



# Home Sweet Retreat

*A Boston couple turns to McPhee Associates to transform a classic Cape Cod house in Harwich Port into a chic and modern showstopper.*

**BY CAROL K. DUMAS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAN CUTRONA**

*Stylish light fixtures throughout the home make a dramatic statement.*



McPhee Associates won a 2021 BRICC Gold award for Excellence in Remodeling for the work done in this stunning home in Harwich Port.

**Builder:**

McPhee Associates  
1382 Route 132, East Dennis  
508-385-2704, mcpheeassociatesinc.com

**Landscaping:**

O'Leary Landscaping and Irrigation  
129 Queen Anne Road, Harwich  
508-432-5198, olearylandscaping.com

The rambling, four-bedroom house set back from Saquatucket Harbor in Harwich Port was in dire need of updating.

Built in 1985, the exterior's colonial blue clapboards and the interior's wood trim, dark kitchen and overall finishes and fixtures reflected the tastes of the times. The new owners envisioned a space with more light and a mix of traditional and contemporary design.

Enter MCPhee Associates that turned a vision into a reality in multiple stages. The first stage involved exterior

work to the façade and interior work in the living area. The kitchen and pantry were completed during the second stage.

The first two stages captured a Gold BRICC award this year from the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Cape Cod for the stunning transformation of the dark kitchen and closed-off living area into a dazzling new kitchen, dining area and living area that sets the tone for the future whole-house remodel.

"The owners have a great vision and ability to articulate

that vision with our design team and we took their inspiration and worked to make it a reality," says Sue Contonio, senior estimator and project coordinator.

The owners, who use the Cape home as a weekend getaway, also had specific ideas for the interior design.

"The clients' tastes are very cosmopolitan—chic and sophisticated, and they were hands-on, making most of the selections themselves," says Pam Bruni-Holick, MCPhee's interior design and selections coordinator. "They wanted a feeling of a classic Cape Cod home with a modern twist

and a nod to coastal style—timeless, crisp white and warm-toned wood cabinets, stunning marble countertops and Moroccan terracotta tiles, paired with more modern satin brass fixtures and hardware, natural woven light fixtures and glass mosaic tile."

The former kitchen was cramped and ordinary, with a U-shaped layout, a peninsula and dark wood cabinetry. The new layout is a showstopper, reflecting the desired mixture of classic and custom touches. Three double-hung windows over the sink flood the space with light, and



The first phase of the renovated interior included concealing the brick fireplace wall, remodeling the living area with painted wood wainscoting, and upgrading the interior casings and moldings. Accented with wood beams, the updated staircase soars up three levels.

white painted maple Shaker-style cabinets with handsome brass pulls are complemented by a kitchen island and wet bar made of quarter-sawn oak in a natural matte finish. A door, disguised as cabinetry, now opens into the pantry with a full laundry.

The first two stages also included redoing a powder room and living room areas with painted wood wainscoting, concealing the brick fireplace wall, and upgrading the interior casings and moldings. Accented with wood beams, the dramatic open staircase soars up three levels.

The façade of the house is no longer a one-note, blue exterior, having been refreshed with new siding and trim, white paint, new doors, windows and authentic black shutters.

The entry to the property, which is set back from the harbor and abuts land protected by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, required Harwich Conservation Commission approval to remove



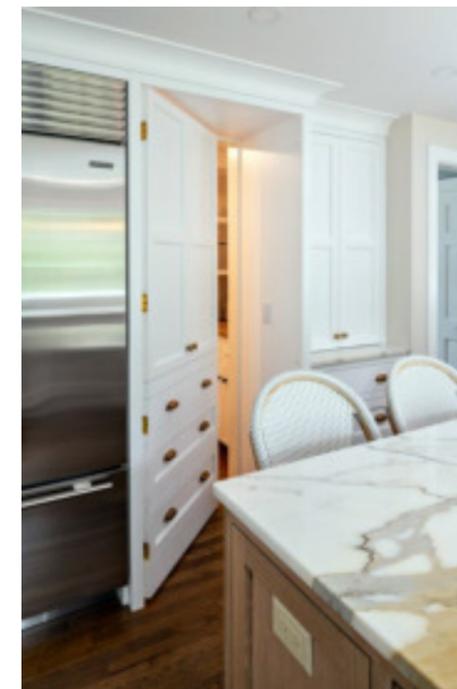
A wet bar made of quarter-sawn oak in a natural matte finish, Moroccan-style glazed backsplash tiles, and touches of gold and marble created just the right blend of texture and tone.



45 unhealthy trees. The many trees also prevented grass and plants from thriving and made moss grow on the roof.

In place of the trees, the homeowners planted more than 120 native plantings selected by the conservation commission, in accordance with state regulations. The owner completed the landscape and conservation work directly with O'Leary Landscaping.

The third stage will include renovations to the second floor to create two separate en suite bedrooms and adding air conditioning to the second and third levels of the home. Future stages are in planning for a renovation to the first-floor master suite and bath with the addition of a new outdoor showering space directly off the master bath. Updates to the detached guest suite over the garage are also in planning.



A door, disguised as cabinetry, opens into the pantry and laundry area. The dazzling kitchen features marble countertops and white painted Shaker-style cabinets with handsome brass pulls.





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The third stage of renovations will include the creation of two separate en suite bedrooms on the second floor. Future stages are in the works for a renovation to the first-floor master suite and bath with the addition of a new outdoor showering space.



“Phasing renovations is something we are seeing more and more of with our clients. Advantages to the client include the ability to live in and get to know the flow and functionality of the space. It may also allow budgeting over time and the ability to stay current with trends and materials,” says McPhee Associates President Rob McPhee.

“On our end, a phasing process allows us to think ahead and come up with a master plan before we even start. Knowing more remodeling was in the master plan for this home, we took care of some plumbing for the second-floor bathroom while the kitchen ceiling was open below. A little bit of foresight in the beginning makes the design and execution of a remodeling project more efficient in the end,” says Rob McPhee. 🏡

