

Cooking, dining, and entertaining are equally enjoyable in this renovated home by the sea.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

A COUPLE'S REFRESHED HARWICH HOME DELIVERS THE BEST OF CAPE COD LIVING.

BY JENNIFER SPERRY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID WARD

Their initial walk-through sealed the deal. “We went inside and fell in love with the opportunities,” recalls the owner. “My wife and I were looking to downsize to a house on the water and weren’t in any rush. But when our realtor showed us this house, we fell in love with its potential right away.”

The biggest selling point of all: wraparound views of Saquatucket Harbor, with lots of boat and wildlife activity to take in at every turn.

Built in the 1980s, the house was structurally sound but lacking in modern features. The couple envisioned a larger kitchen and more open living spaces to better capture views and for easier entertaining. They also needed refreshed bedrooms and bathrooms to accommodate their two grown children and grandchildren.

They knew a renovation was needed and tasked custom builder McPhee Associates of Cape Cod with tackling the whole-home refresh. “As a one-stop shop, we can develop architectural plans and handle permitting, budgeting, and construction,” says President Rob McPhee of the Dennis-based company. “We also offer property management services and are proud to have long-term relationships with our clients.”

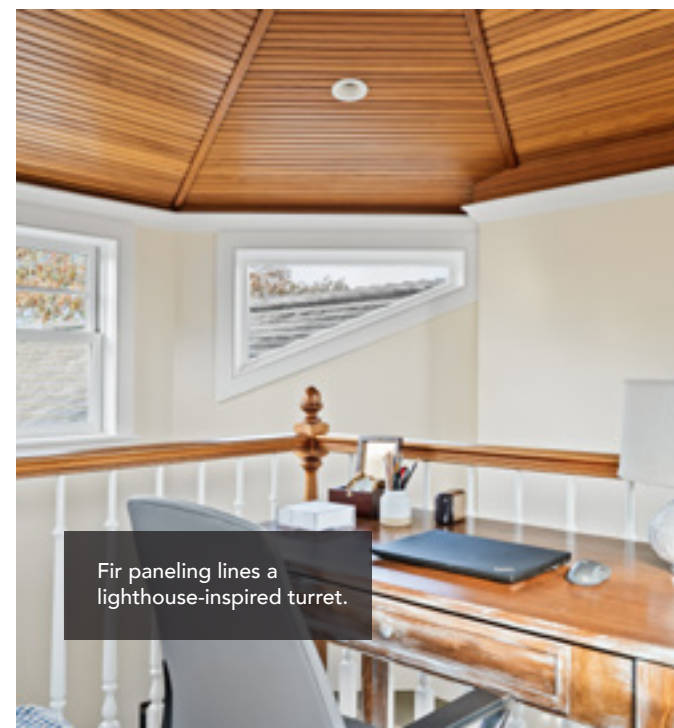
Without adding to the footprint, McPhee Associates reworked the home’s problem areas, removing walls and adjusting a few window and door fenestrations, introducing better flow and function throughout the first floor. Describes the builder: “We took certain parts down to the studs, added decorative millwork, and refinished the wide-plank pine floors with a more contemporary white-washed finish.”

Working with McPhee’s interior selections coordinator Pamala Bruni-Holick on materials and designer Marsha Malone of Nautique on soft furnishings, the homeowners created a comfy, inviting, Cape Cod-style interior. Nautical flourishes—like the built-in bar’s teak and holly countertop, for example—add to the interior’s seaside charm.

The eight-month renovation delivered a variety of wish-list items for the new owners, including an updated primary suite with a bar for morning coffee and some cosmetic bathroom updates. It also created a much-improved kitchen space, complete with white Shaker-style cabinets by Plymouth Rock Kitchens. Thick quartzite countertops extend up into the backsplash—its veining mimics the swirl of sea water, an homage to the setting.



Fantasy Blue quartzite graces the island top, countertops, and backsplash.



Fir paneling lines a lighthouse-inspired turret.



This new built-in bar offers bonus storage and serving space.



McPhee updated the double-sided fireplace with fieldstone surrounds, driftwood mantels, and bluestone hearths.

Just off the kitchen is a dining table centered on a double-sided fireplace. McPhee upgraded the fireplace's existing brick with New England fieldstone and reclaimed beam mantels. Now, both the dining area and living room enjoy the warmth of a wood fire in cooler weather. Rounding out the main living area is a new built-in bar with fridge, sink, and storage for glasses and stemware. On the opposite wall, a niche with glass shelves stores liquor within easy reach.

The renovation upgraded all aspects of the waterfront home, including a bonus room above the garage. Using its large footprint to their advantage, McPhee installed four bunks on one side and a library/TV/sitting area on the other. In between the bunks are stairs with bonus drawers built into the risers. The finished installation emulates the efficiency of a boat cabin. "The kids love it and so do their parents," says the wife with a laugh.

One of the home's most unique features is a raised turret at the top of the stairs. "This elevated area is a neat bonus area for working and creating," says McPhee. Fir paneling lines the octagonal dome, and a circle of windows mimics the feel of a lighthouse. "It glows like a beacon for boaters at night," adds the owner.

Outside, a brick terrace and two balconies, one off the primary suite, invite lounging and taking in the sights. The homeowners taught their grandkids to wave at the Freedom ferry passing by on its way to Nantucket. If they're lucky, the captain gives them a friendly honk.

Now that the project is complete, the couple fills their days with golfing, cooking, entertaining, and exploring the sights and restaurants in neighboring towns.

"My wife grew up in Harwich and is very active in local charities and my family has summered here for over 50 years. We feel like part of the community," contends the homeowner, adding, "We love this house and can't get enough of being here."

BUILDER:
McPhee Associates of Cape Cod
 1382 Route 134, E. Dennis
 508-385-2704, mcpheeassociatesinc.com

CABINETS:
Plymouth Rock Kitchens

FURNISHINGS:
Nautique



A cobalt blue Bertch vanity and brushed French gold Kallista faucet partner perfectly in the powder room.



In the bonus room above the garage, queen-size bunks flank a built-in stair with teak and holly treads.