



## Southern Charm Meets

# Jersey Shore

By: Holly Martinez

A Philly real estate power couple is taking their Ventnor City beach house to new heights.

Tucked away in a year-round residential area of Ventnor Heights, New Jersey, is a brightly colored, orange home reminiscent of houses found in Charleston, South Carolina. It's the brainchild of realtor Christine Langdon and her partner, Christopher Darhun, who designs and builds unique homes in the Philadelphia suburbs and on the Main Line. His next project is to build the couple's new 8,000-square-foot, barn-style home overlooking Springton Lake Reservoir in Newtown Square.

"We have gone to Charleston every year since we've been together," Langdon says. "We love it there. Rather than build a modern gray or tan house, we were inspired to create a home that reminded us of the South and that would impart the shore with a fresh infusion of color." Virtually all materials used to appoint the house were custom made in South Carolina, including the handmade Savannah-gray bricks, exterior gas lights, flooring, furniture and tabby-style fireplace made from crushed oyster shells.



MODERN LUXURY SPOTLIGHT

"When we applied to construct the home, we had about six to eight zoning issues," Darhun says. "The city gave us all the approvals. They said it should serve as an example of the type of design and construction they want to continue to encourage in Ventnor."

The four-level, 3,000-square-foot house is located across from the canal, giving way to views of the water and Atlantic City in the distance. Thoughtfully put together, the home spares no detail.

A walk through each room reveals accents like driftwood-style and antique-brass cabinets in the kitchen, and unique vanities designed by Darhun, including the Tiffany-blue vanity found in the master bathroom that sets off the imported bubble tile from Spain. But don't think the owners missed out on adding fun, too. Take, for example, the elevator that goes from the ground floor all the way up to the third-level bedrooms.

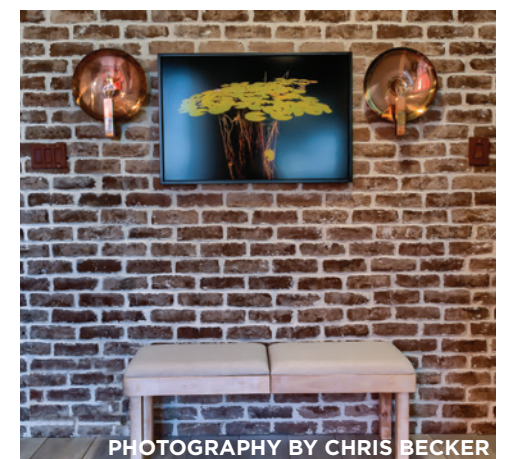
"We wanted the elevator to be different," Darhun says. "We got orange, recycled leather embossed with a crocodile pattern to be the interior of the elevator."



Adds Langdon, "It feels like being inside a Hermès bag."

Other don't-miss features include the rooftop deck (pizza oven included), the loft-style bedroom for the couple's college-aged son, Holden, and the "Princess Room," made specifically for the couple's dog, Squishy, that resembles the inside of a castle with cathedral ceilings, stone walls and a little stained glass window.

When asked about their favorite part of building and designing the home, Darhun and Langdon keep coming back to the one thing that can't be beat: the community. "Ventnor is amazing," Darhun says. "People are supportive, friendly and family oriented. It's a nice atmosphere



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