

Presented by
Boston
magazine

HOME

IN THE BACKYARD
SIDE THE BACKYARD
SECRET GARDENS

& GARDEN

Kitchens That Cook

New Dishes,
Tools & Gadgets

5 COTTAGES
BY THE SEA

PLUS
Ice-Cool Martinis
Ready to Rehab?
How to Get Started

SPRING 2005 \$4.95
DISPLAY UNTIL MAY 31, 2005

5 1 >



OUTDOOR LIFE: PATIOS * PLANTS * BIRDHOUSES

**SHORTCUT
TO PARADISE**

Slow down the pace and listen to the Atlantic Ocean roaring steps away from the front porch of this cozy Nantucket cottage, where the path to the perfect lazy day at South Shore beach is just over the dunes.

Additional reporting
by Jill Waldbieser



the simple life

by **anna kasabian**





BOX SET
 Rich pumpkin-pine floors and open framing give the Beach Box a cozy feel that defies its bare-bones construction, LEFT; without heat or insulation, the cottage relies on a tall brick fireplace to take the occasional chill out of the air, BELOW; and its natural, unpainted exterior blends easily into the surrounding landscape, BOTTOM.



NEW ENGLAND BEACH COTTAGES SUM UP THE SLOW PACE OF SUMMER LIVING WITH THEIR UNCOMPLICATED STYLE

THERE REALLY IS NOTHING LIKE SUMMER IN A NEW ENGLAND BEACH COTTAGE. These simple structures that sit in the dunes or cling to the shoreline are more than geographically far from city or suburban homes—they're also miles away from that frantic pace of life. Cottages inspire relaxed living with their quaint designs, where casual, comfortable and reclaimed are the common ground for everything from architecture to furnishings.

BEACH BOX

ON NANTUCKET, THIS STYLE IS OFTEN AS OLD AS THE COTTAGES THEMSELVES. With an architectural style rooted in island tradition, age is often inseparable from authenticity. But tucked into the dunes, a 1,000-square-foot structure dubbed the Beach Box for its tiny, gift-like size and simplicity captures the essence of a century-old New England cottage even though it was built only ten years ago. Wrapped in white cedar shingles that look weathered and wind-worn, its simple, unassuming shape fits the landscape, as though the home had been nestled there for 100 years.





GUEST GETAWAY

Simple cottage charm gets an update in this Nantucket guest house, where antique timber trusses run across the plaster ceiling of the great room, ABOVE; and although on the large side for a cottage, the guest house, BELOW, is low to the ground to preserve the ocean view from the main house.

Botticelli & Pohl Architects, the Nantucket firm that designed the Beach Box, modeled it on traditional island style. “All old Nantucket cottages are open framed—they didn’t spend the money on finishes,” says Lisa Botticelli, who with her husband, Ray Pohl, is principal of the firm. “The whole place is like a finished piece of carpentry.”

Clean architectural lines reinforce this simple cottage charm. “It’s low to the ground, and if you look at the form, it’s not a complex structure,” says Botticelli. “It has very few rooflines.” The all-wood exterior was left unpainted for a natural Nantucket look that blends into the surrounding landscape. “If it were painted white, it would be highlighted on the horizon,” says Botticelli. The natural look also helps cut down on maintenance—with its weather-worn location, the cottage would otherwise need constant repainting.

Inside, the walls also remained unpainted, at least at first. After a year or two, the homeowners added a coat of white paint for a bright, airy and very clean look. Details like reclaimed pumpkin-pine floors (the builder, Bruce Killen & Son in Nantucket, was one of the first on the island to use reclaimed timber), rough-hewn spruce framing timbers on the ceiling and single-glazed windows with hurricane shutters add beach-house character. Rafters and support beams crisscross overhead.



SEASIDE CHIC
Open-framed ceilings with large beams, reclaimed chestnut floors and bead-board wainscoting are a few formal details that update classic cottage style in the entryway.



BRIGHT IDEA
In the master bath of a renovated historic cottage on Martha's Vineyard, new shelving and shutters brighten the space while a restored claw-foot bathtub preserves the vintage feel.





OPEN SPACES
Reconditioned art glass inserted into custom doors adds color to a bedroom with new painted-pine floors, LEFT; the front porch was restored without sacrificing the historic detailing of the Victorian architecture, BELOW RIGHT; a new, easier-to-navigate staircase replaced painted-pine walls and treads, BOTTOM RIGHT; and twin cottages create an inviting space between them, BOTTOM LEFT.



Interior walls have exposed studs and pine sheathing, intended to age with time, getting rich and deeper in hue.

In pure cottage form, there is no heat or insulation in the home, just a finely crafted fireplace built of salvaged brick with a reclaimed Southern yellow pine mantel to take the chill out of a cool summer day. The rest of the home is designed around this central space, which faces the open sea and is the main spot for family gatherings. The home's single bedroom and bath are tucked off to the side.



In the kitchen, open shelving maintains a casual feel and makes it easy to access pantry items, and matte-honed granite countertops are smooth and worn with the evidence of countless summer lunches shared by family and friends.

The house, says Botticelli, gets back to what Nantucket used to be about. "It's really refreshing to work on something that's so small," she says. "It is nice to be able to work and concentrate on something that's not trying to be anything but something simple."



IN DUNE TIME
Cabinets built into the eaves, and windows that capture the eastern view, are new to this guest bedroom, but wood radiator cabinets and original rafters, preserved by using exterior insulation, maintain an old-fashioned look, ABOVE; the exterior of the Martha's Vineyard cottage was inspired by the work local carpenters had done for years, BELOW.

GUEST COTTAGE

BOTTICELLI CARRIED THROUGH MANY OF THE SAME OR SIMILAR DESIGN ELEMENTS IN ANOTHER PROJECT, a four-bedroom, two-bath Nantucket guest cottage built by O'Connor Custom Builders on Nantucket. At 2,100 square feet, the cottage is more than double the size of the Beach Box, and has more finished details designed to accommodate overnight guests. "It's a different take on a cottage, but the idea was to do something very low and very simple," says Botticelli. Because the guesthouse rests between the main house and the ocean, she designed a low roofline that would not interfere with the larger building's water view.

While retaining cottage-style elements like open-framed ceilings in the bedrooms and entry hall, the guest house is slightly more formal. "In the Beach Box we used very simple framing planks, and in this cottage we used larger beams and less of them," says Botticelli. "It's not as simple a construction." Inside, this trend toward formality is seen in details like bead-board wainscoting and floors made of reclaimed chestnut, a wood that is not indigenous to the island.

Like the Beach Box, this cottage's main living space is its hub, where everyone comes together at the end of the day. *(continued on page 130)*



LOCAL COLOR
In an addition housing the kitchen and dining area, the floors are painted Elias Green to reflect the deep tones of the ocean, and the furniture in both rooms was painted to complement the other natural materials in the home.



says. "If you want to add color, that's a great place to do it."

An alternative, and one that comes in more and more styles lately, is glass tile. "It has interesting colors and textures and a nice, light feel," says Peleg.

Metal tile makes a good-looking backsplash or accent wall, or even a light-use countertop if you won't be cutting on it, says John Trifone, showroom manager at Ann Sacks in Boston's Design Center. Metal tile can look high-tech and squeaky-clean, or it can be surprisingly warm—Ann Sacks' copper Alloy tile will develop a handsome patina that will add depth and interest, says Trifone.

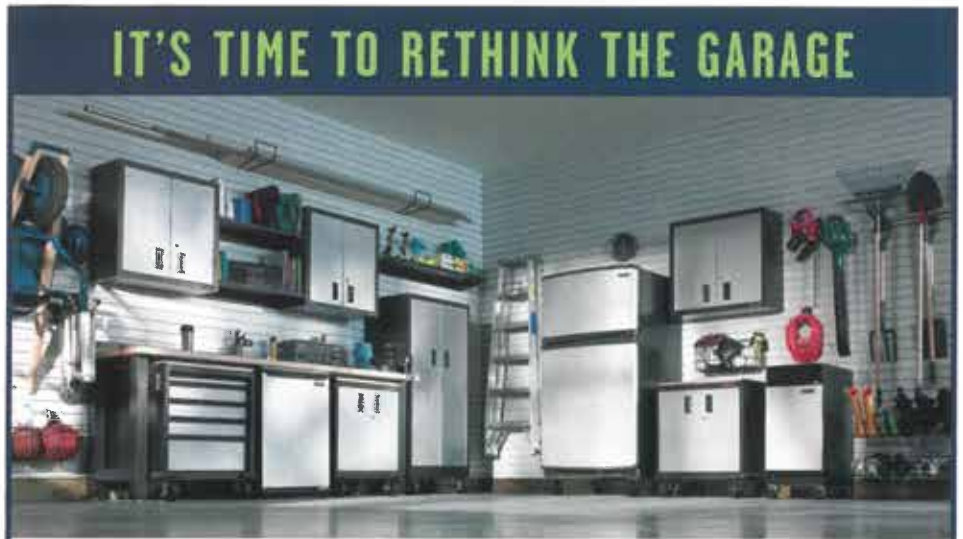
LIGHT IT UP

DON'T FORGET ABOUT FIXTURES. CHANGING the lighting over an island is one way to modernize a kitchen, says Leslie Fine, president of Leslie Fine Interiors, Inc., in Newton. "Lighting pendants hung from a monorail system is one of my favorite types of fixtures over a kitchen island," she says. "It's funky and functional, and has a great high-tech look that works well with many kitchen styles."

Sleek, European designs, like those from Dornbracht, are making waves in plumbing fixtures, says Duffy. "Flexibility is also key in water fixtures now," he says. "People want a single lever control as opposed to two control knobs. Many of my clients are finding commercial water fixtures attractive. They are beautiful, but large in scale, so you have to have the right kitchen for them."

Also popular are faucets that come out of the wall, says Peleg. "It can still be traditional, but the spout comes straight out of the wall and we design the cabinets around the sink and frame the faucet nicely," she says. "It's a gorgeous look."

Modern fixtures, new countertops or just a simple splash of color to match spring's palette—whatever way you choose to freshen up your kitchen's spring look, it will be sure to stay bright and cheery all year long. ■



Garage Innovators offers a complete line of premium quality products built to transform, organize and enhance your garage forever. Garage storage problems are solved with a wide variety of convenient solutions that open valuable floor space by moving your things off the floor and onto the walls.



Let us innovate your garage.

Call today for a free design consultation

781-956-9616 www.garageinnovators.com



ARCHITECTURE INTERIOR DESIGN URBAN DESIGN

c b t



110 canal street | boston, ma 02114 | 617. 262.4354 | cbtarchitects.com

The Simple Life

continued from page 104

Exposed, unpainted rafters made of reclaimed pine recall minimalist cottage style in this space; in other rooms, they are painted white to match bead-board walls.

The open kitchen makes it easy to share the tasks of prepping or cooking meals, and with its open design, it becomes an extension of the main living space and an ideal spot for socializing. Granite countertops keep the fuss down, and cabinets and a center island were designed to resemble pieces of furniture that have been converted for kitchen storage.

Botticelli deliberately kept the number of different materials in the home to a minimum to maintain the flow between spaces and make them seem larger. The contrast of natural woods and clean, white paint allows the warmth of the old chestnut floors to take center stage. There's another reason for simple white walls: They don't compete with the outside views, with their watercolor palette of sea grass, ocean and sky framed in every window. That's also the reason most windows are bare of curtains or other treatments.

Botticelli worked with Susanne Csongor, principal of SLC Interiors, Inc., in Manchester-by-the-Sea, to carry out the design themes the homeowners requested. While a nautical theme threads subtly in and out of many rooms via fabric, tile and accent pieces, other rooms were designed and named for a deliberate theme: the Twig Room, which has a bed made from twigs; the nautical-themed Toile Room; the periwinkle-colored Hydrangea Room; and the Bunk Room, where built-in mahogany bunk beds recall a ship's berth.

The bathrooms share details like bead-board finishes, separate tubs and showers, pedestal sinks and hand-painted Pratt & Larson tiles. Storage space becomes a design element in these small cottage quarters, with open shelving that



cavanaugh stewart design associates

"committed to providing quality landscape design services for residential and institutional clients"

boston, massachusetts

617.987.2335



tile showcase

Inspiring ideas
for great home
interiors.

Tile - Stone - Glass -
Custom Countertops

Watertown
291 Arsenal Street
617.926.1100

Boston Design Center
Suite 639
617.426.6515

Natick
323 Speen Street
508.655.8000

www.tileshowcase.com



photo: Walker Zanger

exposes rather than hides towels, soap and shampoo. While closets were an option, open storage is a way to add visual interest, says Botticelli.

OAK BLUFFS

IN CONTRAST TO THE SIMPLE SILHOUETTES and neutral colors of Nantucket's shore homes, the gingerbread cottages that sit row upon row in Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard showcase punchy colors and fancy woodwork. In the summer, the porches are lined with rockers in gum-drop colors, above equally bright and cheery gardens. While the look is different, the agenda is the same: lazy beach days, suppers on the grill and relaxing on the porch by sunset.

When these historic cottages were built, they were small, simple vacation homes. When one family decided it needed more space, the expansion required updating not one but two of the cottages, while retaining their vintage

charm. Architect Mark Hutker, principal of Hutker Architects with locations in Martha's Vineyard and Falmouth, was up to the challenge.

"What's charming is the utter simplicity and casual way of life these homes supported. There's no pretense. It's a humbling experience to occupy them, and they're relaxing places to be," Hutker says. To preserve that simple Carpenter Gothic style and still address the needs of the family, Hutker suggested the owners of one cottage purchase its twin next door, and connect the two homes.

The expansion included additions to each of the 1,000-square-foot homes, as well as a terrace and garden to visually connect them. To make the space comfortable for year-round visits, Hutker added extra bedrooms, new kitchens and an outdoor fireplace facing the second house. He updated the plumbing and electrical systems, and concealed the wiring with wood moldings that recall the 1800s.

Hutker lives by the rule "valor in restraint," and the renovation appears deceptively simple. "Most new homes have Sheetrock and plaster," he says. "But these homes are built in four-inch increments. Every board has to be measured, cut, nailed, patched, sanded and painted."

Like Nantucket's cottage palette, whitewashed walls here create a bright, open feel, punched up by the occasional colorful accent, like jewel-colored glass panels in the bedroom. Vintage furnishings, like a wonderful claw-foot tub, recall the original charm of the buildings.

By definition, cottages are on the small side, so the Oak Bluffs home was not Hutker's only expansion project. For the renovation of an old beach cottage in the Vineyard's East Chop, he needed to enlarge the home by 50 percent. But adding on wasn't the challenge—maintaining the scale, and the character, of a cottage in a much larger space was.

"[The owners] said, 'We love this

Locally sourced. Locally written. Nobody knows Boston like we do.



ON NEWSSTANDS THROUGHOUT 2005

We bring our readers the Best of Boston® every month and the latest in **lifestyle, weddings, home design, travel and much more.**

To advertise, contact Elizabeth Nolan, Sales Assistant, or your Account Executive at 617.262.9700.



Architecturally correct ... maintenance-free, “Preservation-Grade”™ Exterior Shutters! The new standard for historic preservation, restoration and reproduction of fine homes.

Fixed or moveable louver, raised or flat panel, board & batten, Bahama-style; Atlantic Shutters of Massachusetts has the shutters to meet your needs. “Preservation-Grade” Shutters are made with the same traditional structure as wood shutters, crafted out of modern composite materials that are impervious to the wind, rain, fog and snow that destroy conventional paint and the structure of wood shutters, and recommended by leading architects. The result: Shutters that carry a limited lifetime warranty.

The finish we use is a super strong two-part urethane paint that actually bonds to the composite substrate material ... fiberglass and PVC. Any color is available and we do color-match with paint so strong that it's warranted against flaking, peeling, or lifting for a minimum of ten years.

Atlantic Shutters of Massachusetts, is your exclusive New England distributor for “Preservation-Grade” Shutters. There are none better.

Atlantic Shutters of Massachusetts, David G. Pritchard, Prop.
P. O. Box 5160, Edgartown, Massachusetts 02539 • (800) 604-6264, Facsimile (508) 627-7454
<www.atlantic-shutters.com>

give your neighbors screen envy.



Phantom Screens® won't detract from the beauty and style of your home because they retract. When you don't need them. By improving what others see from the outside and what you see from the inside, you're sure to give your neighbors screen envy.



To find out more about Phantom Screens® visit our website at www.phantomscreens.com/bm1 or call 1.888.PHANTOM (1.888.742.6886) to contact a distributor near you.

house and don't want to lose the character. But we need heat, new windows, safe electrical, and we don't want to know you've been here," says Hutker. He modeled the home's new spaces on the existing architecture, following the design of the first craftsmen.

The second-floor addition hides beneath a thoughtfully designed dormer, and all the new windows were installed with extended casings to allow for thicker insulating walls without altering the cottage aesthetic.

One deviation from the island cottage style is the big picture window in the living room. While it was not possible to buy a piece of glass so large 100 years ago, Hutker and the homeowners did not want to sacrifice an inch of the spectacular view.

The tongue-and-groove plank walls, open rafters in all the rooms—new and old—and simple architectural details keep the cottage feeling in the present. An old claw-foot tub was painted, moved to the master bath and perched on a platform to give bathers an amazing ocean-front view. A simple row of shelves over the windows fits the space and mood.

Now the updated cottage has continuity between old rooms and new ones, with the same compelling quirkiness of the original architecture. The spare furnishings, a mishmash of period antiques, yard-sale finds and painted wood, reflect the casual, comfortable atmosphere that is emblematic of cottage living.

These are homes where windowsills collect bits of sea glass or shells from summer walks on the beach, or an old-fashioned glass milk bottle holds fresh-cut daisies from the yard. It's easy to imagine the easy summer meals prepared in a cheery cottage kitchen, the romance of a seaside bedroom where the ocean roars outside the window, the trail of beach sand tracked in on bare feet to a hallway. Whether they're romantic, historic or quaint, cottages sum up everything that's wonderful about an escape from everyday life. ■