

SPECIAL 2007 ANNUAL ISSUE

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## HOME FURNISHINGS



■ A soothing symmetry marks this living room and its thoughtfully paired furnishings: upholstered ottomans by George Smith, club chairs from the Barbara Barry Collection, and glass lamps with raffia shades from Flowers on Chestnut.





# Light as Air

## A NANTUCKET SUMMER HOME GETS A FRESH LOOK.

It doesn't take long to fall in love with Nantucket. For a young couple from North Carolina who came to the island for a weekend trip, love at first sight resulted in the purchase of a summer home by the sea.

Located near the historic district, the small house has a classic Nantucket style typical of the neighborhood. To bring out its uniqueness, the homeowners turned to the interiors. The couple knew they wanted a home that would have a very different feel from their North Carolina house, one that would reflect the ambience of Nantucket. They enlisted the help of interior designer Kathleen Hay, who worked with architect Lisa Botticelli of Botticelli & Pohl, to create the look they envisioned.

BY ANDREW CUNNINGHAM  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF ALLEN

## HOME FURNISHINGS



■ Hay's design scheme emphasizes the details, such as specimen shells and coral for the built-in bookshelves, a playful polka-dot window cushion, and a custom designed coral and moss centerpiece on the console table.

# Light as Air

"It's a jewel-box of a house," says Hay. "It's a nice size and very approachable." Inside, however, the home had a Victorian look that felt stuffy. "The homeowners were looking for something contemporary but comfortable," says Hay, who saw that the Victorian interiors were not working to the home's advantage. "The interior was mismatched. The living room was small, yet it had two columns in the middle of the space and a heavy-duty Victorian fireplace."

The first task was to give the home a feel that would be less stifled and more Nantucket. Choosing key elements for the house was also important. "It's not a large space, so each piece of furniture had to be selected with a lot of thought," says Hay, who chose colors for the walls that reflected the island surroundings. Misty sea-foam greens, sandy tones, and pale blues bring in the colors

of shore, sea, and sky for a space that creates a welcome transition from the outdoors.

The living room is an airy blend of form and function. Since eating outside is the norm on Nantucket in the summer, a formal dining area wasn't necessary. A small round table in the corner of the living room is perfect for morning coffee or breakfast. Behind the couch, another table can open up to seat six to eight guests when more formal dining is desired. Ottomans below the table are used as extra chairs in the room. Economy of space allows the room to maintain its airy feel without sacrificing functionality.

The living room fireplace exemplifies the transformation of the house. The original fireplace had a tiny opening, with a large overmantel and no surrounding stones. "It was a traditional Vic-





■ Facing the fireplace surround, designed by Botticelli, these slipper chairs make a statement with a Lee Jofa animal print.







## HOME FURNISHINGS

# Light as Air

torian style that felt heavy and overdone in this house,” says Hay. The fireplace was simplified and surrounded by a paneled effect on the wall. “Lisa Botticelli did a great job unifying the living room,” observes Hay. “There were many awkward features that needed to be brought together. The fireplace is a great example of the sophisticated, pleasing balance that resulted.”

For the built-in bookcases that frame the living room windows, Hay created a beach-inspired look, bringing in eye-catching seashells and pieces of coral to create tasteful arrangements on the shelves. The use of natural materials throughout the home ties the interiors to the island environment. Shell chandeliers hang in the foyer and master bedroom. In the powder room, a mirror is made from 300 starfish.

“I like a melding of what we see all around us,” explains Hay, who describes her design philosophy as “transitional eclectic.” She loves antiques, but likes to blend old with new, bringing in the outside environment and working with clean lines and a subtle use of color. “Contemporary can be cold, hard-edged,” says Hay. She mixes elements to make a space both warm and inviting. In the guest bedroom, a highly polished nickel bed with intricate detailing stands out against a pale green room. “It’s like an old brass bed on steroids,” laughs Hay. Paired with dark furniture, the polished nickel gives the room its character.

In the study, plantation shutters were added inside the windows, along with simple linen drapes. V-groove paneling extends five and a half feet up the walls, with the top of the walls painted

■ An eclectic ensemble of accessories and furnishings includes a chandelier of Capiz shells, a starfish mirror by New York artist Maralyn Menghini in the powder room, comfortable sofas in the wood-paneled study (opposite), and a Martha Stewart rolling pin bed.







■ The guest bedroom's nickel-plated bed by Martha Stewart for Bernhardt Furniture.





■ A variety of patterns and textures, from the Carrera marble to the Louis "Ghost" armchair, add interest to the serene master bath.



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# Light as Air

saddle brown. The paneled doors are designed to look like part of the wall when they are opened. Comfortable sofas and leather chairs round out the mix of traditional and modern.

"The homeowners were fun to work with," says Hay. "They were willing to try things that were a little different." In the master bath, the floor is a herringbone pattern of Carrera marble, a style popular in the '20s and '30s, while a Louis XVI chair by the vanity is made of clear Lucite. Hay notes that before the redesign, the bathroom featured a dark orange mural. "Now it's a light, airy, beautiful space," she says.

"What I love about mixing elements is the ability to create an inviting, comfortable, lush environment," adds Hay. Her design

philosophy is evident throughout the house, which perfectly captures the homeowners' vision for a Nantucket home. When they arrive at their summer house, they won't need to go outdoors to know they're not in North Carolina anymore.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
SEE MARKETPLACE ON PAGE 136.**

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