







From left: The husbandand-wife duo lounges on the porch of their rentable and buyable space; organic, relaxed minimalism is infused into the couple's aesthetic.



TRADING SPACES

Interior designer Robert McKinley and his wife, Kate Nauta, transform a seemingly ordinary home into a shoppable sanctuary.

by Alicia Brunker

t first glance,
McKinley Bungalow
(mckinleybungalow.com), a
four-bedroom, ranch-style
home located behind a stretch
of seagrass and flowering trees, resembles its
Montauk neighbors, but indoors a distinctive
spirit is uncovered. Interior designer Robert
McKinley—who's crafted offbeat identities
through decor for East End establishments
The Surf Lodge and Ruschmeyer's—has

created a new concept in the Hamptons that elevates the traditional Airbnb rental.

After nearly a year of renovations, McKinley and his wife, Kate Nauta, have transformed an average Hamptons home into a curated residence for rent, where nearly everything, including the house itself, is for sale. Under one roof, the couple put together an assortment of appliances, bedding, furniture and fixtures from their favorite brands, including Wright,

Hem and Rejuvenation. "You can try the entire home before you buy it," remarks McKinley. "The whole concept was to create this approachable luxury, lifestyle-driven space. We weren't upholstering furniture in expensive leathers or Loro Piana fabrics."

Instead McKinley and Nauta were inspired by their laid-back surroundings in Montauk, where they met and eventually married in 2014. "To me, Montauk is just so connected to the ocean and this wild, rugged coastline," says McKinley. "The bungalow is like our dream beach house that embodies our collected, well-traveled aesthetic." Treasures from the couple's trips abroad can be found in just about every corner of the house. In the kitchen, a ceramic lemon sculpture they discovered during their honeymoon in Capri, Italy, hangs above the breakfast nook, while a collage of vacation photos, captured by their photographer friend Scott Rudin, is on view in the living room.

No matter where their travels take them, the East End will always be home, says McKinley: "We really put our feet in Montauk and planted ourselves."







"The whole concept was to create this approachable luxury, lifestyle-driven space."
-ROBERT MCKINLEY



Clockwise from top:
Treasures from the
couple's travels nestled
around an open hearth
create a fresh, folkey
vibe; delightful color
pops enliven the
bungalow's kitchen;
a minimalistic futon
highlights an open
living room; refined
wooden chairs, table
and candlestick holders
set in front of a colorful
landscape tapestry
epitomize McKinley's
distinct style.

