

# New England Home's Cape & Islands

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# OFFSHORE BREEZE

*Conjuring the sand and sea not so far away, a serene and airy Nantucket home is totally attuned to its island location.*

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If you could hold this Nantucket house to your ear, you might hear the roar of waves. Not far from the ocean, the new home's atmospheric interior conjures the shore. In fact, it's as though nature has found her way in. Silvery driftwood, sun-bleached shells and sand spring to



Snowy paneling helps formalize the dining room. A transom window at the doorway is a theme throughout the house. **FACING PAGE:** The entry floor's striking geometry sets off the staircase's sweeping curve.







A grasscloth-covered entry table interjects texture. FACING PAGE TOP: Classic shingles with white trim belie the surprises within. FACING PAGE BOTTOM: Interior designer Kathleen Hay.

mind, just as interior designer Kathleen Hay intended. Hay, who heads an eponymous island firm, is well familiar with the elements. Her sophisticated, light-washed rooms channel the sea and all its surrounds.

The client, a local developer, recruited the designer along with Nantucket architect Lisa Botticelli of Botticelli and Pohl to devise a scheme that would please the local historical commission and suit the windswept locale. He envisioned a classic Nantucket house—weathered shingles, pristine trim and all the traditional accoutrements—but with a clean, contemporary feel.

The long, narrow site called for some ingenious planning. Botticelli rose to the occasion with a clever scheme to maximize the property. She sited the house closer to the road, affording plenty of room for a pool, cabana and garage/guesthouse behind. A large Siberian elm that stood exactly where construction needed to take place was carefully transplanted by local landscape designer David Troast and his crew to shade the rear patio-to-be.

**T**hat done, the three-bedroom, gambrel-roofed house could rise up and take its place among its neighbors. The appealing facade suits the island vernacular, but inside a fresh breeze is blowing. Hay and Botticelli collaborated closely on the open-plan interior, incorporating handsome materials and meticulous detailing to give their rooms a twenty-first-century edge. The ambience may say, “We’re near the water,” but it’s a subtle homage.

“The natural world is so much a part of our island lives, I always strive to incorporate it,” Hay explains. Thus, her choice of pale flooring—either pickled oak or custom painted—throughout. The subdued but graphic design of the latter nods to the hue of the windswept dunes as well

as the graceful spiral form (“like a nautilus,” says Hay) of the staircase, the home’s focal point. Furnishings appear to float lightly on top, skimming the luminous surface.

Accessories speak to the tides, but also cohabit happily with other stylish trappings. The entry console, for instance, sports a generous sea-biscuit basket brimming with finger



sponges. The salty treasures beautifully complement a set of leopard-seated benches parked below. “Animal-related touches,” Hay admits, “are another personal favorite.”

The serene palette enhances the home’s airiness and calls attention to details like the living room’s handsome hearth paneling and accompanying charcoal-gray limestone surround. In front, twin club chairs face off against a pair of everyday seats covered in Ultrasuede—a luxe but







An antique glass mirror highlights the paneled hearth. Demure armchairs have au courant faux-ostrich backs to give visitors a “fun surprise,” says Hay. A wool carpet, a sisal look-alike, lends coziness.





durable material that can withstand damp bathing suits.

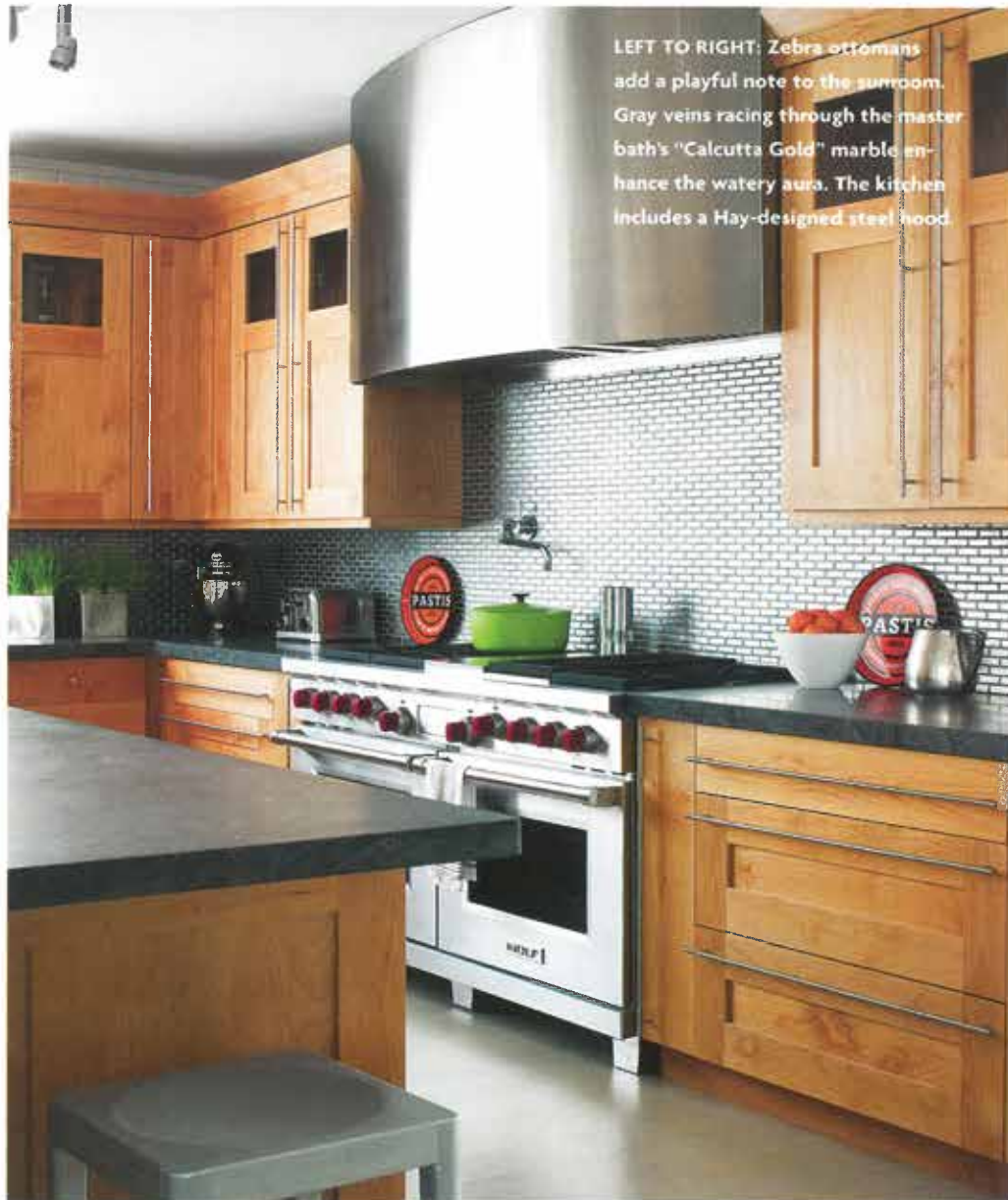
Circles show up everywhere: a round mirror above the mantel, a striking armillary sphere on the coffee table and a side table round as a sand dollar. Hay says the pleasing motif seemed to work itself in along the way. “I wasn’t aware of it until the house was done,” she says. “A thread that visually pulls things together, however, is never a bad idea.”

In the dining room the walls switch to chocolate, a rich color made even more intense when contrasted with snowy paneling. “We used architectural details to give the rooms additional character,” Hay says. Another moon-like mirror makes an appearance, and twin polished-nickel chandeliers loom overhead. “It’s a large space. The table seats twelve. One chandelier would have come across as insignificant,” says the designer.

At the table’s head and foot, Hay eschewed ordinary seats, opting instead for perfectly scaled wing chairs covered in a Barbara Barry brown-and-white fabric. Simply tailored linen panels provide privacy when needed.

**T** he sunroom has its own warm beat. Grasscloth covers the walls, and bamboo shades control the light for television viewing. Chunky water hyacinth furniture welcomes reading and relaxing. And should you look for more circles, you won’t be disappointed. A portly lamp and a wee armillary discreetly maintain the theme. “This room seems to be every man’s favorite. I’m not sure exactly





LEFT TO RIGHT: Zebra ottomans add a playful note to the sunroom. Gray veins racing through the master bath's "Calcutta Gold" marble enhance the watery aura. The kitchen includes a Hay-designed steel hood.

why," Hay recounts, modestly dismissing the charming room's obvious level of comfort.

The gutsy kitchen equipped with double ranges, dual refrigerators and two dishwashers leaves nothing to chance. In lieu of the usual blue-and-white island decor, the slick space marries steel with granite counters black as mussel shells. Maple cabinets flank the super-size custom hood and stainless steel tile backsplash. Lean hardware sets off their design and underscores their modernity. Brushed aluminum stools forge a perch for guests. After all, impromptu entertaining is de rigueur on Nantucket, and with a pantry to hold supplies—along with a well-stocked wine cellar hidden away in the basement—it's never a problem at this address.

From the second level, postcard views expand to the horizon. The sybaritic master suite soaks them up, but

with a marble bath tantamount to a plush spa, the owner is more apt to close his eyes and revel. The marble wall neighboring the shower is cunningly crafted with a heated niche for towels. The marble floor is a mosaic of half-circles that Hay describes "as having the appearance of scallop shells."

The bath's understated grandeur is, of course, no real surprise. The whole house resonates with quiet but memorable flourishes. "I think right from the road it reads well," says Botticelli.

As a finishing touch, Troast tucked a ruffle of hydrangeas around the foundation and planted a handful of honey locusts and ornamental cherry trees nearer the street. Undoubtedly, no one passes by without a sigh of admiration. Just imagine if they could peek inside. **NEH**

**RESOURCES** For more information about this home see page 140.