. Her middle daughter, Morgan, is a singer/songwriter signed with Epic Records, and her eldest daughter, Taylor, is an actress based in Los



Angeles. Will also DJ's professionally. Creativity clearly runs in the family.

Gildersleeve's motto is comfort, and in every room you'll find little vignettes of coziness. "I want a home that is inviting, cozy and family friendly. Nothing that is formal. I want people to feel at home always when they are visiting," Gildersleeve says. A popular cuddling spot is on the oversized couch with a fur throw in front of the brick fireplace—Gildersleeve often sits here herself working from an iPad. Another is the master bedroom, which Gildersleeve calls "her happy place," with its pillow-filled bed and cushy linens.

Gildersleeve personally loves the kitchen, which features hammered metal paneling on a domed ceiling and industrial-inspired lighting fixtures. It reflects the mixed-metals motif—a blend of silver and bronze elements—that can be found throughout her home. "I'm not afraid to mix styles, but it's always about comfort," Gildersleeve says of keeping it fresh without losing the warm vibes. "I want a haven, a place where my family can put their feet up after a long day." ■



Clockwise from top left: The home incorporates neutral tones and decor; the kitchen is one of Debra's favorite spots; the Gildersleeves: Will, Bill, Debra, Debra's mom, Renee Cardinale, and Morgan; the outdoor area is ideal for entertaining; the master bath's clean interiors. Opposite page: The master bed boasts oversized pillows and is Debra's "happy place."

