

WOODS HOLE, MA

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NEW ENGLAND

water color

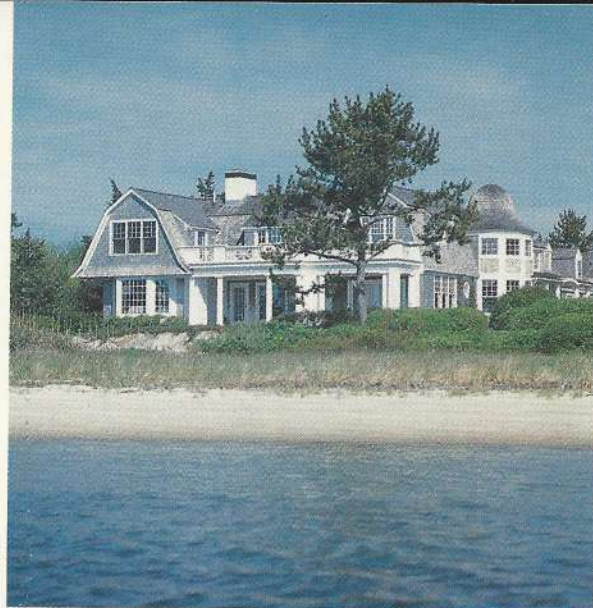
A skillful addition
of space, together
with a meticulous
makeover, have
made a cramped,
old fixer-upper
into a jewel of the
waterfront.

Sofa, bus and wooden armchairs, ottoman, lamp, side table, Ethan Allen. Rug: Odegaard. Wood chairs: Abby Ross.
Printed yellow and orange pillows and wicker planter: Kittery. Vase: Stella.

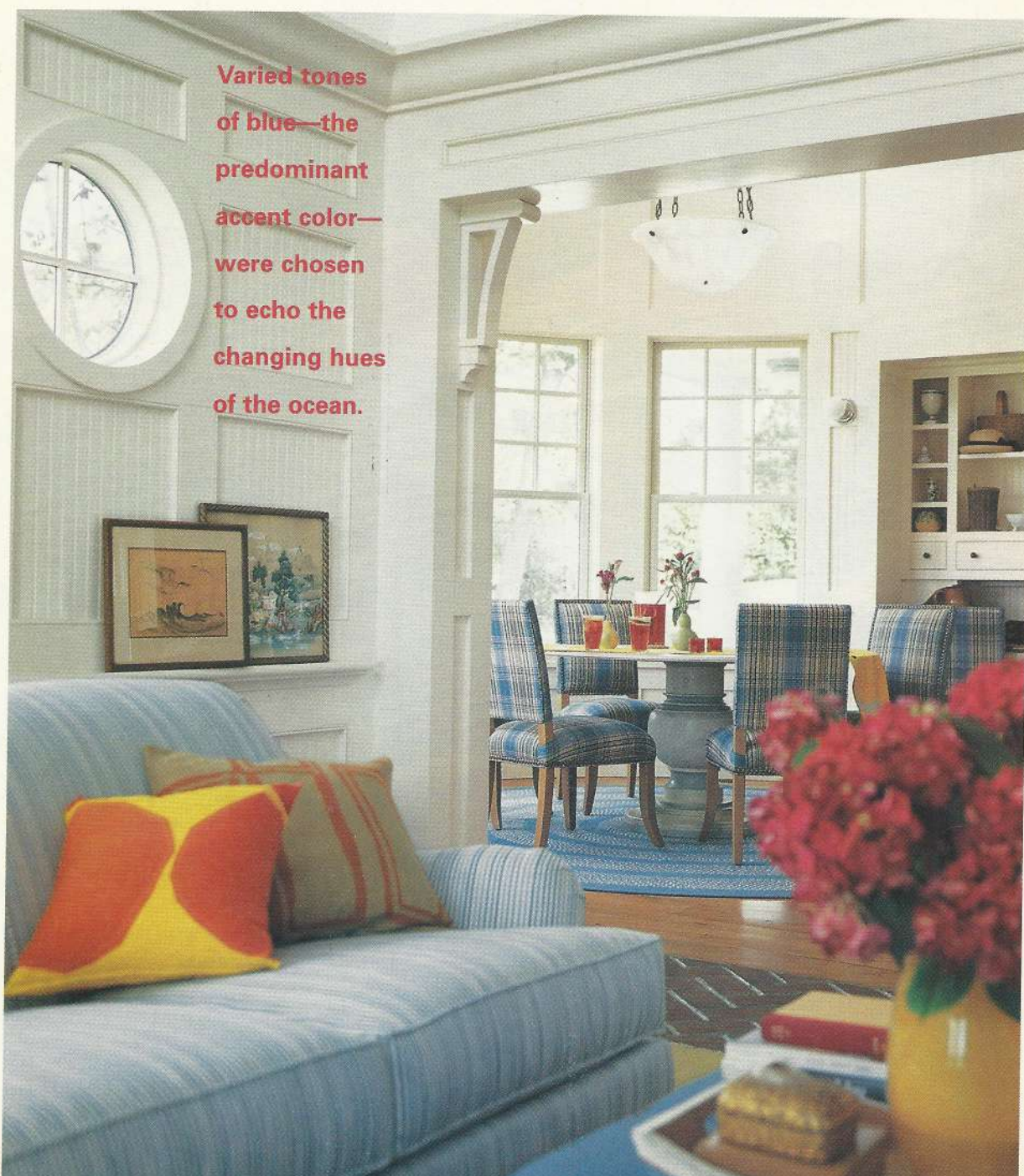


These pages In the family room, ample chairs and a tufted ottoman, which doubles as a coffee table, reflect the color of the ocean. Bright wool and cotton pillows add splashes of color, while a lime-green rug anchors the nature-inspired palette.

For the owners of this now striking Shingle-style home in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, it was the splendid location that inspired true love at first sight. Enamored as they were with the waterfront property, the family decided that whatever shortcomings the old fixer-upper house might have could be dealt with sometime in the future. In addition, they wanted to spend the summer vacationing by the seaside. "When we bought the house, I thought, it's just for the summer and the kids can come and go; it doesn't have to be nice," explains the husband. "Then we spent half a summer there and I thought, I can't live like this!"



Varied tones of blue—the predominant accent color—were chosen to echo the changing hues of the ocean.



Dining chairs and rug: Ethan Allen. Tablecloth and votive candles (on dining table): Kitos, Inc. Vases (on dining table): Stella. Pitcher and trivet (on dining table): Bodum Café & Homestore.



Opposite top A turret and a gambrel roofline with flaring eaves were added to the home to give the exterior more visual interest. **Opposite bottom** Decorative brackets, this one between the family room and the dining room, add character to the transitional spaces in the home. **This page** A curved wall of windows infuses the dining room with light.



Just after Labor Day of the following year, a major renovation began that would ultimately turn the somber interior into a light-filled space and reorient the most lived-in rooms toward the water. Moving the kitchen, which previously faced inland and offered an uninspiring view of the garage, was a high priority. The project, which took just over a year to complete, resulted in a string of airy rooms and a kitchen double the size of the original one.

An additional 1,500 square feet, which was hard-won due to building restrictions, was added to the home. "We could not change the footprint of the house," says architect Tom P. Catalano, AIA, of Catalano Architects, Inc. "This made it difficult to drastically alter the home, but it was a relatively simple house, almost to the point of being insubstantial, and the client wanted the house to have more presence, especially from the view across Woods Hole harbor."

Dormer windows, a turret with scrafitto panels, and a gambrel roofline with a flaring eave were added to give

**A large, arched
pass-through
over the kitchen
sink now offers
a view through
the family room
to the water.**



the profile of the home more personality. There were no porches overlooking the water, so a veranda off the living room and family room, a terrace off the master bedroom suite, and an east-facing porch were added, all taking full advantage of the surrounding water views.

Water also inspired design elements in the interior. Blue—a predominant accent color in many of the rooms—was chosen to bring the ocean indoors. The walls were

painted varying shades of white, creating a subtle backdrop for the bright colors in the furnishings and accessories. Furniture was purchased with comfort in mind, and an abundance of generously proportioned seating makes it clear to all who enter that relaxing is a requisite activity indoors.

An arched pass-through above one of two farm-style sinks, which were custom-made from Vermont slate, opens the kitchen to a view of the harbor. The curved shape of the opening; a round window in the family room, which mimics a porthole; and nickel sconces with white glass



Opposite High-sheen mahogany countertops in the kitchen reflect the light that filters in from the oceanfront rooms. With fewer walls for cabinets in the open floor plan, the large island doubles as a pantry. **Above** The subtle palette of the kitchen cabinetry and countertops leave plenty of room for colorful accents. **Left** The curved opening above one of the farm-style sinks offers a view of the water through the glass doors off the family room.



shades are all design elements that were specifically chosen to further a nautical theme. Bead board, used extensively in the new rooms, was chosen because paneled walls were a typical feature in the original Shingle-style summer residences in the area, says Catalano.

Doweled panels in the kitchen cabinet doors add a practical charm to the kitchen by helping to inhibit mold and mildew in the wet climate, and the countertops, handcrafted by a boat builder, are of mahogany. The high-gloss finish of the marine spar varnish contrasts with the matte white on the bead-board cabinets and echoes the sheen of the substantial island's polished marble countertop. "I love the green marble on the kitchen

With friends and family visiting often, now there is enough space for everyone.

island because it looks to me like the Atlantic Ocean," explains the wife, "and it's huge! The first Thanksgiving we were there, I had plenty of work space and there were several kids sitting on the edge of the counter eating popcorn. It was great to have room for everybody!"

With three daughters—ages ten to 14—and many of their friends and cousins filling the house, revelry is often in residence. "Our typical kid load is about eight," remarks the wife. "With the windows and the doors all open, the sea right there, and various people coming and going, it is definitely fun central!"



Top Beyond the east porch, the turret is clad with panels created with a scraffito technique in which small beach pebbles were imbedded in wet plaster. **Above** A round window in the family room mimics a porthole, one of the many design elements that suggest a nautical feel. **Left** In the family room, a console table displays collectibles and antiques. See Resource Guide for details.

Bench, console table, and lamp: Ethan Allen. Rug: Odegaard. Throw (on ottoman): Judy Ross. Pillows (on bench): Kitlos, Inc. Vase and leaf plate (on console table): Stella.



1. Grooves in the kitchen's mahogany countertop channel water to the sink, preventing excess pooling on the varnished wood. Crafted by a boat builder, the countertops were inspired by the area's seafaring history. **2. Wooden dowels** were used in cabinet doors to increase air circulation, important in a damp seaside environment where mold and mildew thrive. **3. Rounded feet** on cabinetry add a furniturelike element of visual interest to a normally empty space. **4. Windows** high in the turret flood the dining room with light. The curved wall serves as a dramatic focal point both inside and out. **5. Lucid barn sconces**—with nickel bases and white cup shades—were chosen for their nautical feel. They dot the expansive rooms with spots of light as dusk turns to night. **6. The home** is only one-room deep in most areas, opening a majority of the rooms to water views. A bay window on the south-facing wall and the protruding turret provide the footprint of the home with added personality.

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