

Clockwise from portrait: Nina Edwards Anker of nea studio. The curved envelope of Anker's Cocoon, a family house in Long Island, New York, is clad in that regional staple, cedar shingle; the table and chair are also by the architect. The living room is anchored by nea studio's Beanie sofa, which is filled with lentils and organic latex. The exterior entrance elevation. Tinted skylights above the hallway of the bedroom wing are based on Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's color theory. The colors range from vermilion, which signals sunset and rest, above the master bedroom, to deep yellow, which signals zenith and activity, near the living room.



Nina Edwards Anker

CEO and Director, nea studio

Nina Edwards Anker, a New York architect, specializes in evocative sustainable design. She holds a PhD from the Oslo School of Architecture and Design, a Master of Architecture from Harvard Graduate School of Design, and is an alum of Pei Cobb Freed & Partners, among other firms. She founded nea studio in 2006 and has since proved her mettle across a range of disciplines: architecture, interiors, furniture design, and installations. Her work has been widely published and exhibited.

A LEED Gold-certified residence located in Long Island, New York, exemplifies Anker's talent with form and function. Named Cocoon for its distinctive shape—a tubular form that curls like an L—the 1,730-square-foot cottage has two distinct sides: the public facade, a largely windowless shingle-clad curve that provides shelter and seclusion; and the concave private facade, a vast aluminum-and-glass expanse of windows, sliding doors, and skylights that take in open views and ocean breezes.

In a boldly animating move, Anker turned skylights above the bedroom wing into a stained-glass installation. Based on Goethe's color theories—which influenced painter J.M.W. Turner's light-drenched seascapes—the translucent hues range from vermilion, signaling sunset and rest, above the master suite, to deep yellow, signifying zenith and activity, in the communal area. Anker further enlivened the house with several of her own pieces, including a multifaceted Crystallized chair, which sits on the half-moon patio, and an eco-friendly lentil-filled Beanie sofa in the living room.

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