

New England HOME

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IN HARMONY
Summer's Poetry of Place

The Living Is *Easy*

On Nantucket, a happy coincidence yields the ultimate summer playhouse.

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The star of the living area is a new eighteen-foot glass-door system that transforms the space for indoor-outdoor use. A Kravet sofa, woven chairs by McGuire, and armchairs from Brunswick & Fils upholstered in a Lee Jofa fabric surround a cocktail table from Lexington Home Brands.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Designer Kathleen Hay favors a "clean aesthetic and function meeting form." Architect Chip Webster extended the porch, which now wraps around to the front facade, designed a new second-floor balcony off the primary bedroom, and added a three-season porch off the living area. During colder months, the porch's screen panels can be changed out for glass. "The client didn't want a television in the main living area, so we put one here instead," explains Hay. "With the heaters on, it's a great place for watching football games."



It's not often that an architect gets a second take on the same house, so it must have been kismet when Chip Webster was tapped for the renovation of a Nantucket spec home he had originally designed in the 1990s. Kismet, and a little push from designer Kathleen Hay, that is: the new homeowners hired Hay to decorate the 5,600-square-foot five-bedroom space upon the recommendation of their real estate broker, and Hay, in turn, threw Webster's name in the hat for the renovation.

"Chip and I have worked together on a number of projects, but when I suggested him, I had no idea that he had actually built the house," says Hay, who, like Webster, has lived on Nantucket for decades. Webster couldn't wait to get his hands on the former commission, which all parties admit was a bit dated by this point. "When I first walked in, I thought, Well, I guess I've learned a lot in the past twenty years," says Webster with a laugh. "I immediately saw it as an opportunity for improvement and also to explore some things that we didn't have the budget for initially."

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: Pendants from Circa Lighting hang above a Caesarstone-topped island in the kitchen; the barstools are from Kravet, and white oak flooring appears throughout. A Phillip Jeffries Japanese paper weave studded with rivets envelops the office, which opens onto the wraparound porch. Located on the first floor opposite the dining area, the office can be closed off for privacy. **FACING PAGE:** In the dining area, light fixtures from Palecek hang above a Parish Co table; the upholstered chair and rug are from Kravet.



One such addition was the front porch, which had appeared in Webster's previous plans but was never constructed. In collaboration with Hay and local builder Ron Winters, Webster tackled other exterior modifications including removing the widow's walk, adding a balcony off the main bedroom, and building a three-season porch. Inside, the design team entirely reconfigured the first floor, with the biggest change being the relocation of the kitchen from the front of the house to the back, where it's open to both the living and dining areas.

In lieu of a bench, Hay placed a Brunschwig & Fils daybed at the foot of a Bernhardt bed in the main bedroom; a statement-making light fixture from Ro Sham Beaux hangs above, and the artwork is by Nantucket photographer Daniel Sutherland. **FACING PAGE:** A sitting room on the second floor serves as a media and game room; a Phillip Jeffries grasscloth covers the walls, and a pair of custom daybeds are upholstered in a Romo fabric.



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“The way people are living is different than it was three decades ago,” explains Webster. “Now, the kitchen is the heart and soul of a house and is connected to everything else.”

The team also expanded the main bedroom and bath, reworked the lower level to accommodate a wine cellar, gym, and home theater, carved out space for a home office on the main floor, and renovated the guest studio above the garage. “I love following the lead of strong architects and decorators,” says Winters, whose favorite room turned out to be the living area, thanks to an eighteen-foot glass-door system that creates a seamless transition to the new

outdoor kitchen, dining area, pool, and cabana.

A firepit, pergola-covered Ping-Pong table, half basketball court, and an in-ground trampoline round out the outdoor oasis fit for an active family (the clients have three teenage boys). “The program was driven by recreation and entertainment,” notes local landscape designer David Troast, who also imagined an entirely new planting scheme with privacy in mind.

With construction out of the way, Hay could finally focus on the finishes, conceiving a clean backdrop of white oak flooring, shiplap accents, and textural wallcoverings. She chose a streamlined mix



Landscape designer David Troast planted white birch and fountain grasses around the firepit area. “The firepit lines up with the living area, and I wanted that view to feel pastoral,” says Troast. **FACING PAGE:** The patio is sheathed in Caledonia granite and features an outdoor kitchen, chairs from Barlow Tyrie, and a JM Lifestyles table.

of new furnishings in a neutral palette with touches of blue, while contemporary artworks and vintage objects lend warmth. Hay focused on keeping the mood “airy and light” and the surfaces indestructible.

“With houseguests, three boys, and a dog, durability is key,” says the designer. “The home is still beautiful and sophisticated, but it can hold up to sandy feet and wet bottoms.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: For details, see Resources.

ARCHITECTURE: Chip Webster, Chip Webster Architecture

INTERIOR DESIGN: Kathleen Hay, Kathleen Hay Designs

BUILDER: Ron Winters, Thirty Acre Wood

LANDSCAPE DESIGN: David Troast, Ernst Land Design

