

Living the Dream

A Shingle Style gem overlooking Buzzards Bay fulfills a homeowner's lifelong yearning to live by the water.

BY JANICE RANDALL ROHLF
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAN CUTRONA

Even with the skills of ace design and construction teams and creative ideas of one's own, sometimes houses are simply beyond renovating, or it doesn't make good economic sense to save them. Often, though, you can keep something special from a house even when making the decision to tear it down and build new. In this case, it was the view.

"I can't get enough of it; it's therapeutic," says this homeowner, describing how the mesmerizing expanse of Buzzards Bay unfolds to the horizon from so many different vantage points in her new house. Nearly all of the numerous and generous windows look out to the ocean. "The view is the one thing from the original house that we saved." Occupying the end lot on a road in one of Falmouth's prized coastal neighborhoods, surrounded by conservation land, the house basks in privacy, too.

Once the decision was made to start fresh, a team was assembled, with Falmouth-based architect John Dvorsack and builder Rob McPhee of the Cape's McPhee Associates taking the lead. Joining them were residential design firm Chango & Co.,

interior designer Cynthia Brox and McPhee interiors specialist Pamala Bruni-Holick.

In appreciation of the topography, Dvorsack sited the house high on a bluff, where it's out of the flood zone and also at the best spot for capturing panoramic views. The four-bedroom, six-bath classic Shingle Style house is a showcase for Dvorsack's singular attention to detail and the type of custom flourishes that make it stand out from the pack. The variety of rooflines—architectural artistry at its best—complements the home's curated mix of materials and textures, both inside and out.

Indeed, the collaborative team's carefully considered choices are on full display throughout the home, from the spiral staircase and strategically placed showers outside, to the variety of paneling and trim detail inside. Design decisions, big and small, speak to both the expertise of the professionals and the inspired input from the homeowner, who, for instance, asked that the rooftop cupola be based on an old one she admired on her drives to Chapoquoit Beach. The architect obliged.



Round, porthole-style windows, including this one in the primary suite's outdoor shower door, are a subtle nautical design theme in the house.



The house's glassy and welcoming front entrance provides a peek across the family room to the ocean beyond. Right: A refreshing dip in the saltwater pool is always a nice idea.





A supporting actor to the panoramic view of Buzzards Bay, the family room's interior design uses neutral tones and textures with navy accents. Right: Shiplap paneling used throughout the home makes this breakfast nook extra cozy.

"We wanted something that was vernacular in the design of the Cape, not trendy," shares the homeowner, "but a little more transitional in terms of touches that were more current." The black windows with cream-colored trim, for example, add a tasteful contemporary twist to the yellow-cedar-shingled house set on a natural-stone veneer.

The homeowner had a similar classic-but-current vision for the house's interiors. "I wanted the interiors to be the best supporting actor to the view," she says. "Serene and calm. And cool [as in stylish]." The first-floor living space, sheathed in nickel-gap paneling painted a crisp white, exhibits the types of choices—a neutral palette, touches of navy, sophisticated prints—that were made to complement the view, not to distract from it. There is a subtlety to the nautical details, like shiplap, grass cloth and round, porthole-style windows, that lightly suggests, rather than screams, beach-house living.

Likewise with the selection of wall décor. In this house, the comfort of familiar things includes the art. The homeowner's eclectic collection, amassed over time, is an extension of her



The lower level has a mudroom and a full recreation room, both conveniently located near a two-room outdoor shower and bath. Below: The central built-in storage bar in the dining area has a mini fridge and custom drawers built for glassware, wine and other bottle shapes.





Above: Nicknamed “The Three Bears Room,” this cozy space with vintage quilts and old oars on the wall, lends a nostalgic touch to the new home. Left: A combined outdoor shower and half bath on the way up to the pool has a Kohler navy trough sink, Kohler polished chrome faucets and Ceramica Tapestry Istanbul porcelain floor tiles.



personality. “I’ve always wanted to live on the water,” says the homeowner. “Wherever I went, I would collect shells or artwork that had water in it.” Two original paintings by renowned Provincetown landscape artist Anne Packard take pride of place in the house, joined by other original paintings, plus prints and photographs, nearly all of which reference the water. Many were purchased years, even decades, ago.

Not all the furniture is new, either. “It’s better to mix the old with the new,” says Brox, who favored all-natural fabrics for custom window treatments as well as for reupholstering a few family-heirloom furniture pieces. “Buy new, and refurbish, paint and recover old; pick up things from an antiques shop,” she adds. “You do it all to make something a home.”

As a beach house and weekend retreat, “the house is meant to be shared,” says the homeowner. Looking out on a saltwater pool, the family room spills over into the kitchen, with the dining area part of the open-concept first level as well. A clever, central built-in storage bar in the dining area has a mini fridge and custom drawers built for glassware, wine and other bottle shapes. A pantry, which serves as a coffee station, is separated from the breakfast nook by a pocket door.

The homeowner’s adult children have spaces of their own on the top floor, including two bedrooms—one with an en suite



This family room with deck shares the upper level with a bedroom, a bedroom suite and a full hall bath, all with ocean views.



Above: Swaddled in creamy whites and sand-hued tones, the primary suite bedroom is a sanctuary from which you can step right out to the patio and pool. Right: Stone steps lead to the patio and from there a spiral staircase leads to the second floor.

bath—a full bath and a family room with a deck. Custom-built features on this level and throughout the home include built-in cabinets, benches with drawers, dressers and closet systems. The main-level primary suite has a vanity nook and a full bath that includes an indoor shower with a skylight as well as an entry to an outdoor shower that has a porthole window view of the bay and a door out to the pool.

Guests of the family are embraced by the overarching casualness and warmth of the home, too. “We wanted guests to feel comfortable, not to feel like they were intruding,” says the homeowner. With a bedroom, a sitting room and a full bath, the main-level guest wing offers privacy within shouting distance of the central gathering spaces.

“All my life, whenever I had dreams, I would see myself in a coastal community,” says the homeowner. With this exceptionally wrought, comfortable and family-oriented beach house, her dreams have come true. 🏡

Architect:
John Dvorsack Architect

Builder:
**McPhee Associates
of Cape Cod**

Interior Design:
**Chango & Co.,
McPhee Associates,
Cynthia Brox Interiors**

Kitchen Appliances:
KAM Appliances

Vanity Stone:
Cape Cod Granite & Marble

Landscape Architect:
Centerline Studios Inc.

Landscape:
The Growing Company



Family and guests enjoy relaxing on the patio and cooling off in the saltwater pool, an option to the ocean just a staircase away.